

Lake Allegan/Kalamazoo River Watershed
Phosphorus TMDL Leadership Team
January 22, 2003 Meeting Minutes

Call to order/introductions:

Larry DeLong opened the meeting by introducing himself and asked each person to introduce themselves. Attendees: Larry DeLong, Kathy Buckham, Greg Dannefel, Jeff Eves, Tara Egnatuk, Jane Herbert, Dave Heinicke, Doug Carter, Steve Norton, Bruce Merchant, Ted Havens, Kristine Boley-Morse, Dennis Randolph, Chris Kosmowski and Rene Wilson.

- **Purpose:** The purpose of this meeting is to hear about the progress being made by each of the committees and identify the projects they have planned for 2003. This will provide opportunities for sharing and partnerships, and make sure that efforts are not being duplicated within the committees.
- **Approval of agenda:** Reviewed the agenda items and everyone agreed on the format.

Committee Reports:

- **Administration-Funding, Tara Egnatuk:** The committee revisited the draft charter, and identified its purpose as the following:
 1. assist committees in identifying possible funding sources;
 2. provide coordination of grants and other funding requests; and
 3. examine possible organizational and support structures for the TMDL efforts once KBS is no longer available (April 2004).
- **Agriculture, Jane Herbert:** First meeting was held December 4, 2002, 12 members attended. Each has the assignment to get more people to get involved. Facilitate through reporting via Dean Baas (GIS). Computer connection is happening. We will fund three fact sheets regarding manure phosphorus reduction (technologies for managing manure phosphorus). The TMDL will be introduced at the Allegan county watershed short course. The Our River CD and notebook was introduced and needs to be updated, can we use this? Jane wants some feedback via e-mail from everyone on what they think about this idea.
- **Construction Activities, Ken Hubers, Chair – Doug Carter reporting:** About 12 people are on the committee that drafted recommendations last spring and summer, but they have not gotten together since. The committee feels that the most important targets for education are 1) the on-site construction site manager (often the landowner) and 2) storm water inspectors and certified storm water operators. They have identified various specific educational and training needs, but nothing currently is planned.
- **Education and Outreach, Dave Heinicke:** The purpose of this committee is to provide overall, watershed wide education on the TMDL program. Activities for 2003 include:
 1. develop and distribute the first TMDL Annual Report;
 2. update “Our River” fact sheets for each phosphorus reduction strategy;
 3. create generic Power Point presentations for use by TMDL Committee members, stakeholders, local officials and others;
 4. develop and produce an attractive promotional brochure; and
 5. develop a generic display for use at schools, fairs, field days, etc.
- **GIS System Develop, Dean Baas, Chair – Doug Carter reporting:** Significant progress is being made on development of the website, mapping and database. We would like to

include additional information on the site before we post it for your review, so PLEASE send photographs, news articles, reports, meeting notices, lists of meetings and events, etc. (since 1998) to Dean at baasdean@msu.edu.

- **Greenhouse Nutrients, Doug Carter:** We currently have four members, and no chair. Jeannie Himmelein is the contact person for the Greenhouse*A*Syst Program, which was piloted during 2002 in Kalamazoo County. The committee is recruiting industry members to help develop strategies for the TMDL program.
- **In Stream, In Lake Processes, Mark Keiser (absent):** The group met December 11, but no notes or report was provided.

Kalamazoo River Expedition, Doug Carter: At this time, we're having difficulty getting enough people to conduct a quality event. The format of the proposal is as follows:

- Fridays and Saturdays, June 13 – July 19
 - Daily float trips of 3 -5 hours
 - Core canoes will conduct water sampling, wildlife inventories, habitat assessments, natural history evaluations, and educate key local decision makers
 - The public will be invited to join the group on the river
 - There will be daily displays and knowledgeable people at public access points along the way
 - The focus will be on the Kalamazoo River mainstream, but we will encourage and support tributary groups to join in the Expedition
- **Lake Allegan Carp Derby, Steve Norton:** We have recruited a number of local and statewide partners interested in assisting us in conducting this event. We will need to get a permit from the Parks Division for the derby on May 31, 2003. The permit fee has been waived. The carp likely are not classified as toxic waste, so they will be able to be disposed of at a Type II landfill. Made tentative Carp Carnival itinerary.
 - **Land Use, Mark Keiser (absent):** The TMDL Land Use Committee is scheduled to meet in February, and will be discussing numerous efforts that Mark is involved in with CH2MHill. The focus is on conservation development. He submitted a detailed written report on these activities.
 - **Point Sources, Bruce Merchant:** They've been meeting for quite some time. Met goals (phosphorus reduction). Crown Vantage closing was an advantage. Clarity is improved and other improvements are happening. Each point source has submitted reports that will be distributed.
 - **Septic & On-Site Treatment Systems, Ted Havens:** Had a meeting and they want to look at existing on-site systems. Objectives for 2003 include:
 1. work with the technical sub-committee to document phosphorus contributions;
 2. monitor progress of legislation on a statewide sanitary code; and
 3. develop educational programs which will target local government operations and homeowners.

Larry asked if septic systems of houses along the river can be evaluated. Ted stated that (at least in Calhoun County), when buying/selling of homes, the septic systems are evaluated to see if they're in working order. That's the only time that they're looked at.

- **Stormwater, John Paquin, Chair - Doug Carter reporting:** The group noted there are many things occurring in the storm water arena, much of it focusing on education. There is a need to bring Kalamazoo River watershed education efforts together. This will be a major objectives for 2003, along with working with the technical committee regarding housekeeping measures. Finally, the group wants to develop a program to enhance education/training of volunteer local planning and zoning folks who review site plans. This is a great opportunity to affect storm water management of major new developments.

- **Sub-Basin Management, Kristine Boley-Morse:** The committee feels that their most important role is to provide communication and coordination between sub-basin efforts and overall coordination within the watershed. They identified several action items for the year:
 1. review results of past sub-basin sampling, and compare with current priority list for new sub-basin efforts;
 2. complete membership of committee;
 3. complete survey of sub-basin efforts, asking them to identify their 5 priority items of “un-met needs” related to phosphorus; and
 4. pursue community support and funding for a new sub-basin effort focusing on the immediate drainage area of Lake Allegan.
- **Technical, Doug Carter:** There is no official committee formed as of yet. The purpose of this committee will be to 1) address overall technical issues and data needs; and 2) provide support to other sub-committee efforts. Contact Doug if you’d like to serve on the Technical Committee.
- **Transportation, Dennis Randolph:** Had a few meetings. Things we do on a day-to-day basis need to be changed (maintenance). Want to complete inventory of stream crossings and prioritize them. Try to eliminate direct discharges from streams. Develop training materials for regular maintenance (soil erosion practice). They have another meeting in March.
- **Turf Grass/Alternative Landscapes, Chris Kosmowski:** The group plans the following for the upcoming year (all in partnership with other groups):
 - Super Soils Saturday: Saturday, April 12, increase retailers from 12 to 15-20, including those which service major water bodies, such as Gull and Goguac lakes. Master Gardeners and members of the West Michigan Turfgrass Association will volunteer.
 - Homeowner field day;
 - Professional field day - targeted to lawn care providers, turf managers and point-of-sale retailers;
 - Creation of a West Michigan turfgrass environmental stewardship program;
 - Kalamazoo Nature Center's Community Wildlife Program will continue to provide assistance to golf course managers and others on turf management and alternative landscaping ;
 - Workshop on Rain Gardens - target is for July or August, and will target landscape architects and engineers, landscapers and installers, and landowners.

NOTE: Detailed minutes are available for most committees from the chair of the committee.

Discussion of overall TMDL agendas for 2003:

- We will meet twice a year – next meeting September 11, 2001.

Next Implementation Committee meeting – February 13, 2003

- What are our needs? Doug Carter will prepare agenda.

Adjourn