

Lake Allegan/Kalamazoo River Watershed
Phosphorus TMDL Implementation Committee
February 13, 2003 Meeting Minutes

Larry DeLong opened the meeting, and referenced the attached minutes of the January 22, 2003 meeting of the Leadership Team, in which each committee chair reported on their activities and desired accomplishments for 2003. Larry then offered each member the opportunity to report on anything else they might wish to share with the Committee.

Kathy Buckham noted there have been numerous successful CNMP (Comprehensive Nutrient Management Program) workshops in the area in recent months, many of which she helped to organize and conduct.

Jeff Eves noted that he, Don Brown and Mike Tenenbaum all participated in a panel on “The Qualities of the Kalamazoo River”, at Kalamazoo Valley Community College on February 5. About 25 persons were in attendance.

Don Brown noted that there will be more of these “Eye on the Environment” sessions at KVCC – the schedule is on their web site, and they’re open to the public. On February 24, the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society will be hosting Lana Pollack (former state legislator and current President of the Michigan Environmental Council), for a presentation entitled “Federal Actions and Their Impacts on Southwest Michigan”. On March 17, the Kalamazoo Environmental Council will be hosting its annual Legislative Breakfast. Contact Don for details.

John Paquin noted that the Phase II permits are due on March 10. He once again underscored the need to bring the numerous education efforts of various entities together in an attempt to reduce redundancy and conflict, and maximize benefits with limited resources.

Ken Hubers mentioned that he is working with Kieser and Associates on funding for a \$ 125,000 study addressing the contribution of phosphorus from construction activities. The study will also evaluate the relative effectiveness and value of various BMP measures. This could be an important set of data.

Mark Kieser submitted a 4-page update on activities of the Land Use Committee, noting that the group has developed some tools and is identifying demo sites. He reported that he was invited to attend an EPA ceremony in Washington, DC announcing a new federal water quality trading policy, and that the Kalamazoo River model was singled out for recognition. K & A is working on a pre-proposal to EPA for a “Water Quality Cooperative Agreement”, which would address In-Lake, In-Stream Processes. And K & A is continuing to maintain the web site, with some support of the Point Source Committee.

Jane Herbert mentioned that she spoke about phosphorus concerns and reduction strategies on the livestock tract during Ag Action Days in Kalamazoo. Also, she mentioned that MSUE is cooperating with local partners in conducting two watershed management short courses during March. One will focus on Allegan County, while the other centers on the lands and waters of Calhoun and Jackson counties. Both will contain instruction and discussion about the Kalamazoo River watershed phosphorus TMDL program.

Dave Heinicke reiterated the proposed products of the Education Committee, and clarified that it will address watershed-wide education efforts, and not event specific promotions. Jane, who is on that Committee, then led discussion about whether or not it is advisable to update the “fact sheets” which were done a couple of years ago. Most of the P reductions strategies have changed significantly since then. Following extensive discussion, it was agreed to pursue the updates, with the information posted on the website, rather than printing hard copies.

Steve Norton reported on the progress of the Lake Allegan Carp Derby. Numerous local and statewide partners have agreed to help with the event, scheduled for June 7 during the day. There will be a need for many volunteers from the Implementation Committee, and Steve will outline specific needs at the May meeting. Doug Carter mentioned he had spoken to someone in the Lansing area that was concerned that we would be killing carp “for no good reason”. The person was quite emotional. While we may not agree, we do need to be aware that there are people with these concerns and pinions.

Dean Baas once again noted the need for any pictures, news articles, meeting dates and reports, or any other TMDL related materials, to post on the website. Send them to him at baasdean@msu.edu.

Kristine Boley-Morse mentioned that the Calhoun County Conservation District is pursuing a grant from EPA to prepare and provide stream monitoring kits to schools throughout the county.

Chris Kosmowski reported that Battle Creek area partners have scheduled a major river clean-up for October 4, and will be coordinating with the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council’s river festival that same day. Also, she noted that she and Larry DeLong will be speaking on the Kalamazoo TMDL later this year at a conference of the Michigan Water Environment Association.

Tom Dunn and Lowell Knapp were in attendance, but did not provide any additional reports.

Doug Carter than led discussion on the proposed Kalamazoo River Expedition. There has been difficulty getting people to meetings – but those that do attend are extremely enthusiastic. There currently is no overall Chair for the event, and we are still seeking people to commit to helping plan, organize and conduct the last three days (from Plainwell to New Richmond). Following significant brainstorming and other discussion, the group agreed to aggressively pursue as much of the Expedition as we can possibly do this year. Kristine Boley-Morse and Doug Carter have agreed to be Co-Chairs for the event.

Doug distributed the overall “Program for 2003” (attached).

The next Phosphorus TMDL Implementation Committee meeting will be Thursday, May 8 at the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Doug Carter, MSUE.