

**TMDL Committee Meeting**  
**ARCUS Building**  
**November 3, 2005**

**Welcome and introductions:** Larry DeLong welcomed everyone and each person introduced themselves. Attendees: Liz Binoniemi, Kary Howard, Tina Clemons, Bill Nelson, Tom Funke, Julia Kirkwood, Scott Miller, Dave Heinicke, Mark Lemons, Tom Dunn, Patricia Fenn, Doug Carter, Dave Sperry, Mark Kraak, Steve Allen, Jeff Eves, Doug Sweeris, Larry De Long, Sue Foune, John Paquin, Dave Hienicke, Dean Baas, Lowell Knapp, Jean Gagliardo, John Byrnes, Jane Herbert, Don Brown, Rene Wilson

**Approval of Agenda:** Approved, no changes needed.

**Aug 18, 2005 minutes approved** with a few minor changes. Larry asked about P sampling program; should read P levels down significantly and ARCUS misspelled.

**Announcements:**

- Doug C. stated that an e-mail was sent out from Audrey of MDEQ regarding a meeting of the South West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum on Land Use issues on Nov 19, 2005 in Centreville, MI.
- On Nov 23, 2005 there will be a Turf Grass Sub-Committee meeting to talk about next years' Super Soils Tests Saturday at 9:00 at the Kellogg Biological Station.
- Julia K. stated that 319 grants were awarded to the Gun River and Rabbit River programs and for other projects in the watershed.
- Don B. mentioned that MDEQ draft criteria for de-listing of AOC related impaired waters (such as the Kalamazoo River) is on the web to review if interested.

**Reports:**

**Point Sources Sub-Committee:** Jeff Point source fall meeting was last week and stated that there have been great reduction results. Mark K. distributed a two-page handout showing the point source and non-point source loads of the Kalamazoo River between M-89 and Lake Allegan. They're making an effort to assist with non-point source activities and looking for new leadership. Also, there are many new faces in this group.

**Turf Grass activities and issues:** Chris K. was absent so Doug Carter gave report. Super Soils Test Saturday results have been reviewed. Some retailers don't seem to take the program seriously, and many others only have 4-8 folks show up to have their soils tested. The group is thinking of some changes for next year – have only about 12 retailers involved, conservation districts will combine SSTS with their tree sale days, and up to 4 watershed lakes will be targeted for a special testing/education program. These will be discussed at the next meeting. Also up for discussion is the possibility of a survey of retailers in the watershed that carry no P or low P fertilizer, and have someone explain to them in more detail about the impacts of excess and/or misapplied fertilizer. There has been a state-wide Environmental Stewardship Turf Grass program proposal and should be developed within the next few years. Also, discussions about an

instructional program for lawn care professionals at KCC are continuing – first class expected in the fall of 2006.

**Proposed Legislation on P in dishwasher soap and laundry detergents:** Don B. discussed the status of Senate Bill 209. It doesn't appear that there will be any action taken regarding this Bill.

**River Clean-up:** Patricia F. gave a thank you to all who attended today's meeting on behalf of the ARCUS Foundation which is funded by Stryker. While doing the river clean-up on the Gun River, 10 log jams were cleared - started at 2:00 p.m. and finished at dusk. Three Kalamazoo areas were done, with approximately 100 people working in the Milham Park area. Larry De Long said that the Battle Creek area clean-up had about 600 workers and it was a huge success. Various objects were hauled away.

**Kanoe the Kazoo:** Doug Kanoe the Kazoo has definitely become locally based and watershed-wide. Ten groups have come forward to help, one trip was cancelled, there were two in late Oct and attendance at those was low due to poor weather. All other floats were well attended. A total of about 400 people were involved. A proposal from Tom Funke on behalf of Binder Park Zoo was discussed. Binder Park Zoo is willing to resume all responsibilities such as registrations, overall leadership, media, public relations, brochures, supplies, etc. of Kanoe the Kazoo. The only drawback would be funding. Don B. asked what the potential would be regarding cooperating with nature centers, etc. There will be displays and presentations at the beginning of the trip. Should there be a registration fee for this? Some say yes, some say no, some say maybe. This will have to be decided and agreed upon prior to the start of the program. The group approved a trial program for 2006 to be reviewed at next fall's TMDL meeting.

**Watershed-wide Public Forum:** Doug C. had a handout with a recap of the Forum in Battle Creek. This Forum was very successful. He again gave a thank you to all who participated and helped. About 195 people officially registered, and at one point there were about 230 people in the room. A grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation covered about \$14,000 of Forum expenses. Dave Dempsey, Pat Adams and others made good presentations. In the afternoon, participants broke out into small groups and were asked to answer two questions: "What actions can be taken to create a more positive identity for the Kalamazoo River?" and "How should we organize on a watershed basis to move swiftly and surely towards achieving common identified goals?" The summary and action plan are included at the end of the notes. TMDL has already begun discussion on many of those action plan items.

**Phosphorus Sampling Program:** Dean B. completed 2005 growing season sampling analysis data. Preliminary information for August concluded that about 82 mg phosphorus loads goal is 72, reference numbers from 1998 estimate for pounds of phosphorus 1,451 pounds. Last growing season was 93,000 pounds. Need to remember to take into consideration that this was a very dry year. Two thirds of the loading came from non-point sources and one third from point sources. The 1998 split was about the same. Hope to have interim technical report by the end of this year. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Thirteen locations have been monitored this season. Dean stated that the EPA will no longer fund two of the discharge data stations (Trowbridge and Plainwell), which causes difficulty for the sampling program. The Technical committee will take this on.

**Volunteer monitoring:** Jane We now have a network in the Kalamazoo basin which is made up of municipal point source volunteers taking on more sample places than in the past. They will stop in the winter and begin again in the spring. Next summer citizen volunteers with transparency tubes should be able to provide information to this committee. Point sources labs were used for analysis - thank you to all! Data is available at [www.kbs.msu.edu.kzoonps](http://www.kbs.msu.edu.kzoonps).

**Improving Communications with the Public:** Larry How can we improve TMDL group communications with the public? Jane H. suggested we do a weekly/monthly newspaper advertisement. Tom F. talked about social marketing; getting people to make a commitment and strategies on how to get people to change their behavior. John P. suggested we focus on water quality ideas as opposed to TMDL, stormwater etc. Let us not get too technical. The educational sub-committee should do this as a project. Each sub-committee may want to produce a press release and focus on education.

**TMDL Implementation Committee Charter:** Doug This charter has never been approved and it needs to be discussed and adopted. Mark K. noted numerous changes that should be made or wording that needs to be clarified. Others also had concerns. It was agreed that Mark and Doug will work on changes together. All members need to read over and **send comments to Mark or Doug by no later than the end of November. Proposed changes** will be sent out by mid December, with a revised draft available for review by the Leadership Team in January.

**Sub-Committees:** Doug Reviewed the 12 standing, and 3 ad hoc, sub-committees in which folks can get involved, and distributed a sign-up sheet. If you don't want to answer now, e-mail or phone Doug with more commitments.

**Election of New TMDL Officers:** Nominations based on new charter with 4 officers instead of three. Nominating committee (Jane) had some volunteers and accepted write-ins and nominations from the floor. Julia suggests everyone take a turn for 1-2 years.

Dave H. proposed 1 year officer position terms - approved.

Larry made a motion to accept the ballot as written and were there any other candidates? No comments from attendees. Results of the vote were:

22 votes for Kathy B., 1 for Mark K. for Chair

22 votes for Dave H., 1 for Kathy B. for co-chair for non-point source activities

21 votes for Tom D. for co-chair for point source activities

23 votes for Sue F., Secretary

**Discussion of 2006 Leadership Team Meeting:** A meeting with the outgoing officers and incoming officers, advisors and sub-committee chairs to discuss the 2006 agenda was scheduled for January 19, 2006 at 9:00 at the Kalamazoo Wastewater Reclamation Plant.

**Date, Time, Location of Next quarterly TMDL Meeting:** Feb 9, 2006, 9:00 am Thursday, Kalamazoo Wastewater Reclamation Plant in Conference Room A

Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 by Larry De Long

**Kalamazoo River Watershed Forum**  
**October 7, 2005**

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND ACTION PLAN**

“What actions can be taken to create a more positive identity for the Kalamazoo River?”

- Enhance public recreation facilities - Dam removals, public access, portages, campgrounds, parking.
- Develop canoe/Heritage water trail guide and signs.
- Enhance greenways and trailways.
- Educate our youth about the watershed and their role.
- Develop a multi-jurisdictional collaborative organization.
- Use media to tell the river’s story – past, present and future.
- Connect communities via activities - Get people on the river and involve media and key officials.

“How should we organize on a watershed basis to move swiftly and surely towards achieving common identified goals?”

- 1 vote                      Loose knit communications NETWORK
- 8 votes                     Structured ALLIANCE
- 26 votes                    Watershed ASSEMBLY
- 52 votes                    New UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION

**ACTION PLAN**

- Create new watershed-wide collaborative organization:
  - Develop vision and mission statements for new organization
  - Explore 501C3 and other organizational models
  - Discuss ideas with current watershed organizations
  - Obtain commitment of member organizations
  - Develop partnership agreement of involved organizations
  - Is there a current organization that can take a leadership role in the new organization?
  - Develop business plan to sustain organizational efforts
- Create a strong business case for watershed protection and restoration – economic effects/impacts of all activities on the watershed.
- List cooperating organizations as resource guide, and delineate a list of goals and current efforts to protect and enhance watershed.
- Enhance public recreation facilities – pursue Michigan Heritage Water Trail designation.
- Develop and implement a communications plan with all organizations.

