

**Kalamazoo River/Lake Allegan  
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Committee  
DRAFT Charter - August 2007**

**Background:** The Kalamazoo River Watershed is a major geographic feature of southwest Michigan, draining some 2,020 square miles of land in ten counties. Historically, many water quality problems in the watershed have been or are being addressed, including the PCB contamination Area of Concern (AoC) through the development of a Remedial Action Plan (RAP). Today, nutrient enrichment of Lake Allegan, which is a 1,587-acre impoundment at the lower end of the watershed, is a symptom of non-point source and point source loading of phosphorus in a watershed with diverse land use, and experiencing development pressure.

Lake Allegan is a collection point for sediments and nutrients delivered by the river and its tributaries draining approximately 1,550 square miles. Water quality problems in the lake include algal blooms, low oxygen levels, poor water clarity and a fish community dominated by carp (Heaton, 1999). Lake Allegan has been characterized as “hypereutrophic”. These conditions have caused a violation of Rule 60(2) of the Michigan Water Quality Standards (WQS) which states, “nutrients shall be limited to the extent necessary to prevent stimulation of growths of aquatic rooted, attached, suspended, and floating plants, fungi or bacteria, which are or may become injurious to the designated uses of the waters of the state.” As such, this impoundment is on Michigan’s 303(d) list of impaired waters. The State of Michigan was therefore mandated by the federal Clean Water Act to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Lake Allegan and its watershed. A TMDL was developed by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (Heaton, 2001).

A TMDL specifies the maximum amount of a pollutant, in this case phosphorus, that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards. Acceptable phosphorus loadings are shared among all categories of point source and non-point source dischargers in the watershed; goals for total phosphorus, chlorophyll a, water clarity and fisheries have been established for Lake Allegan (Heaton, 2001).

A stakeholder approved TMDL Implementation Plan was developed in 2002 with the input of landowners, industry, government, community organizations, small businesses and citizens from all facets of community life.

The Implementation Plan relies on local and regional efforts for watershed restoration, and emphasis on voluntary land and water management changes. A stakeholder-led committee provides overall leadership, oversight and coordination of the Implementation Plan. Critical elements of the Plan include:

- Recommended strategies and actions that represent a consensus of stakeholders.
- Reduction of phosphorus inputs from “point” sources by at least 23 percent and from “non-point” sources by at least 50 percent during the late summer months.
- Allowance for incorporation of innovative techniques to achieve desired goals.

- Reasonable assurance that these targets can and will be achieved.
- A comprehensive system to report on phosphorus reduction activities, and to measure and track phosphorus reduction from such activities.
- A monitoring program which indicates the progress the watershed is making;
- An educational and public involvement strategy.
- Assurance that there is institutional support to assure sustainability of a successful watershed-wide management program.

## Charter Structure

**Name:** The name of the committee is the Kalamazoo River/Lake Allegan Watershed Phosphorus TMDL Implementation Committee, henceforth known as the Implementation Committee. Participation on the Implementation Committee is voluntary.

**Implementation Committee Purpose:** The purpose of the Implementation Committee will be to provide watershed wide leadership in the implementation of the Kalamazoo River/Lake Allegan Watershed Phosphorus TMDL Implementation Plan. This includes:

- Overall coordination and communication of phosphorus reduction activities.
- Convening and facilitation of stakeholders to ensure meaningful public involvement in decision-making.
- Assist in implementation and management of point and non-point source web-based reporting and tracking systems.
- Identify, encourage and support those regulatory activities by state and local agencies that support the Implementation Committee's phosphorus TMDL implementation efforts.
- Identify watershed needs and sources of funding, and encourage and support efforts of other community organizations in seeking grants, donations and other funding to support TMDL implementation efforts.
- Nurture and support existing community organizations dedicated to and involved in watershed management activities.
- Examine and analyze examples of successful watershed protection efforts in other areas for possible application within the Kalamazoo River/Lake Allegan watershed.

**Membership:** The Implementation Committee will be open to anyone interested in and committed to the goals and implementation of the Kalamazoo River/Lake Allegan Watershed Phosphorus TMDL Implementation Plan. At the very least, members will represent point source contributors and non-point source contributors (including those involved in the areas of agriculture, construction, greenhouse nutrient management, industrial stormwater, municipal stormwater, septic system management, transportation and turf management, and alternative landscaping).

**Officers:** There shall be a Chair, two Co-Chairs and a Secretary. Officers will be elected at the regularly scheduled fall quarterly meeting of the TMDL Implementation Committee every three years. These officers will comprise the Executive Committee.

- **Chair Position-** the Chair will preside at all meetings of the Implementation Committee, Executive Committee and Leadership Team. The Chair is the chief executive officer of

the Implementation Committee and shall have authority over the general control and management of the business and affairs of the Implementation Committee, subject to the control of the Executive Committee. The Chair may sign any instruments necessary to the operations of the Implementation Committee, unless the signing of the documents has been delegated to some other officer. The Chair shall perform all other duties prescribed by the Leadership Team from time to time, and all other duties incident to the office of Chair.

The Chair may establish and appoint as many special or ad hoc sub-committees as determined to be necessary and appropriate. The Chair may cancel any ad hoc sub-committee when it has achieved its objectives, completed its mission or no longer is necessary.

The Chair will appoint sub-committee chairs, based upon a recommendation of its members if so provided.

- **Co-Chair Positions** – Point and non-point source facilitation will be the focus of the co-chair positions and will be divided per the strategic plan.
- **Secretary** - The Secretary shall:
  - keep the minutes of the meetings of the Implementation Committee, Executive Committee and Leadership team;
  - be responsible for providing notice to each member of all meetings of the Implementation Committee, Executive Committee and Leadership Team;
  - be the custodian of the records of the Implementation Committee;
  - keep a register containing the address of each officer and Sub-Committee Chair;
  - perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary, or any other duties assigned to the Secretary by the Implementation Committee or the Chair

**Leadership Team:** A Leadership Team, comprised of the Executive Committee along with the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council (KRWC) Coordinator/Representative and three (3) open positions based on the invitation and appointment of the Executive Committee, will provide overall direction to the Implementation Committee and will develop a strategic plan for the three year term. The Leadership Team will meet at least annually, at which time they will establish a broad agenda of the Implementation Committee for the upcoming year. The Leadership Team may meet as often as needed, at the discretion of the Executive Committee. .

The Executive Committee will set the agenda for regular and special meetings of the Implementation Committee, conduct those meetings and represent the Implementation Committee as directed by the Implementation Committee or the Leadership Team.

**Strategic Plan:** A strategic plan will be developed within the first three months of the new term. It will focus on critical phosphorus reduction needs.

## **Implementation Plan Focus Areas:**

- Agriculture
- Land Use and Construction Activities
- Education and Outreach
- Greenhouse Nutrient Management
- In-Stream, In-Lake Processes
- Point Sources
- Septic Systems and On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems
- Stormwater
- Sub-Basin Planning and Management
- Technical
- Transportation Systems
- Turf Management and Alternative Landscaping

**Meetings:** Regular Implementation Committee meetings will be held quarterly, in February, May, August and November. Special meetings of the Implementation Committee may be scheduled at the discretion of the Executive Committee. All regular and special meetings of the Implementation Committee will be public noticed and open to the public.

**Decisions:** Decisions of the Implementation Committee will be made by consensus of those present at any regularly scheduled or special meeting of the Implementation Committee. When it is clear that a consensus is not possible, the Chair of the meeting may call for a vote, following Robert's Rules of Order. The Implementation Committee cannot speak for individual organizations, agencies, or entities. The Implementation Committee cannot bind any member. The Implementation Committee has no legal authority.

**Meeting Minutes:** Minutes of all meetings of the Implementation Committee and the Leadership Team shall be prepared and kept by the Secretary. Draft minutes must be approved by the appropriate body during its next meeting.