

## **Region of the Great Bend of the Wabash River Watershed Management Plan Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

Meeting 5: December 8, 2009 4:30 p.m. Lilly Nature Center, West Lafayette, Indiana

Attendees: Sara Peel, Dan Dunten, Art Remnet, Joe Payne, KD Benson, Diane Damico, Don Staley

### **Project Updates/Timeline Review:**

- Sara provided updates on the status of the education and outreach committee, the monitoring committee, and overall project progress.
- The Green Initiatives Tour held on November 21<sup>st</sup> was successful with approximately 30 individuals attending. It was requested that the tour be held again in the spring and that information be provided to potential attendees farther in advance. Sara explained the goal of the program was to attract the “non-typical” attendee; therefore, committee members and volunteers were not contacted until one week prior to the event. Sara indicated that several individuals had already volunteered their property for a spring event.
- The monitoring committee met December 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss monitoring data collected via other projects and the data collected through the current monitoring effort. A large volume of data are available as dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, conductivity and turbidity are all collected every 15 minutes while nutrient, sediment, and E. coli data are collected weekly. The committee is working to identify potential target values and will be developing a method to address the large volume of data – how will we analyze and use this information. During the next meeting, the biological data collected in 2009 will be reviewed.
- Sara provided a timeline graphic indicating the project timeframe and those of the education and outreach and monitoring committees. A brief discussion of the project’s progress and where we will be heading in the future.

### **Identification of Problems and Causes:**

- The list of concerns developed during the previous meeting was reviewed with problems and potential causes of those problems identified by the committee members. The results of this effort are attached along with the summary versions. These summaries were used to identify potential sources of these problems and concerns. These potential sources are not the final listing to be utilized in the planning process, rather they should be considered a draft list. Additional sources and potential solutions will be targeted in future meetings.

Next meeting: March 2, 2010 4:30 p.m.

| <b>Concerns:</b>   | <b>Problems:</b>  | <b>Potential Causes:</b>  |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Conservation Practices Concerns:</b>  |   |   |
| There are too many locations where animals have access to watershed streams.   | High turbidity, high nutrient concentrations, high pathogen concentrations                  | Suspended sediments, nutrients, pathogens exceed target values                              |
| Agricultural best management practice methods should be utilized more within the watershed.  | Lack of knowledge, Lack of education  | Suspended sediments, nutrients, pathogens exceed target values; Lack of education/knowledge |
| Individuals use too much fertilizer and pesticide.   | Lack of education; Low dissolved oxygen; High nutrient concentrations and turbidity         | Lack of education; Elevated turbidity   |
| Too much physical waste is entering the river and its tributaries.   | Lack of education   | Lack of education   |
| Too much medication and too high of pharmaceutical concentrations are entering the river.  | Pharmaceutical concentrations too high; Lack of education                                   | Lack of education   |
| Individuals are unaware of BMP implementation options; demonstration sites should be available for education and outreach opportunities and to include management practice implementation. | Lack of knowledge (all); Unwillingness to change, lack of money (ag)                        | Lack of knowledge   |
| Private landowners are unaware of their obligations related to streams running through their property (snag clearing, who to contact for permit assistance, etc.)                          | Lack of knowledge; Need a "go to" group to supply information                               | Lack of knowledge; Lack of a public education plan  |
| Nutrient and algae concentrations are too high within the Wabash River and its tributaries.  | Nutrient and algae concentrations are too high within the Wabash River and its tributaries. | Nutrients and turbidity exceed target balue   |
| Sediment and erosion control is needed.  | High turbidity, high nutrient concentrations.   | Nutrients and turbidity exceed target balue   |

| <b>Concerns:</b>   | <b>Problems:</b>   | <b>Potential Causes:</b>   |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Conservation Practices Concerns:</b>  |  |  |
| Buffers and transitional natural areas are needed along the Wabash River and its tributaries.  | Water temperatures too high; natural habitat disrupted; Sediment and nutrient concentrations elevated. | Suspended sediments, nutrients exceed target values; Habitat continuity disrupted  |
| Green or low impact development (LID) practices and LEED certification possibilities are underutilized.  | Lack of money; Lack of education   | Lack of knowledge; Lack of implementation plan and funding   |
| Invasive and exotic species are present throughout the watershed and we do not have a plan to eliminate or reduce their presence or spreading. | Habitat fragmentation; Lack of money and education; Elevated nutrients and suspended sediments         | Habitat continuity disrupted; Nutrients and suspended sediments exceed target values; Lack of education and implementation plan. |
| <b>Regulatory:</b>   |  |  |
| Industrial permit requirements are not enforced thus industrial inputs are too high.   | High industry inputs - potentially metals, hydrochemicals  | Lack of education  |
| Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) within Lafayette and West Lafayette need to be corrected.  | High pathogens, turbidity, nutrients; Area streams listed by IDEM as impaired for recreational contact | E. coli, nutrients, turbidity exceed target values   |
| The Tippecanoe County regional plan should be revised and/or re-evaluated to address development in the watershed.                             | Lack of time and/or funding; Low priority; Lack of resources   | Lack of funding and resources  |
| Too much untreated stormwater enters the Wabash River.   | High pathogens, turbidity, nutrients; Lack of education  | E. coli, nutrients, turbidity exceed target values   |
| Septic systems are not efficient enough or maintained correctly and regulations relating to them are not enforced.                             | Streams have nutrient and pathogen concentrations which exceed target concentrations                   | E. coli, nutrients, turbidity exceed target values   |

| <b>Concerns:</b>  | <b>Problems:</b>   | <b>Potential Causes:</b>  |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Recreation:</b>  |  |   |
| Density and diversity of fish in the Wabash River is lower than historical levels.                                  | Habitat fragmentation; poor water quality                  | Habitat fragmentation; Nutrients and suspended sediments exceed target values |
| Natural and wildlife areas should be created.   | Lack of funding; Competing land uses                       | Habitat fragmentation; Lack of funding  |
| There are not enough trails along the Wabash River.   | Lack of funding; Competing land uses                       | Habitat fragmentation; Lack of funding  |
| Access to the Wabash River is limited by lack of parking, publicly-available boats, and boat ramps or access sites. | Lack of funding; Competing land uses                       | Habitat fragmentation; Lack of funding  |
| <b>Education and Outreach Concerns:</b>   |  |   |
| The public does not feel a sense of ownership for the river or its watershed.                                       | Lack of education; Lack of recreation                      | Lack of unified strategy to increase public ownership and education           |
| The public lacks knowledge about the river and its tributaries' water quality.                                      | Lack of education  | Lack of education plan  |
| Partnerships between existing organizations are under-utilized.   | Lack of unifying group to coordinate information dispersal | Lack of outreach plan   |