



**GALENA RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN
SECOND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting Summary

Date: July 1, 2009

Time: 3:00 p.m. Central Time

Location: LaPorte County SWCD, 100 Legacy Plaza West, LaPorte, Indiana 46350

Meeting Attendees:

Name	Organization
Roberta Jannsen	Property owner
Lee Reinfurth	LaPorte Co. Drainage Board
June Kirchgatter	Property owner
Nicholas Timm	Property owner
Deb Longworth	Property owner
Elizabeth McCloskey	USFWS
Jon Dittmar	Property owner
Rick McVay	Property owner
Gwen White	Indiana DNR
Garry Traynham	National Park Service
Christine Livingston	Save the Dunes
Steve Barker	Shirley Heinz Land Trust
Rick Knoll	Property owner
Nicole Messacar	LaPorte Co. SWCD
Shannon Donley	Baetis Environmental Services

Summary:	Actions
<p>The meeting was called to order at 3:10. Since there were so many new faces, introductions were made. Donley summarized the discussion from the June meeting. The list of concerns that were identified during the first meeting was presented to the group. These were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Rapid pace of development – badly planned, high density will degrade watershed</i> 2) <i>Reducing E. coli bacteria</i> 3) <i>Protection of high quality habitat</i> 4) <i>Maintain water source for agricultural use (primarily livestock, equestrian use)</i> 	

<p>The group worked on developing a final vision statement. There was discussion on length and scope of the statement. The group reduced the list to two alternatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Clean Water to Sustain Every Species2. Protecting Our Beautiful Rural River <p>Since so many attendees from the 1st meeting were absent from the 2nd meeting, Donley will email the choices to the entire Steering Committee for selection.</p> <p>The goals developed from the 1st meeting were presented to the group.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) <i>The water quality standard for E. coli will be met or surpassed.</i>2) <i>The LaPorte County Master Plan will incorporate practices consistent with recommendations from the Galena River Watershed Management Plan.</i>3) <i>The amount of protected land in the watershed will be increased from _____ acres to _____ acres.</i>4) <i>The amount of agricultural land managed using conservation practices will be increased from _____ acres to _____ acres.</i>5) <i>A public education program will be implemented to educate the public on the definition of a watershed and morainal forest, and to explain why watersheds are important, and how human actions can affect the watershed health.</i> <p>Donley asked the group if they were in agreement or disagreement with the goals or had other comments. Livingston told the group that goals #3 and #4 should be considered as action items or objectives, not goals. It was also determined that the group's concerns should be written as goals. Objectives would be developed for each goal. Donley will rewrite the group's concerns and include them as goals and work with the group members to develop objectives for each goal.</p> <p>There were questions on the purpose to the watershed management plan and the steering committee. It was suggested that the IDEM checklist and scope be provided to the steering committee.</p> <p>Kirchatter asked that the group identify the different audiences for the plan and discuss ways of contacting the different audiences. After some discussion the group determined that the primary audiences of concern are the 1) landowners, 2) County Commissioners, and 3) County Health Department.</p> <p>There was discussion on whether or not the County was aware of, and supportive of, the Watershed Management Plan. It was determined that Messacar would draft a letter to the County Zoning Board informing them of the development of the Watershed Management Plan and listing the names of all the steering committee members.</p> <p>There was confusion on the status of the LaPorte County Master Plan. Messacar clarified that the Master Plan is complete; it is the zoning update that is currently being done. The zoning update can be influenced by the Watershed</p>	<p>Donley to email two Vision Statement alternatives to the full Steering Committee for selection.</p> <p>Donley to rewrite several goals and work with members of the Steering Committee to develop objectives for each goal.</p> <p>Donley to distribute IDEM checklist and scope.</p> <p>Messacar to prepare letter to send to County Zoning Board.</p> <p>Messacar/Donley to send out link to the LaPorte County Master Plan.</p>
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<p>Management Plan.</p> <p>There was discussion on doing a ‘buildout’ analysis for the watershed. This analysis would show how future land uses would affect pollutant loadings into the Galena River. It would give the Steering Committee a tool to take to the zoning board to help make land use decisions that would best protect the watershed. Currently there is no funding to do this analysis; Messacar is investigating a possible Indiana Coastal grant to pay for the analysis.</p> <p>It was recommended that there be prioritization of wetland habitat for preservation within the watershed. Wetland enhancement and restoration should be considered first; wetland creation should be considered later due to the much larger effort and costs. McCloskey informed the group about the moraine forest prioritization initiative that is currently underway and funded by the Coastal Grants Program, the Donnelly Foundation, and the Shirley Heinz Land Trust.</p>	
<p><u>Other</u></p> <p>The stakeholder meeting for the TMDL is scheduled for July 14, 2009 at Lalumiere School at 6 pm (CST).</p>	
<p>Meeting adjourned around 5:00 pm</p>	