

GALENA RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN FIFTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Summary

Date: November 5, 2009

Time: 3:00 p.m. Central Time

Location: LaPorte County Library, 904 Indiana Avenue, LaPorte, IN

Meeting Attendees:

Name	Organization
Tony Mancuso	LaPorte County Health Dept.
Nicole Messacar	LaPorte County SWCD
Kris Krouse	Shirley Heinz Land Trust
Steve Barker	Shirley Heinz Land Trust
June Kirchgatter	Property owner
Deb Longworth	Property owner
Nick Timm	Property owner
Elizabeth McCloskey	USFWS
Steve West	Indiana DEM
Joe Exl	Indiana DNR
Garry Traynham	National Park Service
Shannon Donley	Baetis Environmental Services

Summary:	Actions
<p>Meeting was called to order at 3:05. The group reviewed and revised the table of goals and action items Donley had created from the October meeting discussion. Priority rankings were assigned to each action item. The final product from this meeting will be distributed to the Steering Committee and incorporated into the draft watershed plan.</p> <p>As the table was reviewed/revised the following topics were brought forth by meeting attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exl made an announcement that the group that did the Trail Creek watershed plan was looking for teaming partners for a grant proposal to do a Particle Tracking Study and genetics on <i>E. coli</i> under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The Steering Committee agreed to team with Trail Creek and to inform Michigan (those responsible for the Galien River watershed plan) about the opportunity. • Mancuso from the County Health Dept. discussed ways in which the Health Dept. can work with the Steering Committee. Within reason the Health Dept. is willing to donate their laboratory and to analyze water samples for <i>E. coli</i>. The Health Dept. is, however, understaffed and will not be able to collect samples. • Exl presented a map showing that the vast majority of the watershed is 	

<p>rated as ‘very limited’ for septic systems. Mancuso responded that Health Dept. staff are aware of the soil limitations of the area but do issue septic permits. They are able to do this because site conditions may be suitable for septic on a site-by-site basis that cannot be captured by the large scale watershed map. Health department staff visit each property individually and assess soil suitability of the precise location for the proposed septic system. Site conditions may change dramatically within just a few feet, moving from suitable to unsuitable or vice versa, thus requiring an actual field assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mancuso informed the Steering Committee that establishing a point-of-sale ordinance for septic inspections (one of the action items) can be problematic if there is insufficient staffing. He added that it is possible to do but you need adequate staffing to implement such a program effectively. A septic maintenance and monitoring program can be worked into the ordinance. • It was decided that a Zoning Subcommittee will be started. This subcommittee would focus solely on the rezoning currently being done for the County. It will be the intent of this subcommittee to become involved with the County’s rezoning efforts and ensure the ordinances adopted will be protective of the area’s natural resources. • Exl informed the group that he had provided model EPA ordinances on septic, open space, aquatic buffer, and post-construction stormwater runoff, to a participant on the County Zoning Committee. • Kris Krouse, Executive Director of the Shirley Heinz Land Trust, told the Steering Committee about the Moraine Conservation Project, where they are identifying and prioritizing parcels for preservation within the moraine forest. • It was determined that there is insufficient staff to implement the watershed plan. A high priority action item identified by the group is the development of a County Watershed Coordinator position. • At the meeting the wetland acreage within the watershed was in question as Baetis’ and Exl’s wetland acres did not match. The correct acres will determine what wetland goal and action items will be developed for the watershed. This issue will be resolved soon. • Messacar informed the Steering Committee that she had applied Nov. 1, 2009 for a Clean Water Indiana Grant to restore stream buffers on private property. It is a \$7,000 grant with a cost-share component. • During a discussion on sensitive natural resource protection, Timm and Longworth spoke of the cumbersome nature of the Forest Legacy Program. The group should identify ways to supplement the program or make it less cumbersome. 	
<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>A Steering Committee meeting will not be held in December.</p> <p>A Steering Committee meeting will be held in January at a date to be determined.</p>	
<p>Meeting adjourned around 5:45 pm</p>	