

Michigan Watershed Management Short Course

***MSU Extension in Livingston County will be offering Short Courses on an annual or semi-annual basis. To find out details about upcoming Short Courses please call us at 517-546-3950.**

Watershed Management Short Course Background

Nonpoint source pollution of surface and groundwater is an emerging issue in communities across Michigan. It requires not only scientific input, but also social and economic considerations. All of these can be addressed under the heading of ‘watershed management’.

A watershed is the logical unit for managing nonpoint source pollution. Until recently this broad subject has been addressed primarily on college campuses or in special conferences designed for professionals in the area of water and land management.

It has become apparent that to successfully manage nonpoint source pollution, scientists and resource managers must begin working side by side with citizens—the local residents, decision makers and stakeholders, who hold the power and influence to change attitudes, perceptions, and rules regarding how we use our land. As residents we make the choices and the decisions.

Recognizing citizen needs for basic knowledge about watershed management principles, the KBS Extension office (now the KBS Land & Water Program) developed the Michigan Watershed Management Short Course to educate citizens about their watersheds. This course strives to use very localized examples in teaching watershed management concepts.

Program Goals

The Short Course’s goals are to positively influence behaviors and equip citizens with the basic knowledge, skills and resources to address local land use and water quality issues.

Program Highlights

The Michigan Watershed Management Short Course is customized to the host community, county or watershed in partnership with a county MSU Extension office and KBS Land & Water Program. This customizing is accomplished by a planning team, made up of citizens and resource professionals who are familiar with local water quality and land use issues, information sources and ongoing programs and projects. The result is a locally relevant watershed education experience for local decision makers, stakeholders and interested citizens. The Short Course is a 20-hour program offered over the course of one month. Sessions I, II, III and IV are scheduled once per week as four-hour evening sessions. Session IV includes a ‘Community Watershed Expo’ which provides participants with informal access to ongoing

programs and projects in their community, county or watershed. Session V is scheduled on a Saturday morning and includes a watershed tour, field experience in volunteer stream monitoring, luncheon and graduation ceremony.

For more information about Livingston County offerings of the Watershed Management Short Course please us at 517-546-3950.

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