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**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Livingston County Phase II Watershed Groups**  
**South Branch Shiawassee River Subwatershed Group**  
**Break Out Meeting No. 1**

Date: 2/13/04  
Time: 10:45am  
Meeting Held: Green Oak Twp Hall

HRC Job No. 20030566.26

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Amy Mangus.....	SEMCOG.....	313.324.3350
Mike Gaden.....	MSU-Extension.....	517.546.5154
Steve Wasylk.....	LCRC.....	517.546.4250
Bob Hanvey.....	Marion Twp.....	517.546.1588
Cindy Ambrose.....	Deerfield Twp.....	517.546.8760
Doug Kuhn.....	Hartland Twp.....	810.629.3818
Terry Lee.....	Tyrone Twp.....	810.629.8631
Brian Jonckheere.....	LCDC.....	517.546.0040
Bill Stone.....	HRC.....	248.454.6337
Jacy L. Paul.....	HRC.....	248.535.3456

<u>Not Present:</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Bill Bamber.....	Oceola Twp.....	517.546.3259
Merry Bering.....	Howell Twp.....	517.546.2817
Terry Wilson.....	City of Howell.....	517.546.7510

**PURPOSE:**

At today’s break-out meeting, we began to discuss the draft watershed management plan (WMP) components, water quality data, watershed survey results and what direction we’re heading in terms of watershed planning. Bill Stone of HRC noted that these meetings will be integral in composing a comprehensive WMP. After the watershed area is characterized, which was the gist of today’s meeting, we will need to move onto prioritizing concerns in the watershed, develop the goals and objectives of the WMP, and finally, gather a consensus on the desired/designated uses in the watershed and whether they are being met, are impaired, or are threatened.

## **I. Distribution of Draft WMP Components**

The following draft forms of documents were distributed which may be included in the WMP:

- a) Cover Page
- b) Chapter on Watershed Boundaries, Hydrology, Topography, Soil Types and Precipitation Characteristics
- c) Chapter on Community Land Use Profiles
- d) Chapter on Land Use Change Analysis: Southeast Michigan Region, Livingston County and South Branch Shiawassee River Subwatershed Area
- e) MNFI Summary for South Branch Shiawassee River Subwatershed Area

Jacy Paul of HRC went through and described the contents of each chapter. The group members were asked to review the drafts and provide comments, revisions, suggestions for additions, etc. It was noted that these are very preliminary drafts and many revisions will take place before the final product is produced. Amy Mangus of SEMCOG said that Year 2000 impervious land cover could be obtained from their records for each community. Doug Kuhn of Hartland Twp noted that his community is planning to add a receiving station for septage in coordination with Genesee County. The sewer and non-sewered areas still need to be compiled for the subwatershed area.

There was a side discussion on whether or not the City of Howell will be part of the South Branch Shiawassee Subwatershed Group—there has been no clear indication on this at the time. Officially, they still have an active watershed permit; however, they may end up going with a jurisdictional permit on their own. The City has a significant impact on storm water in the watershed, and regardless of their participation, their contribution will need to be considered in the planning process and goals and objectives to address their contribution will also be included in the WMP.

In regards to the MNFI Survey that was run, Amy Mangus said they aren't all that useful in characterizing areas needing protection as some of the data is very outdated and is based solely on reports of when the species/community was last seen. Mike Gaden of the MSU-Extension said that they are working in coordination with the MNFI group to do a more comprehensive field survey on species/communities throughout the Livingston County area—though this will take a good deal of time, it will provide for much more recent, comprehensive data that can be used to characterize areas throughout the watershed that may require additional protection efforts.

The first steps in the watershed planning process are to first characterize the watershed area which was the goal of these draft documents. The guide "Developing a Watershed Management Plan for Water Quality: An Introductory Guide" will be followed in order to develop a comprehensive WMP best suited to fit the needs of the South Branch Shiawassee River Subwatershed area.

## **II. Presentation of Environmental/Water Quality Data**

Next, a summary of all water quality that has been researched up to date was reviewed. Data regarding biological surveys completed throughout the watershed area in both 1995 and 2000 by the MDEQ were distributed. Areas of concern, along with areas that have TMDL designations were described. These areas will need to be prioritized in order of importance to remedy. This again will be part of the watershed planning process. The survey sampling stations were mapped out to see where data has been

collected and where gaps exist. These gaps will be part of the area targeted when the time comes to do an on-site watershed survey (Spring time). Those areas of greater concern will also be visited in order to gain an updated status of their condition. From these surveys, many of the watercourses throughout the watershed were found to be laden with sediment, have less than adequate habitat, and they also have evidence of flashy flows, or evidence of rapidly fluctuating water levels. Some of the watercourses had been previously dredged and are now undergoing recovery.

Sites of environmental contamination—including areas noted as having leaking underground storage tanks, closed landfills, active septage sites (land applied septage) and excessive nitrate levels in the groundwater—were mapped. Areas that are well-restricted or designated as a wellhead protection area were mapped, as well. This data was obtained from the Livingston County Dept. of Public Health's website. A document entitled, "Livingston County's Environmental Awareness Handbook" contained an environmental awareness map for every township in the County showing the location of the sites noted above. The handbook can be downloaded at:

<http://www.lchd.org/envirohealth/EH%20Awareness%20Handbook.pdf>.

The comprehensive map that was developed with all of this data and the biological sampling sites might be useful in determining where more notable areas of concern may be in the watershed area—where more contaminants have been documented as being present. From there, it can be determined if the contaminant poses a threat or not to the watershed area. The group will be asked to provide any additional water quality/environmental data as they receive it in order to keep the conditions of the watershed area as up to date as possible.

### **III. Watershed Survey**

Due to time constraints, the results of the watershed survey (passed out at the last meeting) were not discussed at this time. It will be the primary topic for discussion at the second break out meeting. From this survey, issues of concern in the watershed and desired uses in the watershed area will be characterized. In addition, each community's plans/ordinances/standards that may need to be updated or revised to be more congruent with that of their neighboring community or more fitting to watershed protection and health will become more evident.

The next break out meeting is scheduled to begin after the regularly scheduled Livingston County Watershed Groups meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> at Green Oak Twp Hall.

These minutes are intended to be a summary of those items discussed. Any corrections and/or comments should be noted to the writer as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

HUBBELL, ROTH & CLARK, INC.

Jacy L. Paul

Meeting Minutes  
Livingston County Drain Commissioner  
HRC Job No. 20030566.26  
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JLP/jp

pc: All present  
HRC; M. Synk Kuhn; J. Booth; File