

PRINCIPALS

Gerald F. Knapp
Thomas E. Biehl
Walter H. Alix
George E. Hubbell
Peter T. Roth
Michael D. Waring
Keith D. McCormack
Curt A. Christeson

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

J. Bruce McFarland

SENIOR ASSOCIATES

Frederick C. Navarre
Gary J. Tressel
Lawrence R. Ancypa
Kenneth A. Melchior
Dennis M. Monsere
Randal L. Ford
David P. Wilcox
Timothy H. Sullivan



ASSOCIATES

Thomas G. Maxwell
Nancy M.D. Faught
Jonathan E. Booth
Michael C. MacDonald
Marvin A. Olane
James C. Hanson
Richard F. Beaubien
Margaret Synk Kuhn
William R. Davis
James J. Aiello
Daniel W. Mitchell
Jesse B. VanDeCreek
Robert F. DeFrain
Marshall J. Grazioli

MEETING MINUTES
Livingston County Phase II Watershed Groups
Meeting No. 20

Date: 2/11/05
Time: 9:00am
Meeting Held: Green Oak Twp Hall

HRC Job No. 20030566

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Merry Bering	Howell Twp	517.546.2817
David Blackmar	City of Brighton	810.225.9282
Matt Bolang	LCDPH.....	517.546.9858
Pat Carney.....	Putnam Twp	734.878.3131
Jacqueline Cwik.....	Hartland Twp, Resident	n/a
Amy Felty	Village of Pinckney	734.878.6206
Mike Gaden	MSU-Extension	517.546.3950
Bob Hanvey	Marion Twp	517.546.1588
Brian Jonckheere	LCDC	517.546.0040
Amy Mangus	SEMOG	313.324.3350
Sally Murray	USDA, NRCS.....	517.548.1553 x3
Brian Obrecht.....	Howell Twp (Red Cedar Watershed)	517.552.5300
Rolly Olney.....	Hartland Twp	810.632.7498
Jacy L. Paul.....	HRC	248.535.3456
Bud Prine	Brighton Twp	810.229.0550
Chris Riggs	HRWC	734.769.5123
Mark St. Charles	Green Oak Twp.....	810.231.1333
Katie Schlueter.....	Hartland Twp, Resident	810.632.4797
Becky Simpson.....	LCDC	517.546.0040
Bill Stone	HRC	248.454.6337

<u>Not Present:</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Ken Algozin.....	The Nature Conservancy	989.723.9062
Bill Bamber.....	Oceola Twp.....	517.546.3259
Cheryl Bartley.....	MDEQ.....	517.335.6093
Bob Batt.....	MDOT, University Region	517.750.0410
Richard Bennett	Putnam Twp	734.878.3131
Lesa Brookins	Green Oak Twp.....	810.231.1333
Beth Corwin.....	Highland Twp.....	248.887.3791
Florence Davis	Livingston County Planning.....	517.546.7555
Ron Fadoir	OCDC.....	248.858.5248
<u>Not Present:</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>

Corporate Office: 555 Hulet Drive • P.O. Box 824 • Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0824 (Mailing – P.O. Box) – 48302-0360 (UPS Zip)
Telephone: (248) 454-6300 • FAX: (248) 338-2592 or (248) 454-6312 • www.hrc-engr.com

Ed Fox.....	Oceola Twp.....	248.343.0137
Greg Green.....	Howell Twp, Resident	517.545.4927
Pat Hagman.....	Hamburg Twp.....	810.231.1000
Kim Hiller.....	LCRC	517.546.4250
Mike Hughes.....	Village of Pinckney	734.878.9368
Kelly Kolakowski.....	Genoa Twp	810.227.5225
Dave Kuzner	Tyrone Twp.....	810.629.8631
Julie Peltier	Howell Twp, Resident	586.530.8119
Jeff Prince	City of Howell	517.546.3861
Simon Ren	Hamburg Twp.....	248.370.2161
Laura Rubin	HRWC	734.769.5123
Nancy Sauvage	Oceola Township	517.546.5886
Matt Schindewolf.....	City of Brighton	810.225.8004
Susan Stefanski.....	SEMOG	313.324.3349
Margie Synk Kuhn.....	HRC	248.454.6326
Susan Tepatti	Giffels-Webster (Lyon Twp)	248.852.3100
Steve Wasyk	LCRC	517.546.4250
Terry Wilson.....	City of Howell	517.546.7510
Jen Wolf.....	HRWC	734.769.5123

Introduction

Brian Jonckheere welcomed the group.

Intergovernmental Agreement for PEP/IDEP/PIP Implementation

Becky Simpson noted that the intergovernmental agreement for the Drain Commissioner’s office to handle dissemination of public education materials, as well as providing aid in implementing the illicit discharge elimination and public involvement plans, will be ready for signatures after the agreement has been approved by the County board. Board approval is expected before the next watershed group meeting in March and signatures can be given at that time.

Amendment to Agreement for the South Branch Shiawassee River Subwatershed Group

The amended agreement for the South Branch Shiawassee River Subwatershed group outlining the costs associated with watershed planning has been finalized and will be passed around for signatures at the South Branch breakout group following this meeting.

Agricultural BMPs Presentation

Sally Murray, District Conservationist for the Livingston County area, works for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Division. Sally was invited today to talk with the group about various methods of best management practices (BMPs) that can be put in place in agricultural areas to protect natural resources (namely protect water quality) and alleviate natural resource concerns (i.e. offsite soil erosion and sedimentation to a road-side ditch). Sally

talked about the basics of agricultural BMPs and the various programs that private landowners (farmers) can seek out. The BMPs she outlined tie in nicely with the Phase II permit requirements, and will be very pertinent to watershed management in Livingston County considering a fair amount of the land use is currently agricultural. She provided a brief introduction to a number of agricultural BMPs that can be placed into the Watershed Management Plan as recommendations that will aim to achieve the natural resource protection goals.

Sally outlined four main, or core, components of agricultural BMPs that are the minimum recommendations in a farm management plan. These four minimum BMPs combined with other BMPs tailored specifically to the natural resource protection goals is the best approach. The four core practices are:

1. Conservation Tillage
2. Crop Nutrient Management
3. Weed and Pest Management or IPM
4. Conservation Buffers

A summary for each core practice is outlined below.

Conservation Tillage

This practice is defined as having at least 30% ground cover after planting—the practice is also called crop residue management. The idea is for the farmer to manage the previous crop residue with various tillage practices such as mulch till, ridge till, zone till or no-till. This management is put in place as opposed to conventional plowing. It helps to reduce soil erosion from water or wind, and also helps to reduce surface runoff. The practice is intended to improve soil quality, water quality, air quality and farm productivity, while at the same time reducing overall expenses. Statistically, no-till practices can reduce soil erosion by as much as 90% and can conserve 2-4 inches of soil moisture during dryer periods. In conjunction with reduced soil erosion, conservation tillage promotes improved water quality since pollutants commonly associated with soil particles, such as phosphorus, are not entering the water system as readily. Sally reported that in Livingston County, approximately 75% of the farmers plant their soybean crops utilizing the no till/plow method.

Crop Nutrient Management

This practice aims to increase nutrient efficiency to maximize economic return in balance with maintaining or improving the surrounding environment. This practice includes applying nutrients at the right time and place to achieve the estimated yield. The goal is to reduce potential pollution of surface and groundwater from all sources of plant nutrients: manure, fertilizers, previous crop residue, irrigation tail water, etc. All of these sources are included in a nutrient budget. The specific management practices outlined to achieve the management goal include soil testing, split applications, side dressing, nitrogen stabilizers, manure testing, application calibration, and livestock/poultry feed rations.

Weed and Pest Management (or IPM)

This practice is a comprehensive approach to controlling weeds and pests, as well as other pests that reduce crop yield. Common practices are utilized to prevent or reduce economically harmful weeds,

insects, diseases and other pest populations while other management practices might act to reduce populations to an economically tolerable level. The specific components of an integrated pest management plan or IPM include:

- Scouting fields (i.e. look for specific weeds/pests that may occur in patches only—treat patches instead of entire field)
- Rotating crops or planting in a planned pattern (i.e. helps to eradicate insects that get adapted to a specific type of crop)
- Planting resistant crops
- Encouraging beneficial insects
- Utilizing crop protection products

Conservation Buffers

These “buffers” provide a protective barrier between “active” land and sensitive areas. The buffers may be composed of planted grasses, trees or some other ground cover. The buffer aims to reduce the impact of runoff from adjacent fields. This practice is also referred to as a filter strip when in the form of grass and used to treat surface flow or provide a windbreak to combat against wind erosion.

Statistics show that buffers can reduce 80% of sediment deposition offsite and prevent an average of 40% of phosphorus from reaching surface waters since it gets trapped by the vegetation in the buffer. Buffers have also been shown to have the following additional benefits:

- Trap any escape of crop protection products (agricultural chemicals) on the surface and in the root zone to allow natural decomposition processes to occur
- Allow plants in the buffer zone to utilize the potential pollutants as nutrients
- Reduce wind and water erosion. Buffers are recommended for any slope over 6% (6% slope is considered highly erodible) at a minimum width of at least 20 feet on flat land. The size of buffer strips can vary considerably being highly dependent on the slope and topography of the land adjacent to the waterway or sensitive area.
- Increase infiltration and reduce runoff
- Increase fish and wildlife habitat
- Trap snow to increase moisture available to crops
- Add aesthetics to the landscape, both visually and in terms of the plants and animal populations present.

Sally also noted that the conservation buffer is also highly effective along residential lake shore property to control geese populations. Geese do not like anything rubbing against their bellies—as such, a tall grass buffer is effective at managing geese on a residential property, while at the same time protecting water quality by preventing common pollutants associated with residential land use from entering the lake.

On the NRCS website, there’s a list of approximately 100+ recommended practices for the agricultural industry that help to protect water and other natural resources. The practices are highly recommended to be included in a comprehensive watershed management plan.

Aside from the BMPs, there are also a number of incentive programs available to farmers/agricultural landowners such as the environmental quality incentive program or the wetland reserve program. Landowners interested in the various programs are directed to the NRCS office for additional information and individual consultations.

For additional information, Sally may be contacted at 517.548.1553, extension 3, or by email at sally.murray@mi.usda.gov. Additional information available from the NRCS can be found at the following web address: www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg. This website gives state-specific technical information to assist in the conservation of soil, water, air, and related plant and animal resources and can be a useful management tool for landowners, land managers, contractors, and conservationists.

Public Meeting

Discussion on the time and format of the second public meeting were discussed. The group was asked if there was a preference between having both watershed groups hold a joint meeting again, or to hold two separate meetings at their own date, location and time. The group did not have a strong preference, but it was recommended by Jacy Paul and Chris Riggs that two separate meetings be held at their own locations to ensure that enough time is given to discuss the topics at hand and to solicit input in a fair amount of time. Time and space were at a minimum at the first public meeting. It is anticipated that the next meeting will be held in early May. It will be an opportunity to share the progress of watershed planning for the watershed area and to gain input from the public on their feelings for the direction of the planning initiative and to gain additional input on specific natural and water resource concerns for the watershed.

Other Items of Interest

Amy Mangus distributed some freebies from SEMCOG—pens and magnets. The next tip card in the “Seven Simple Steps to Clean Water” campaign were distributed. The next tip is regarding proper pet care. Amy also passed around the SEMCOG calendar outlining the campaign messages and the associated months that each tip will be highlighted for the year. She recommended that each community relate their public education topics in conjunction with the SEMCOG calendar so that a consistent message is relayed to the public. SEMCOG also noted that they have a series of newsletter articles that correspond with the campaign messages that communities can use in their local newsletters. SEMCOG will also be mailing out the next round of campaign materials to their members with the next week and half or so. Amy also distributed a full-color version of the watershed placemat outlining the seven steps to clean water campaign.

Amy also asked community leaders to be looking for an infrastructure survey to gauge future sewer service areas in their communities. This would include mapping public water supplies, sanitary and storm sewer systems.

Bill Stone asked Amy how SEMCOG was coming on developing training programs on the various six minimum measures of a storm water management plan (i.e. training on construction storm water runoff control, post-construction storm water runoff control and pollution prevention and good housekeeping). Part of these minimum measure initiatives require training of municipal staff on BMPs related to those minimum measures. Amy said she expected the training to be available at some point this year. They are actively working on the programs.

Jacy Paul passed out an announcement for an upcoming storm water management seminar. It's entitled "Smart Growth for Clean Water" and is being held on February 24th, 2005 in East Lansing. It's another opportunity to learn more about the tools and long-term strategies to address such topics as growth pressures, protecting water resources, including drinking water, and protection/enhancement of aquatic ecosystems—all in accordance with meeting the phase II regulations. Case studies will be presented to show the various land use planning tools and innovative storm water management strategies (reduction of impervious surfaces, open space preservation, cluster zoning, etc.) all of which can be applied to the group's watershed planning initiatives. The cost for registration is only \$25.00 and the conference runs from 8:00am to 5:00pm. Attending a workshop like this will also qualify as satisfying a municipality's public education requirements on storm water management training. For more information on the conference, go to www.mecprotects.org.

Becky Simpson noted that she is trying to get Livingston County involved in a River Week—an extended version of River Day that is hosted in many other communities and counties. She's attending a meeting within the next week to discuss the options for activities for a River Week. She noted that although Livingston County may not be able to get on board this year, it would be something that would surely be doable by next year.

Becky also noted that she is trying to get a spot reserved at the Livingston County Homeshow arranged by the Howell Chamber of Commerce and runs from April 1-3rd. Becky hopes to be able to put the Livingston County storm water display up at that event. Becky will also be soliciting volunteers to man the display if visitors have questions/want additional information.

Bill Stone asked if any of the communities have received comments from the MDEQ on their PEP/IDEP/Annual Report submittals. They have not received comments. Bill reminded the group that once comments are received, the group can decide as a whole how to respond.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled watershed groups meeting will be **Friday, March 11th at 9:00am** at Green Oak Township 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

JLP/jp

pc: All present

Meeting Minutes
Livingston County Drain Commissioner
HRC Job No. 20030566
2/11/05
Page 7

HRC; M. Synk Kuhn; J. Booth; File