

APPENDIX A

***PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE, AGENDA,
SIGN-IN SHEETS AND HANDOUTS***

WATERSHED PLANNING MEETINGS

THE ELKHART COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
& THE ELKHART COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
INVITE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPING
A WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Topics of Discussion include: Water Quality Sampling, Pollution Sources, On-Site
Septic Systems, Pollution Solutions and Sewer Districts

Public Meeting Notice

Turkey Creek-Swoveland Ditch
Monday, April 8, 2002, 6:30-7:30 PM
New Paris Elementary School
68080 Division Street
New Paris, IN

Elkhart River-Yellow Creek (lower)
Monday, April 15, 6:30-7:30 PM
Elkhart County Health Department
Environmental Health Services
4230 Elkhart Road
Goshen, IN

Yellow Creek-Headwaters
Monday, April 22, 6:30-7:30 PM
Harrison Christian School
64784 County Road 11
Goshen, IN

Questions concerning the meeting should be directed to Ms. Kara Young at Lawson-Fisher Associates (574) 234-3167 or Mr. John Hulewicz at the Elkhart County Health Department (574) 875-3391.

Agenda

Watershed Planning Meeting

April 8, 2002

*Elkhart County Commissioners
319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant
Problematic Domestic Waste Disposal Systems*

1. Introduction

- *"Why are we here?"*
- *"What's a Watershed?"*
- *"What is this 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant?"*

2. Let's talk Water Quality Issues!

- *What is Point source pollution?*
- *What is nonpoint source pollution?*
- *What are the causes and effects of these pollutants on our waters?*

3. On-site Sewage Systems

- *How a septic system works*
- *Why an on-site system might fail*
- *What to do if a system fails*
- *Conditions for proper septic system functioning*

4. Conclusion

- *Where do we go from here? How do we address Water Quality?*
 - *Best Management Practices*
 - *Good Agricultural Practices*
 - *Regional Sewer Districts*
 - *Good Common Sense*

Monday, April 8, 2002

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Raymond Dausman	NEW PARIS Box 337 - APP LN	831-2242
Don Wysonq	19881 CR 46 New Paris IN	831-2664
R. Joe Blackburn	19610 CR 146 New Paris	831-4289
Ken Krull	70004 CR 21 New Paris	831-4893
Darrell Troyer	19907 CR 46 New Paris	831-4861
Bill Jarman	19678 CR 146 New Paris	831-2737
Don Yee	71201 SR 15 New Paris	831-2264
Don Yee	71201 SR 15 New Paris	831-2264
Landy Mikel	69723 SR 15 New Paris	831-3520
Clair Hostetter	67339 CR 21 Goshen	831-4161
MICHAEL JUIF	19941 CR 46 NEW PARIS	831-4486
MARGO MACKOWIAK	64250 MEADOW RIDGE, GOSHEN	533-3438
Klaus D. Mueller	19902 CR 146 New Paris	831-2219
David Hess	24438 CR 32 Goshen	875-5648
Bob Worklas	Elk P. Health Dept	875-3391
John Hulevicz	"	"
DON SCHNOUSELOT	"	875-3391
Kmy		
JEF		

Public Meeting Agenda

Elkhart River - Yellow Creek Watershed

April 15, 2002

*Elkhart County Commissioners
319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant
Problematic Domestic Waste Disposal Systems*

1. Introduction

- *What's a Watershed*
- *What is this 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant*

2. Let's talk Water Quality Issues!

- *What is Point source pollution*
- *What is nonpoint source pollution*
- *What are the causes and effects of these pollutants on our waters*

3. On-site Sewage Systems

- *How a septic system works*
- *Why an on-site system might fail*
- *What to do if a system fails*
- *Conditions for proper septic system functioning*

4. Conclusion

- *Where do we go from here*
- *How do we address Water Quality*

LAWSON-FISHER ASSOCIATES P.C.
525 WEST WASHINGTON AVENUE
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA 46601

Job # _____ Sheet _____ of _____
By _____ Date _____
Ck'd _____ Date _____

Project ECC 319 Grant Project Subject Monday, Apr 15, 2002

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
CARL WERICH	IDEM 100 N. Senate Ave. P.O. Box 6015 Indpls, IN 46206-6015	(317) 233-0480
JODY ARTHUR	"	(317) 234-1924

- Don
- Shirley
- Bob
- Phil
- JEF
- KMY

Neighborhood Meeting Agenda Yellow Creek-Headwaters Watershed

April 22, 2002

*Elkhart County Commissioners
319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant
Problematic Domestic Waste Disposal Systems*

1. Introduction

- *What's a Watershed*
- *What is this 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant*

2. Let's talk Water Quality Issues!

- *What is Point source pollution*
- *What is nonpoint source pollution*
- *What are the causes and effects of these pollutants on our waters*

3. On-site Sewage Systems

- *How a septic system works*
- *Why an on-site system might fail*
- *What to do if a system fails*
- *Conditions for proper septic system functioning*

4. Conclusion

- *Where do we go from here*
- *How do we address Water Quality*

Project _____ Subject Monday April 22, 2002

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Nancy Brown	H-72811 County Rd. 137, Syracuse, IN 46567 Elkhart Co SWCD 17746 CR 34, Goshen 46528	H-574-457-3518 W-574-533-3630
→ Jim Hess	62753 CR 9 Goshen, IN 46524 Elkhart Co SWCD chairman	574-862-4287
→ Kent Zimmerman	25563 CR 36 Goshen IN 46526	574-862-2229
Don Schnobel	Elkhart Co H.D. 4230 Elkhart Rd Goshen	875-3391
John Hulewice	"	"
Bob Watkins	"	"
David Hess	24438 CR 32 Goshen IN 46526	219-875-5648

WATERSHED PLANNING MEETINGS

**THE ELKHART COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
& THE ELKHART COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
INVITE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPING
A WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Watershed management addresses water-related issues within a Watershed. Watershed management brings together numerous federal, state, and local agencies and the public for the good of our lakes and streams. With Watershed management, the people living throughout the Watershed work together for solutions.

Public Meeting Notice

**Yellow Creek Watershed
Monday, September 9, 2002, 6:00-7:00 PM
Elkhart County Health Department
Environmental Health Services
4230 Elkhart Road
Goshen, IN**

Questions concerning the meeting should be directed to Ms. Kara Young at Lawson-Fisher Associates (574) 234-3167 or Mr. John Hulewicz at the Elkhart County Health Department (574) 875-3391.

BASIN BITES

and

TECHNICAL TIDBITS

THIRD QUARTER—SEPTEMBER 2002

A Publication
of the
St. Joseph River
Basin Commission

QUARTERLY MEETING SCHEDULED

The St. Joseph River Basin Commission meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2002 at the Elkhart County Administration Building, 117 No. Second Street, Goshen. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. Please note this is a different location from the regular meeting location.

Nancy Brown of the Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District is scheduled to give a presentation on the *Indiana River Friendly Farmer Program*.

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FISH MIX IS CHANGING IN LAKE MICHIGAN



The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has announced a plan to change the fishing mix in Lake Michigan. IDNR polled fishermen about a year ago, to get their opinion on the types of fish to include in their Lake Michigan stocking program.

In response to that poll, the IDNR will now stock the following mix in Lake Michigan:

- 220,000 Coho salmon
(an increase of 70,000)
- 230,000 Chinook salmon
- 344,000 Steelhead trout
- 60,000 Lake trout
- 35,000 Brown trout

Of interest, to those in the St. Joseph River Basin, is the fact part of the coho, Chinook and steelhead are raised at the Richard C. Bodine State Hatchery in Mishawaka on the St. Joe. Another local hatchery—Mixsawbah State Hatchery in Walkerton (Kankakee Basin) is also the source of Chinook, coho, and steelhead.

The brown trout fisheries will provide near-shore winter fishing. These fish have been obtained through a cooperative arrangement with Illinois.

For further information about the Lake Michigan trout and salmon fishing opportunities, log onto

www.IN.gov/dnr/fishwild/fish/Lkmich/open.html

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CONTROLLING STORM WATER RUN-OFF— INDIANA'S NEW "RULE 13"

Communities throughout Indiana have begun the process to comply with the proposed new Indiana rule focused on storm water run-off control. Initiated by the new federal Phase II storm water discharge NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permit program, Indiana's "Rule 13" incorporates the federal requirements for MS4s (municipal separate storm sewer systems) into the Indiana framework.

In most cases, a general permit will be required for regulated MS4s located in urbanized areas. Cities and towns are not the only ones affected by the Rule. Many institutions such as universities, hospitals and prisons will be required to develop a program. For this reason, groups are currently



cooperating title companies in the Indiana portion of the St. Joseph River Basin, and Marshall County. Copies will also be available at all local health departments and libraries.

YELLOW CREEK WATERSHED PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED

The Elkhart County Commissioners and the Elkhart County Health Department in cooperation with Lawson-Fisher Associates are hosting a public participation meeting focusing on future development of a watershed management plan for the Yellow Creek Watershed in Elkhart County.

WHEN: Monday, September 9, 2002
- 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Elkhart County
Public Services Building
4230 Elkhart Road
Goshen

Questions about the meeting, Contact:
Kara Young at Lawson-Fisher
(574) 234-3167
John Hulewicz at the
Elkhart County Health
Department
(574) 875-3391

ARE WE THERE YET?

More than 30 years ago, rivers were burning, sewage and toxic materials were entering our surface and groundwater and guidance to determine "how clean is clean" was not available. And along came the Clean Water Act, with a goal of cleaning up the waters of the states, making water safe for drinking, recreating and preserving aquatic life.

2002 marks the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, and has been designated as "Year of Clean Water".

Are we there yet? Since its development and subsequent re-authorizations and revisions, much has occurred to assist with the ultimate goal. Water quality is believed to be the leading environmental issue not only in the U.S. but also worldwide.

Are we there yet? The Clean Water Act set standards regarding discharges to water bodies. This has improved the quality of water in the nations waterbodies, but it is not unusual to learn of massive contamination, beach closings, and major fish kills as equipment breaks down or those in charge fail to keep the necessary balances in place to meet the permit requirements.

Are we there yet? Practices such as combined sewers and uncontrolled stormwater runoff are activities that once were believed to hold little threat to our waters. We've learned that's not true, and once again, communities are meeting the challenge to improve that situation.



Are we there yet? Nonpoint source pollution continues to be a major concern. We often forget that each of us holds the key to reduce many of the activities that impact water quality.

Septic systems that are not regularly pumped or discharge to nearby streams; application of lawn fertilizers, well over the average per acre amount applied by farmers; increasing hard surfaces in watersheds, that result in reduced ability for stormwater to infiltrate rather than runoff; and many other activities, still cause deterioration to neighboring waterways.

Are we there yet? After 30 years, it is safe to answer this question "Not yet". But we can be comforted that progress has been steady. As we learn how many of our daily activities have an impact on our water quality, we also learn of activities and practices that reduce those impacts. We've come a long way in 30 years and the future of water quality only looks cleaner!

Press Release

For Immediate Release –September 12, 2002

St. Joseph River Watershed Joint Steering Committee

Elkhart Public Works
& Utilities
1201 S. Nappanee St.
Elkhart, IN 46516

Lawson-Fisher Associates
525 W. Washington Ave.
South Bend, IN 46601

Michiana Area Council
of Governments
227 W. Jefferson Blvd.—#1120
South Bend, IN 46601

Joint Watershed Steering Committee Formed

St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative for a Safer Environment – W.I.S.E (City of Elkhart in Partnership with Mishawaka and South Bend); *Problematic Domestic Waste Disposal Systems – Education, Detection, Elimination and Monitoring* (Elkhart County Commissioners and Health Department in cooperation with Lawson-Fisher Associates); and *Planning in a Changing Watershed--Baugo Creek—Elkhart/St. Joseph counties* (Michiana Area Council of Governments) are three grant projects focusing on water quality improvements in the region.

A Watershed Steering Committee is being formed to provide general direction and input on the three projects. The Committee will meet quarterly through April 2004. Coordinators of each project will provide the Steering Committee updates on project progress, and garner input and direction from the Committee regarding feasible control measures, and support for the recommended strategies to improve water quality.

The Joint Watershed Steering Committee is made up of elected officials, policy makers, representatives from the environmental and agricultural community and general citizenry. The first meeting of the Joint Steering Committee is scheduled for September 17, 2002 at 4:30 p.m. in the Library of Jimtown High School (59021 C.R. 3, Elkhart). Each quarterly meeting will be open to the public, with dates and locations being provided through a press release prior to the meeting.

For more information, Contact

Project Coordinators:

Mark Salee, Elkhart Public Works and Utilities — 574-293-2572

Kara Young, Lawson-Fisher Associates – 574-234-3167

Karen Mackowiak, Michiana Area Council of Governments – 674-8894

**St. Joseph River Watershed
Joint Steering Committee
Invitees**

Elkhart Public Works Director,
Mishawaka Utilities General Manager,
South Bend Public Works Director,
St. Joseph County Health Officer,
Elkhart County Health Officer,
St. Joseph County SWCD
Elkhart County SWCD
St. Joseph River Basin Commission
IDEM North Regional Office
IDEM-NRCS Representative
Juday Creek Task Force
Indiana Farm Bureau Representative
St. Joseph County Drainage Board Representative
Elkhart County Drainage Board Representative
St. Joseph County Area Plan Commission
Elkhart County Planning & Development
Town of Wakarusa
Baugo Community Schools
General Public Representatives:

Eric Horvath
Phil Miller
Gary Gilot
Dr. Janice Carson
Dr. Aixsa Perez
Deb Knepp
Jim Hess
Joe Foy
Eddie Depositor
Matt Jarvis
JC Sporleder
Mike Yoder
John McNamara
Blake Doriot
Bob Sante
Tom Byers
Tom Roeder
Kevin Johnston
Diana Cook
Kent Zimmerman

St. Joseph River Watershed

Elkhart Public Works & Utilities
1201 S. Neppanee Street
Elkhart, Indiana 46518

Michiana Area Council of Governments
227 W. Jefferson Blvd.
South Bend, Indiana 46801

Lawson-Fleher Associates
525 W. Washington Ave.
South Bend, Indiana 46801

September 5, 2002

JC Sporleder
Juday Creek Task Force
54568 Maple Lane Ave
South Bend, IN 46635

RE: St. Joseph River Watershed Grant Projects

Dear Mr. Sporleder:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of three grant projects that are currently being implemented in the St. Joseph River watershed and invite you to participate on a Joint Steering Committee covering all three projects. All three of the grant projects require the establishment of a steering committee. After discussing this requirement with the grant coordinators, it was decided that one committee could accomplish the mission for all three projects. Since the majority of the invitees were on all three steering committee lists, a joint committee would also avoid the need for more than one quarterly meeting. The three watershed projects are briefly discussed below. The details of each project will be presented at the first Joint Steering Committee meeting in September.

St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative for a Safer Environment (WISE)

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management awarded the Cities of Elkhart, Mishawaka and South Bend a 205(j) watershed grant to establish a cooperative watershed protection initiative within the St. Joseph River watershed. This project, coordinated by the City of Elkhart's Public Works & Utilities, will focus on a critical contaminant of concern in the St. Joseph River, the bacterium *Escherichia coli* or *E. coli*. Historically, bacteria levels in the streams throughout the St. Joseph River watershed have exceeded water quality standards, especially during and after rainfall events. Possible sources of bacteria include combined sewer overflows, urban and rural storm water runoff, runoff from livestock areas, improperly installed or failed septic systems and animal waste. This grant project is the beginning of a cooperative effort between the three cities to identify sources of *E. coli* and develop a management plan for controlling the sources of bacteria within the watershed. The cities of Elkhart, Mishawaka and South Bend will receive \$83,149 over the next two years to implement the watershed initiative. The first year of the project will focus on testing for *E. coli* in streams and collecting data on the types of land use within the watershed. Streams to be sampled include the St. Joseph River, the Elkhart River, Yellow Creek, Christiana Creek, Baugo Creek, Willow Creek, Eller Ditch, Bowman Creek, and Juday Creek. The data will be used to develop a water quality model designed to simulate the concentration of *E. coli* in

the St. Joseph River. The second year will focus on using the collected data and the calibrated model to develop and recommend long term solutions to the bacteria problem.

Problematic Domestic Waste Disposal Systems - Education, Detection, Elimination and Monitoring

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management awarded the Elkhart County Commissioners a 319 non-point source pollution grant for their Problematic Domestic Waste Disposal Systems - Education, Detection, Elimination and Monitoring Program in June of 2001. This grant is intended to address problematic waste disposal systems in Elkhart County. Such systems include problematic on-site sewage septic systems, as well as sewage disposal configurations in which untreated waste is directly conveyed to surface waters and indirectly discharged to groundwater. These systems not only pose a serious health threat, but also are a potential cause of water quality problems associated with *E. coli* contamination and elevated nutrient levels. The primary goal of this project is to identify those watersheds that are impaired due to Problematic Waste Disposal Systems. The Elkhart County Commissioners will implement this program by conducting water quality monitoring and engineering and geospatial analyses on ten (10) sub-watersheds within the County, conducting a public education campaign in the three (3) highest priority sub-watersheds, and developing a watershed management plan for the sub-watershed most threatened by *E. coli* contamination. The three (3) priority sub-watersheds are Turkey Creek-Swoveland Ditch, Yellow Creek-Headwaters (Elkhart), and Elkhart River-Yellow Creek (lower). The watershed plan will be developed for the Elkhart River-Yellow Creek (lower) sub-watershed. The Elkhart County Commissioners received \$105,000 to complete this project by June of 2003.

Baugo Creek Watershed

The Michiana Area Council of Governments plan to develop a Watershed Management plan for the Baugo Creek Watershed. Working with stakeholders within the watershed, as well as field investigations, the project will identify both positive and negative aspects of the watershed, with a goal of protecting the positive elements, and identifying methods to improve the negative elements of the watershed. The focus is primarily reduction of non-point source pollution. Sources of non-point source pollution include deterioration of stream banks, livestock in waterways, septic systems, runoff from fields and barnyards, streets and parking lots.

A second element of the project, funded through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Section 205(j) grant program, is the improvement of the St. Joseph and Elkhart County "Potential Groundwater Contamination Sites" maps by updating and improving the accuracy of the database. This will be accomplished by collecting more accurate datasets with global positioning system equipment. This information will then be included in the geographical information systems being developed in both St. Joseph and Elkhart counties.

St. Joseph River Watershed Joint Steering Committee

The mission of the Joint Steering Committee is to provide general direction and input on the projects. The committee will meet quarterly through April, 2004. The meetings will be announced and open to the public. The project coordinators' goals are to keep the committee members updated on the progress of each project, obtain input and direction on feasible control measures, and develop support for the recommended strategies to be included in the watershed management plans. A list of the invitees for the Joint Steering Committee is enclosed. If you have any questions or need additional information relating to either project, please contact the project coordinators:

- St. Joseph River WISE project coordinator, Mark Salee, Regulatory Affairs Specialist, Elkhart Public Works & Utilities, 574-293-2572.
- Problematic Domestic Waste Disposal Systems - Education, Detection, Elimination and Monitoring project coordinator, Kara Young, Lawson-Fisher Associates, 574-234-3167.
- Baugo Creek Watershed project coordinator, Karen Mackowiac, Michiana Area Council of Governments, 574-674-8894.

The first meeting of the Joint Steering Committee will be on September 17, 2002, at 4:30pm at the Jimtown High School Library, 59021 County Road 3 in Elkhart County (contact a project coordinator for directions to Jimtown H.S.) Please respond to one of the grant coordinators by September 10th with your intentions regarding your membership on the Joint Steering Committee.

Thank you in advance for your time and commitment to the protection of one of our regions important resources, the St. Joseph River watershed.

Sincerely,

Mark Salee
Elkhart Public Works
& Utilities

Karen Mackowiac
MACOG

Kara Young
Lawson-Fisher Associates

St. Joseph River Watershed Joint Steering Committee

**September 17, 2002
Meeting Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Why a Joint Steering Committee?
3. **St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative for a Safer Environment**
Cities of Elkhart, Mishawaka and South Bend
4. **Planning in a Changing Watershed - Baugo Creek**
Michiana Area Council of Governments
5. **Problematic Domestic Waste Disposal Systems - Education,
Detection, Elimination and Monitoring**
Elkhart County Commissioners and Health Department in cooperation
with Lawson-Fisher Associates
6. Project Questions
7. Future Meetings

Proposed Meeting Dates (all on Wednesday at 4:30, locations TBA)

December 4, 2002	March 12, 2003,	June 11, 2003
August 27, 2003	November 19, 2003	February 18, 2004
April 14, 2004		

Post-It® Fax Note		7671	Cal
To	KARA YOUNG		Fro
Co./Dept.			Co
Phone #			Pr
Fax #	236-1330		Fe

St. Joseph River Watershed
Joint Steering Committee

September 17, 2002
4:30 Jimtown High School Library
Meeting Summary

PRESENT: Kathy Spaugh, Phil Miller, Beverly Riddle, Kevin Johnston, Karl Kopec, Mark Salee, Ken Zmudzinski, John T. Law, Kara Young, Elton and Sharon McClellan, J.C. Spordeder, Karen Mackowiak, Jim Hess, Bob Watkins

Mark Salee facilitated the introductory meeting of the St. Joseph River Watershed Joint Steering Committee. Following an introduction of all present, Mark explained the reasoning behind development of a joint steering committee to guide the three grant project activities.

Each project coordinator briefly explained their project:

- Mark Salee, Elkhart Public Works and Utilities explained *St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative for a Safer Environment—"W.I.S.E"*. The grant is funded under a Section 205j pass-through grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and is a joint project with the City of Mishawaka and the City of South Bend. The focus of the grant is combining current river models held by the three cities, development of a model that can be used in the correlation of E.coli levels and landuse activities. The grant includes conducting water quality sampling in the river, collecting the landuse information and finally incorporating all the data into a geographical information system.
- Karen Mackowiak, Michiana Area Council of Governments explained MACOG's 205j grant—*Planning in a Changing Watershed—Baugo Creek*. The 2-year grant will focus on characterizing the Baugo Creek Watershed, development of watershed management plan for the Watershed, and updating the database used in the development of "Potential Groundwater Contamination Sites" maps using global positioning system equipment to accurately verify site locations.
- Kara Young, Lawson-Fisher Associates, working with the Elkhart County Commissioners and the Elkhart County Health Department, talked about a Clean Water #319 grant that is funding *Problematic Domestic Waste Disposal Systems - Education, Detection, Elimination and Monitoring*. Activities related to this grant have been occurring for nearly a year. Water sampling was originally conducted in 10 watersheds, followed by a prioritization process associated with the sampling results. E. coli is the priority contaminant, and the three watersheds of greatest concern include Turkey Creek-Swoveland Ditch, Yellow Creek-Headwaters (Elkhart) and Elkhart River-Yellow Creek(lower). The final activity includes the development of a watershed plan for the Elkhart River-Yellow Creek sub-watershed.

Following the presentations, the audience asked several questions.

Finally, Mark summarized some of the activities that overlap in each grant, and those activities that are specific to each grant. The project coordinators will work with each other in sharing data and reducing the need to duplicate activities.

After the future schedule of meetings was discussed, and the potential obligation of the participants, the meeting was adjourned.

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St. Joseph River Watershed Joint Steering Committee

December 10, 2002

Elkhart Public Works & Utilities
1201 S. Nappanee Street, Elkhart

Meeting Agenda

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative for a Safer Environment**
Cities of Elkhart, Mishawaka and South Bend
 - ✓ Sampling Plan
 - ✓ Watershed Model Contract
 - ✓ Land Use Data
3. **Planning in a Changing Watershed – Baugo Creek**
Michiana Area Council of Governments
Update on activities
4. **Problematic Domestic Waste Disposal Systems – Education, Detection, Elimination and Monitoring**
Elkhart County Commissioners and Health Department in cooperation with Lawson-Fisher Associates
5. **Project Questions**
6. **Future Meetings**

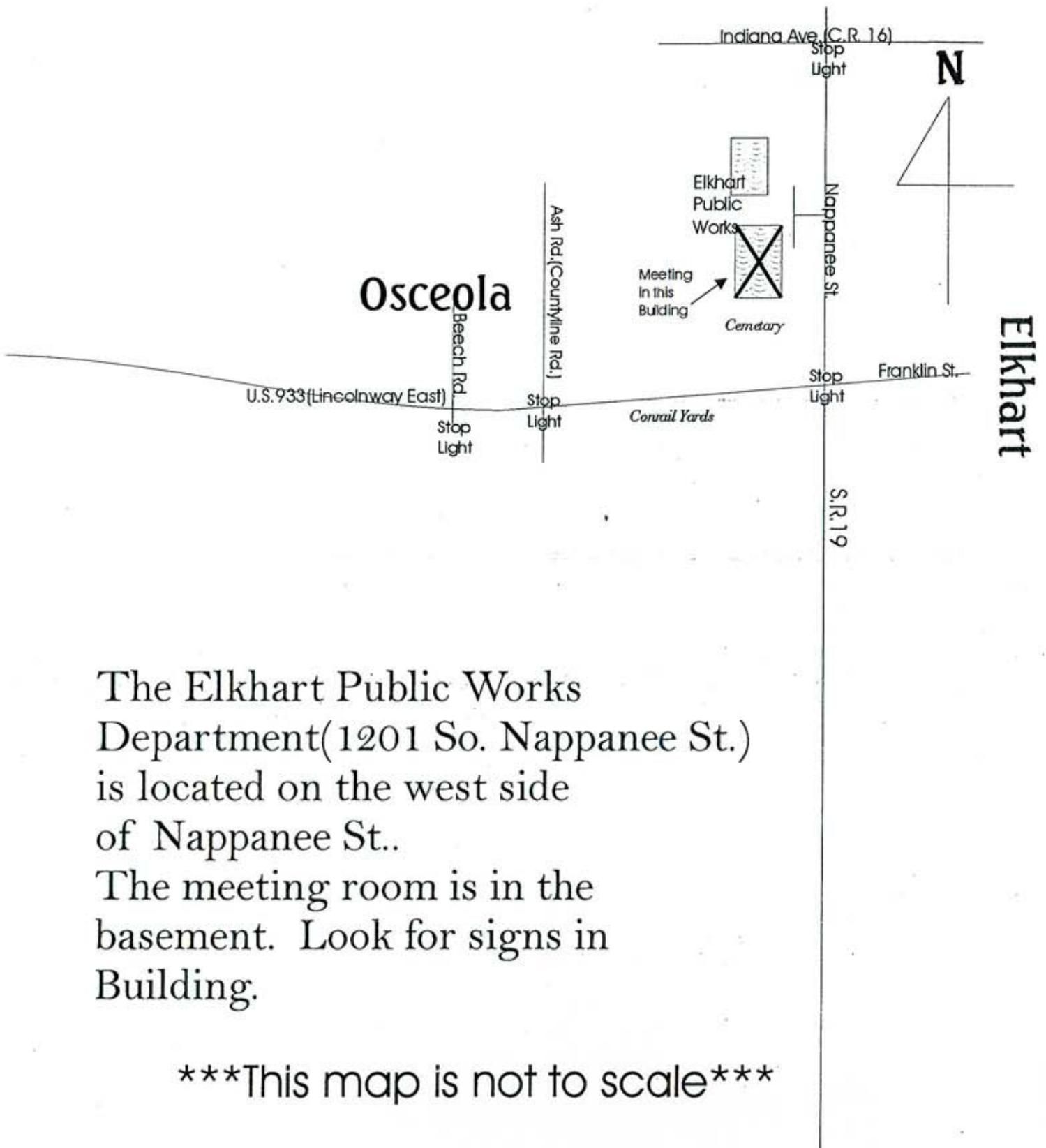
Proposed Meeting Dates (all on Wednesday at 4:30, locations TBA)

March 12, 2003,	June 11, 2003	August 27, 2003
November 19, 2003	February 18, 2004	April 14, 2004

RECEIVED

NOV 21 2002

LAWSON • FISHER ASSOCIATES P.C.



The Elkhart Public Works Department(1201 So. Nappanee St.) is located on the west side of Nappanee St.. The meeting room is in the basement. Look for signs in Building.

This map is not to scale

Wakarusa

St. Joseph River Joint Steering Committee

December 10, 2002

Elkhart Public Works Administration Building

PLEASE PRINT--Use more than one line if necessary

Name	Address	Phone	Email
Karen Mackowiak	MACOG		KMackowiak@macog.com
Ken Zmudzinski	City of South Bend	277-8515	kzmudz@ci.south-bend.in.us
BEVERLY Riddle	St Joseph Co Soil water	287-5804	-
Eddy L. Depositar	IDem/OWG	574-245-4884	edeposit@worldnet-ATT.net
KARL KOPEC	MISHAWAKA	574-258-1709	KKOPEC@MISHAWAKAUTILITIES.COM
Mark Salee	City of Elkhart	574-293-2572	mark.salee@coelkhartindiana.org
JOE FOY	SJRBC	574-293-2572	joe.foy@coelkhartindiana.org
Dennis Wolkebox	910 S. Detroit St Lab range	260-463-3471x3	dennis-wolkebox@IASWCD.org
Lynn Newvine	City of Elkhart	574-293-2572	lynn.newvine@coelkhartindiana.org
Kara Young	Lawson Fisher Assoc.	574-234-3167	Kyoung@lawson-fisher.com
ADIN McCANN	LAWSON - FISHER ASSOC.	574-234-3167	amccann@lawson-fisher.com
LYNN Loucks	60633 STRD 19 Elkhart	574-293-7713	Loucks Tappiggy@Aol
J.C. Sporleder	54568 Maple Lane Ave SB. 16635	574-277-5715	JCSporleder@EIS-energ.com
JOHN T. LAW	227 W. JEFFERSON BLVD	574-235-9631	jtlaw9@hotmail.com
Phil Miller	126 N. Church St Mishawaka	574-258-1635	pmiller@mishawakutilities.com
Janice Carson	227 W. Jefferson Blvd.	574-235-9574	jcarson@co.st-joseph.in.us

St. Joseph River Watershed Joint Steering Committee

Elkhart Public Works & Utilities
1201 So. Nappanee Street
Elkhart, IN 46516
574-293-2572

Elkhart County Commissioners
c/o Lawson-Fisher Associates
525 W. Washington Ave.
South Bend, IN 46601
574-234-3167

Michiana Area Council of Governments
227 W. Jefferson Blvd. #1120
South Bend, IN 46601
674-8894

Press Release

For Immediate Release - November 25, 2002

Steering Committee Meeting Scheduled

ELKHART, IN - The St. Joseph River Watershed Joint Steering Committee has scheduled its second quarterly meeting for December 11, 2002 at 4:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the conference room of the Elkhart Public Works and Utilities Administration Building, 1201 So. Nappanee St., Elkhart.

The Steering Committee meeting is being called to update members of activities related to three grant projects: *St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative for a Safer Environment*; *Problematic Domestic Waste Disposal Systems-Education, Detection, Elimination and Monitoring*; *Planning in a Changing Watershed-Baugo Creek*. The Steering Committee is made up of Elected officials, Local Policy makers, representatives of the Agricultural and Environmental community, as well as other interested individuals. The Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the various grant projects.

Funding for each of these projects has been obtained from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pass-through grants to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The underlying focus of all the projects is improving water quality in the St. Joseph River Basin through evaluation, education and planning.

The Joint Steering Committee meeting is open to the public.

For more information, contact:

Mark Salee, Elkhart Public Works and Utilities ~574-293-2572

Kara Young, Lawson-fisher Associates - 574-234-3167

Karen Mackowiak, Michiana Area Council of Governments - 674-8894

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	# of pages ▶
To	MARK SALEE	From	KAREN MACKOWIAK
Co./Dept.		Co.	
Phone #		Phone #	674-8894
Fax #	293-7658	Fax #	

St. Joseph River Watershed Joint Steering Committee

Elkhart Public Works & Utilities
1201 So. Nappanee Street
Elkhart, IN 46516
574-293-2572

Elkhart County Commissioners
c/o Lawson - Fisher Associates
525 W. Washington Ave.
South Bend, IN 46601
574-234-3167

Michiana Area Council of Governments
227 W. Jefferson Blvd. #1120
South Bend, IN 46601
674-8894

Press Release

For Immediate Release - December 4, 2002

Meeting Date Correction

ELKHART, IN - The St. Joseph River Watershed Joint Steering Committee meeting will be held on December 10, 2002 at 4:30 at the Elkhart Public Works and Utilities Administration Building, 1202 So. Nappanee St., Elkhart. There was an error in the date listed on the original press release dated November 25.

For more information, contact:

Mark Salee, Elkhart Public Works and Utilities - 574-293-2572

Kara Young, Lawson-fisher Associates - 574-234-3167

Karen Mackowiak, Michiana Area Council of Governments - 674-8894



**ST. JOSEPH RIVER WATERSHED STEERING
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**March 26, 2003
4:30 – 6:00**

**Bittersweet Public Library
602 Bittersweet Road
Mishawaka, IN**

AGENDA

Updates on
**Elkhart County's Section #319 Grant
City of Elkhart's 205j Grant
MACOG's 205j Grant**

The Bittersweet Library is located on the east side of Bittersweet Road, approximately 0.5 miles north of Lincolnway East, Mishawaka.

St. Joseph River Watershed Joint Steering Committee

March 26, 2003

Bittersweet Public Library
602 Bittersweet Road
Mishawaka, Indiana

Meeting Agenda

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Planning in a Changing Watershed – Baugo Creek**
Michiana Area Council of Governments
3. **Problematic Domestic Waste Disposal Systems – Education, Detection, Elimination and Monitoring**
Elkhart County Commissioners and Health Department in cooperation with Lawson-Fisher Associates
4. **St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative for a Safer Environment (WISE)**
Cities of Elkhart, Mishawaka and South Bend
 - ✓ Land Use Data and Analysis
 - ✓ Phase I Sampling Data and Analysis
 - ✓ Water Quality Model Development
 - ✓ Phase II Sampling
5. **Project Questions**
6. **Future Meetings**

Tentative Meeting Dates (all on Wednesday at 4:30, locations TBA)

June 11, 2003

August 27, 2003

November 19, 2003

February 18, 2004

April 14, 2004

Elkhart County Commissioners 319 Grant Project

Problematic Domestic Waste
Disposal Systems – Education,
Detection, Elimination and
Monitoring
March 26, 2003 Update

Water Quality Brings Us Together

IDEM 319 Grant Objectives

- Address problematic waste disposal systems in Elkhart County
- Identify watersheds that are impaired
- Build the Watershed Group
- Develop a Watershed Management Plan for a Pilot Watershed

ECC 319 Grant Project Overview

- Evaluate Existing Data for County (Water Quality, Soils, Septic Permit Database, Landuse, etc.)
- Identify 10 Watersheds (most Impaired)
- Phase I WQ Sampling
 - TSS, DO, Nutrients, Pathogens, Surfactants
 - 1 Upstream, 1 Downstream per Watershed
 - 2 Wet Weather Events
 - 2 Dry Weather Events

ECC 319 Project Overview

- Identify 3 Priority Watersheds
 - Elkhart River – Yellow Creek (lower)
 - Yellow Creek (headwaters)
 - Turkey Creek – Swoveland Ditch
- Sanitary Surveys (3 Watersheds)
- Identify Pilot Watershed (Most Impaired)
- Phase II WQ Sampling (Pilot Watershed)
- Watershed Management Plan – Pilot Watershed
- Public Education and Involvement

ECC 319 Project Update

- Sanitary Survey Results
- Phase II Water Quality Sampling – Yellow Creek (lower) Watershed
- Watershed Management Plan Development

Sanitary Survey Results

- Yellow Creek
 - 31 Pipes
 - (3 Suspect)
 - 1 Suspect Ditch
- Turkey Creek
 - 2 Pipes
 - (0 Suspect)



Phase II Water Quality Sampling

Sampling Conducted at Five Locations

- CR 24/Arlene Drive – Yellow Creek
- CR 26 – Yellow Creek
- CR 13 – Yellow Creek
- CR 28 – Yellow Creek
- CR 126 – Unnamed Ditch

Phase II Sampling



Phase II Water Quality

E. Coli: 230 – 72,000
TSS: 4 – 1,048 mg/L
TDS: 191 – 1,643
Surfactants: <0.1 – 2.7
Dissolved Oxygen: 0.3 – 10.7 mg/L

Phase II Water Quality

• Nutrients

Ammonia: <0.1 – 32.6 mg/L
Nitrate: <0.1 – 3.6 mg/L
TKN: 0.11 – 32 mg/L
Total Phosphorus: 0.12 – 163 mg/L
Orthophosphorus: 0.04 – 29.4 mg/L

Watershed Management Plan Development

- Watershed Characteristics
 - Approximately 5,000 Acres
 - Residential/Agricultural w/ some Commercial
 - Soils –
 - 82% Crosier Loam
 - 13% Brookston Loam

Soils



Potential Plan Goals

- Reduce E. Coli contamination in CR 126 Ditch.
- Eliminate direct discharges of septic tank effluent.
- Discourage medium/high density development requiring on-site wastewater systems.
- Educate residents on on-site wastewater disposal systems.
- Identify Watershed Coordinator.
- Continue educational programs on the effects of agricultural practices on water quality and management practices to protect surface waters.

Potential Plan Goals

- Continue to work cooperatively with other watershed groups within the Elkhart River/St. Joseph River Basins.
- Complete sanitary survey of Yellow Creek (lower).
- Explore methods to plan, construct, operate, maintain and finance public wastewater systems.
- Use Yellow Creek (lower) Watershed Management Plan as the framework to address E. Coli contamination in other Elkhart County Watersheds.

Potential Plan Measures

- Identify specific sources of E. Coli (dye testing), Coordinate w/ Property Owners.
- Review and revise as needed existing ordinance, policy and implementation of existing subdivision and zoning regulations.
- Distribute educational materials at appropriate locations/events. Ongoing education of residents through investigation of potential failing septic systems.

Where from here?

1. *Complete Phase II Water Quality Sampling*
2. *Complete Watershed Management Plan*
3. *Public Meetings in 3 Priority Watersheds (May – June 2003)*

Project Schedule
July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2003

Thank You!

Problematic Domestic Waste Disposal Systems – Education, Detection, Elimination and Monitoring

WATERSHED PLANNING MEETINGS

**THE ELKHART COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
& THE ELKHART COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
INVITE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPING
A WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Topics of Discussion include: Water Quality Sampling Results, Pollution Sources, On-Site Septic Systems, Pollution Solutions and Sewer Districts

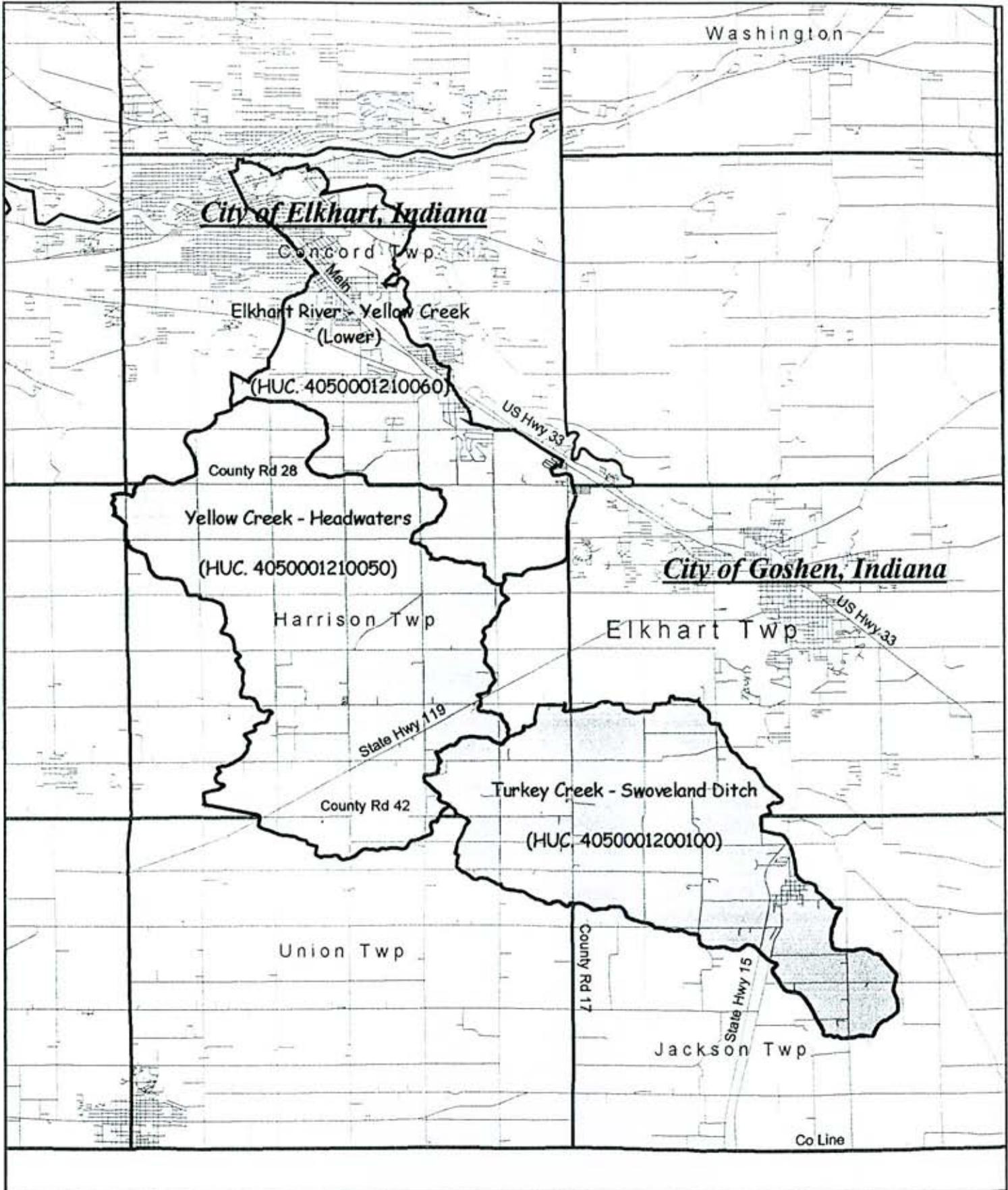
Public Meeting Notice

Elkhart River-Yellow Creek (lower) Watershed
Wednesday, May 14, 2003, 6:30-7:30 PM
Elkhart County Health Department
Elkhart County Public Services Building
4230 Elkhart Road
Goshen, IN

Yellow Creek-Headwaters Watershed
Monday, May 19, 2003, 6:30-7:30 PM
Harrison Christian School
64784 County Road 11
Goshen, IN

Turkey Creek-Swoveland Ditch Watershed
Wednesday, May 28, 2003, 6:30-7:30 PM
New Paris Elementary School
68080 Division Street
New Paris, IN

Questions concerning the meeting should be directed to Ms. Piper Tittle at Lawson-Fisher Associates (574) 234-3167 or Mr. John Hulewicz at the Elkhart County Health Department (574) 875-3391.



Elkhart County Watershed Planning Meetings



Agenda Watershed Planning Meeting

May 14, 2003 - Elkhart River-Yellow Creek Watershed
May 19, 2003 - Yellow Creek Headwaters Watershed
May 28, 2003 - Turkey Creek - Swoveland Ditch Watershed

*Elkhart County Commissioners
319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant
Problematic Domestic Waste Disposal Systems*

1. Introduction
2. 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant Project Overview
 - *Review Existing Data*
 - *Identify 10 Watersheds*
 - *Phase I Water Quality Sampling*
 - *Identify 3 Priority Watersheds*
 - *Elkhart River - Yellow Creek (lower)*
 - *Yellow Creek Headwaters*
 - *Turkey Creek - Swoveland Ditch*
 - *Sanitary Survey in 3 Priority Watersheds*
 - *Identify Pilot Watershed - Yellow Creek (lower) Watershed*
 - *Water Quality Results - Priority Watersheds*
 - *Watershed Management Plan - Pilot Watershed*
3. Potential Pollution Sources
4. On-site Sewage Systems
 - *How a septic system works*
 - *Why an on-site system might fail*
 - *What to do if a system fails*
 - *Conditions for proper septic system functioning*
5. Conclusion
 - *Where do we go from here? How do we address Water Quality?*
 - *Watershed Management Plan - Yellow Creek (lower)*
 - *Best Management Practices*
 - *Good Agricultural Practices*
 - *Regional Sewer Districts/Conservancy Districts*
 - *Good Common Sense*

Elkhart County Commissioners – 319 Grant Project
Priority Watersheds Water Quality Summary

Watershed	Wet – Dry Weather	<i>E. Coli</i> Range (colonies/100 mls)	<i>E. Coli</i> Average (colonies/100 mls)	Other Comments
Yellow Creek (lower)	Wet	605-62,400 Yellow Creek 72,000-79,000 CR 126 Ditch	11,848 Yellow Creek 75,500 CR 126 Ditch	CR 126 Ditch Samples very high in surfactants, nitrogen, phosphorus and solids.
	Dry	230-3,800 Yellow Creek 52,000-60,000 CR 126 Ditch	1,066 Yellow Creek 56,000 CR 126 Ditch	CR 126 Ditch Samples very high in surfactants, nitrogen, phosphorus and solids.
Yellow Creek – Headwaters	Wet	1,790-15,600	7,704	Surfactants detected in 1 sample.
	Dry	35-670	303	Surfactants detected in 2 samples.
Turkey Creek – Swoveland Ditch	Wet	2,580-8,400	4,750	Ammonia, Surfactants detected in 1 sample.
	Dry	144-260	213	Ammonia, surfactants below detection level

E. Coli State Water Quality Standard – 235 colonies/100 mls Daily Maximum

Yellow Creek (lower) Watershed

E. coli measured in the Yellow Creek (lower) Watershed exceeded the standard of 235 col/100 mls maximum daily concentration in all but one sample. *E. coli* results from the ongoing Elkhart County Health Department monitoring also often exceed the 235 col/100 ml standard. *E. coli* concentrations increase from County Road 28 to County Road 13, during both wet and dry weather sampling, indicating a source of contamination. The CR 126 Ditch is located between these two sites, and is most likely a significant source of the increased *E. coli* levels. The highest levels of *E. coli* were measured in the CR 126 ditch along with significantly elevated nitrogen, phosphorus and solids. In all cases, the wet weather *E. coli* concentrations were significantly higher than the dry weather concentrations, indicating a significant contribution of *E. coli* from surface runoff. In general, the nitrogen and phosphorus levels within Yellow Creek are moderate to high. This is not unexpected due to the level of agricultural land use within the watershed. On one occasion, a result of 10 mg/L was measured at CR 13 for Nitrates, the drinking water standard. The remaining results were all less than 10 mg/L. A number of the ammonia results were less than the detection limit of 0.1 mg/L. However, the remaining results were all above the water quality standards for ammonia-nitrogen.

Yellow Creek Headwaters

E. coli measured in the Yellow Creek Headwaters Watershed exceeded the standard of 235 col/100 mls maximum daily concentration in all but one sample. The concentrations in the Headwaters Watershed however, were not as high as those in the lower Watershed. The nitrogen and phosphorus levels were moderate to high, and in many cases, higher than the concentrations measured in the lower Watershed, most likely due to agricultural sources.

Turkey Creek – Swoveland Ditch

E. coli measured in Turkey Creek – Swoveland Ditch met the *E. coli* standards during half of the dry weather sampling events, but exceeded the standard during the wet weather events. Ammonia nitrogen and surfactants were detected in only one sample. Phosphorus levels in Turkey Creek were lower than those measured in Yellow Creek. Nitrate-nitrogen levels were moderate, but did not exceed the drinking water standard of 10 mg/L.

Elkhart County Commissioners 319 Grant Project

Problematic Domestic Waste
Disposal Systems – Education,
Detection, Elimination and
Monitoring

5/14/03

Elkhart County Health Department
Lansom-Fisher Associates

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On-Site Waste Disposal Systems

- In 1999, the ECHD issued 332 residential on-site sewage system repair permits.
- ~1,700 acres of Elkhart County developed per year.
- High background *E. coli* conditions during dry-weather.

5/14/03

Elkhart County Health Department
Lansom-Fisher Associates

4



What is E. Coli?

- *Escherichia Coli* is a bacteria found in intestines of warm blooded animals, including humans.
- Used as an indicator organism in water quality testing.
- Indicates presence of fecal pollution, either from humans, livestock or wildlife.
- Indiana State Standard – Primary Contact:
 - 235 colonies/100 mls, daily maximum
 - 100 colonies/100 mls, 30 day geometric mean

5/14/03

Elkhart County Health Department
Lansom-Fisher Associates

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On-Site Waste Disposal Systems

Indiana has more than 700,000 septic systems and is adding 10,000+ new systems every year.

Purdue experts estimate that over half of these 700,000 systems are at some stage of failure

At any given time, 10-30% of existing septic systems are significantly failing (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2001)

5/14/03

Elkhart County Health Department
Lansom-Fisher Associates

3

319 Grant Project Overview

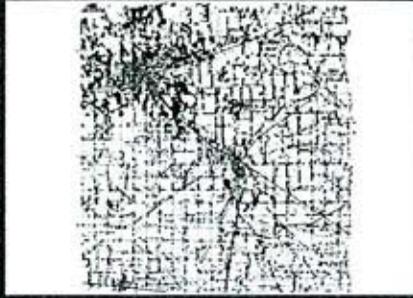
- Review Existing Water Quality Data by Watershed
 - Water Quality Data (*E. Coli*)
 - Soil Types
 - Land Use
 - Septic Permit Database
- Identify 10 Watersheds Most Impaired
- Conduct Water Quality Program in 10 Watersheds

5/14/03

Elkhart County Health Department
Lansom-Fisher Associates

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Elkhart County Septic Permits 1990 - 2001



3/14/03

Elkhart County Health Department
Lawson Fisher Associates

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Phase I Water Quality Monitoring - 10 Watersheds

- 2 Locations per Watershed (Upstream, Downstream)
- 2 Dry Weather Events
- 2 Wet Weather Events
- Physical Parameters - Dissolved Oxygen, Temperature, pH
- Nutrients - Nitrogen and Phosphorus
- Surfactants
- E. Coli

3/14/03

Elkhart County Health Department
Lawson Fisher Associates

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3/14/03

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Lawson Fisher Associates

9

319 Grant Project Overview

Of the 10 Watersheds, Identify 3 Most Impaired

- Sanitary Surveys of the Three Watersheds
- Water Quality Monitoring in Most Impaired Watershed
- Watershed Management Plan for Most Impaired Watershed
- Public Information and Education

3/14/03

Elkhart County Health Department
Lawson Fisher Associates

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Ten Watersheds

- Baugo Creek - Rogers Ditch
- Elkhart River - Dry Run
- Elkhart River - Leedy Ditch
- Elkhart River - Ligonier
- Elkhart River - Yellow Creek
- Elkhart River - Whetten Ditch
- Rock Run Creek - Horn Ditch
- Stony Creek - Phillips Ditch
- Turkey Creek - Swoveland Ditch
- Yellow Creek Headwaters

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Lawson Fisher Associates

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Three Priority Watersheds

Yellow Creek - Headwaters
Elkhart River - Yellow Creek (lower)
Turkey Creek - Swoveland Ditch

Prioritized Base On:

- Highest bacterial contamination
- Number of septic system permits
- Unsuitable soils for septic systems

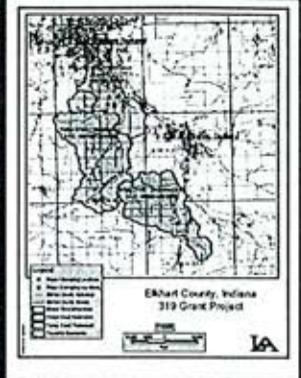
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12

Priority Watersheds

- Elkhart River – Yellow Creek
- Turkey Creek – Swoveland Ditch
- Yellow Creek - Headwaters



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Select Pilot Watershed

Elkhart River – Yellow Creek Watershed (Yellow Creek Portion)

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16

Sanitary Surveys

- **Turkey Creek**
 - Canoeed from CR 50 to the confluence with the Elkhart River
- **Yellow Creek**
 - Three representative stretches
 - CR 11 to CR 138 (18 tiles, 3 *E. coli* samples)
 - CR 32 to CR 30 (7 tiles)
 - CR 28 to CR 13 (6 tiles, 1 *E. coli* sample)

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14

Phase II Water Quality Sampling

- **Yellow Creek (lower) Watershed**
 - 5 Locations
 - Arlene Drive & Yellow Creek
 - CR 13 & Yellow Creek
 - CR 26 & Yellow Creek
 - CR 28 & Yellow Creek
 - CR 126 Ditch
 - 2 wet weather, 2 dry weather events

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17

Sanitary Survey Results

- **Suspected tiles**
 - 41,000 CFU/100mL
 - 8,600 CFU/100mL
 - 1,000 CFU/100mL
- **Suspected ditches**
 - 780,000 CFU/100mL
 - This is sewage!

5/14/03

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18

Water Quality Sampling Results

Watershed	E. Coli Range	E. Coli Average	Wet/Dry
Yellow Creek (lower)	605-62,400	11,848 Creek	Wet
	72,000-79,000	75,500 Ditch	
Yellow Creek Headwaters	230-3,800	1,066 Creek	Dry
	52,000-60,000	56,000 Ditch	
Turkey Creek – Swoveland Ditch	1,790-15,600	7,704	Wet
	35-670	303	Dry
Turkey Creek – Swoveland Ditch	2,580-8,400	4,750	Wet
	144-260	213	Dry

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19

Watershed Management Plan

- Land Use
- Soils
- Hydrology
- Zoning
- Septic Permit Locations
- History
- Water Quality
- Previous Studies and Reports
- Identify Critical Areas
- Develop Plan to Improve Water Quality

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On-Site Sewage Systems

Elkhart County Health Department

3/14/03

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Potential Pollution Sources

- Residential/Commercial Development
 - Failing On-Site Wastewater Systems
 - Fertilizers
 - Construction Activities
 - Impervious Area
 - Runoff Volume
 - Runoff Quality

3/14/03

Elkhart County Health Department
Lawson Fisher Associates

20

Yellow Creek (lower) Watershed Management Plan

- Reduce E. Coli & Suspect Contamination In CR 126 Ditch
- Eliminate Direct Discharges of Contamination from Creek
- Discourage medium/high density development requiring on-site systems where soils are not adequate to treat septic system waste
- Use Yellow Creek Plan as Template for County to address other watersheds.

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23

Potential Pollution Sources

- Agricultural
 - Fertilizers/Pesticides
 - Livestock Wastes
 - Erosion

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21

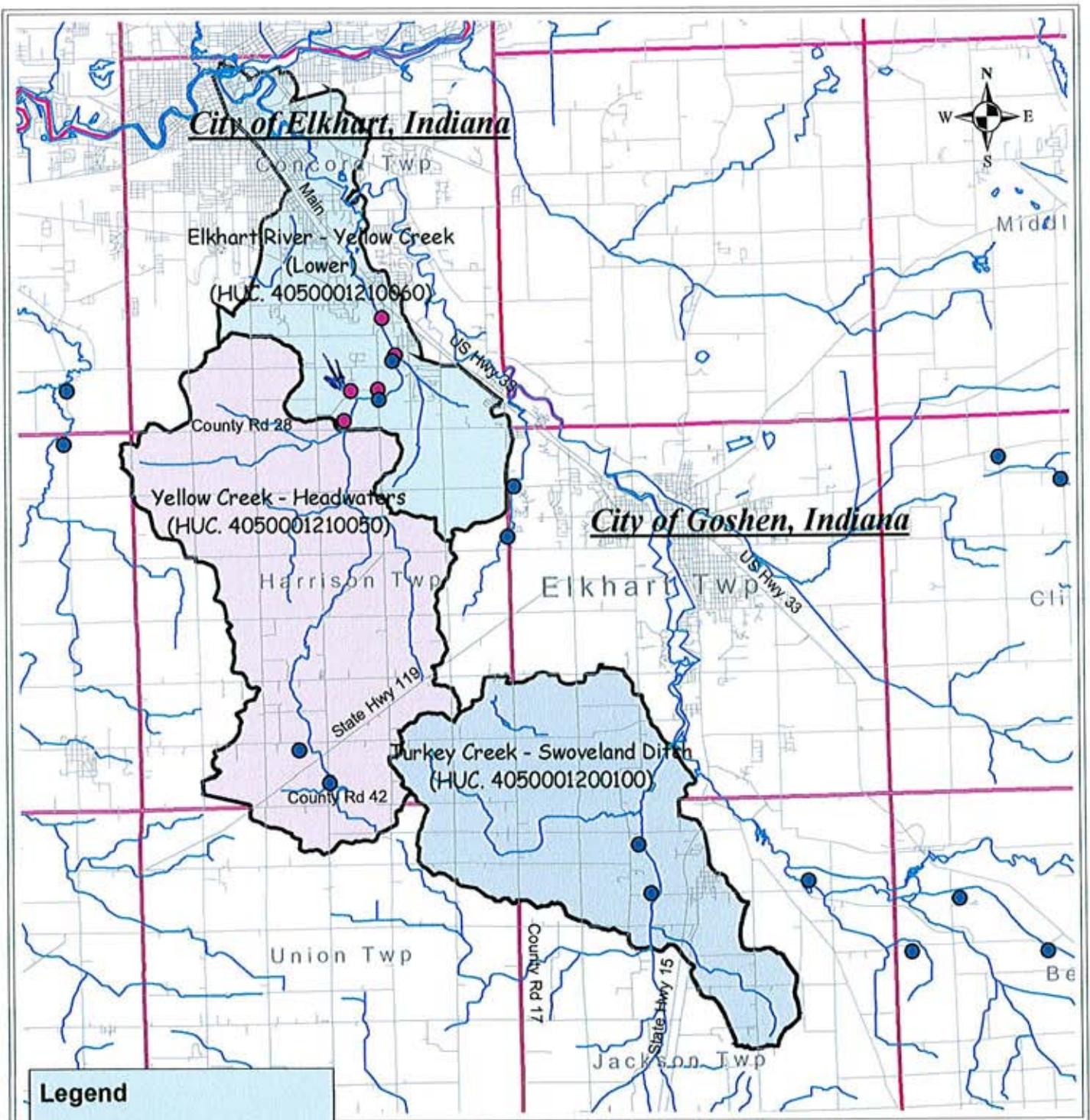
Yellow Creek Management Plan

- Explore methods to plan, construct, operate, maintain and finance public wastewater systems (Sanitary Districts/Conservancy Districts)
- Educational Program – On-Site Wastewater Systems and Agricultural Practices
- Best Management Practices (Agricultural, Residential, Commercial)
- Watershed Coordinator
- Work cooperatively with other watershed groups.

3/14/03

Elkhart County Health Department
Lawson Fisher Associates

24

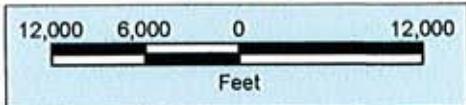


Legend

- Phase I Sampling Locations
- Phase II Sampling Locations
- Elkhart County Hydrology
- Elkhart County Streets
- Elkhart River Watershed
- Yellow Creek Watershed
- Turkey Creek Watershed
- Township Boundaries

Elkhart County, Indiana 319 Grant Project

1:148,000



LAWSON-FISHER ASSOCIATES P.C.
525 WEST WASHINGTON AVENUE
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA 46601

Job # _____ Sheet _____ of _____
By _____ Date _____
Ck'd _____ Date _____

Project Elkhart County 319 Subject Sign In Sheet
MAY 14, 2003

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	
John Hulewicz	4230 Elkhart Rd Goshen	ELKH
Nancy J. Brown	72811 CR 17746-BCR34 Goshen	SN'CD
Andy Hughes	1739 College Manor #D	Farmers Exchange
Joanna Wood	IDEM in Ind.	
Jon K. Howard	53351 CR 19 Ellettsville, IN. 46507	
Timor Wandzanka	421 S. Second St, Elkhart 46516	Elk. Transit

LAWSON-FISHER ASSOCIATES P.C.
525 WEST WASHINGTON AVENUE
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA 46601

Job # _____ Sheet _____ of _____
By _____ Date _____
Ck'd _____ Date _____

Project Elkhart Co 319 Project Subject May 20, 2003 Public Meeting
Sign In

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Roger M. Llan	64582 Ravine RD Goshen IN
Ron Goetz	23523 CR. 40 Goshen 46526
Krah Dichtemburg	18646 CR 50 New Paris, IN 46556
Luell Kenna	18646 Tamm Rd. New Paris in. 46556
Bob Watkins	SPND
Jeff Burbink	ELKHART Co. EXT. Office 17746 CR 34 Goshen IN 46528
Bill MINTER	20111 REGINA RD. NEW PARIS, IN 46553
John Fisher	LFA
Piper Tittle	LFA

LAWSON-FISHER ASSOCIATES P.C.
525 WEST WASHINGTON AVENUE
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA 46601

Job # 200132 Sheet of
By PT Date 5/19/03
Ck'd Date

Project Elkhart Co 319 Grant Project Subject May 19, 2003 Public Meeting
Sign in Sheet

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
OWEN + JANET STUTZMAN Nancy Brown STEVE HIMES	25252 CR 40 GOSHEN, IN. 46526 Elk. Co SWCD 17746-B CR34 Goshen, IN 46528 21545 PR4 BRISTOL
BRIAN CAMPBELL STEVE DUNSOE	K6206 COUNTY ROAD 40 GOSHEN IN 46528 25440 CR138 GOSHEN IN 46526
Terry Martin Ron Martin	65573 CR13 Goshen IN. 46526 61329 CR9 Elkhart IN 46517
Jim Hess	63300 CR111 Goshen IN 46526
Drummond Weaver	25220 CR36 Goshen
John Fisher	LFA
Piper Tittle	LFA
Robert Watkins	ECHD

NEWS ADVISORY

June 9, 2003 – For Immediate Release

For More Information:
574-293-2572
Mark Salee

Elkhart Public Works & Utilities
1201 S. Nappanee Street
Elkhart, Indiana 46516

Michiana Area Council of Governments
227 W. Jefferson Blvd.
South Bend, Indiana 46601

Elkhart County Commissioners
c/o Lawson-Fisher Associates
525 W. Washington Ave.
South Bend, Indiana 46601

St. Joseph River Watershed Meeting

WHAT: The St Joseph River Watershed Joint Steering Committee will hold its quarterly meeting to update the committee members and interested individuals on three Federally-funded grant projects relating to the water quality of the St. Joseph River. These projects focus on bacterial contamination in the St. Joseph River watershed, a management plan for the Baugo Creek sub-watershed and problematic on-site sewage septic systems in Elkhart County. The Elkhart County on-site sewage septic system project has been completed. A summary of the project findings and an overview of a proposed watershed plan for the Elkhart River-Lower Yellow Creek sub-watershed will be presented.

WHEN: Wednesday, June 11, 2003, at 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: Elkhart Public Works & Utilities Administration Office
1201 S. Nappanee Street
Elkhart, Indiana 46516

St. Joseph River Watershed Joint Steering Committee

June 11, 2003

**Elkhart Public Works & Utilities
1201 S. Nappanee Street, Elkhart**

Meeting Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Problematic Domestic Waste Disposal Systems – Education, Detection, Elimination and Monitoring**
Elkhart County Commissioners and Health Department in cooperation with Lawson-Fisher Associates
 - ✓ Final Project Summary
- 3. Planning in a Changing Watershed – Baugo Creek**
Michiana Area Council of Governments
- 4. St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative for a Safer Environment**
Cities of Elkhart, Mishawaka and South Bend
 - ✓ Summary of Surface Water Sampling Data
- 5. Project Questions**
- 6. Future Meetings**

Proposed Meeting Dates (all on Wednesday at 4:30, locations TBA)

June 11, 2003	August 27, 2003	November 19, 2003
February 18, 2004	April 14, 2004	

ST. JOSEPH RIVER WATERSHED
JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING - JUNE 11, 2003

Name	Phone	Address	Email
KAREN MACKOWIAK	574-8894	227 W. JEFFERSON DR. #1120 SOUTH BEND, IN 46601	kmackowiak@macog.com
Piper Tittle	574-234-3167	525 W. Washington South Bend, IN 46601	PTITLE@LAWSON-FISHER.COM
MARC NELSON	574-245-6751	227 W JEFFERSON SOUTH BEND IN 46601	MNELSON@ST-JOSEPH-CO.IN.US
Mark Salee	574-293-2572	ELKHART PULL 1201 S. Nippawee 46516	mark.salee@elkhartindia.org
KARL KOPEC	574 258-1709	MISHAWAKA WWTP 1020 L.W.W. MISHAWAKA, IN 46544	KKOPEC@MISHAWAKACITY.COM
Kevin Johnston	574-295-7391	28754-1 CR 26 Elkhart, IN 46517	kjohnsto@baugo.k12.in.us
Ken Zmudzinski	574 277-8515	3113 Riverside Drive South Bend, IN 46623	kzmudzis@ci.south-bend.in.us
Bob Watkins	574 875 3391	4230 ELKHART Rd. Goshen, IN	RWatkins@elkhartcounty.com
J.C. Sporkleder	574-277-5715	EIS Environmental Engineers, Inc 1701 North Ironwood Drive South Bend, IN 46627	JCSporleder@EIS-enveng.com
JOHN T. LAW	574-235-9631	227 W. JEFFERSON BLVD. EX 1100 S. BEND IN 46601	jtlaw9@hotmail.com
Joe Foy	574-293-2572	Elkhart Pull	

*Elkhart County Commissioners
319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant
Problematic Domestic Waste Disposal Systems*

Final Project Summary – June 11, 2003

1. Project Overview
 - Identify 10 Watersheds
 - Phase I Water Quality Sampling
 - Identify Three Priority Watersheds
 - Sanitary Surveys
 - Identify Pilot Watershed – Elkhart River – Yellow Creek Watershed

2. Yellow Creek – Lower Watershed Management Plan
 - Soils
 - Septic Permit Application Database
 - Land Use vs. Zoning
 - Water Quality Results
 - Identification of Critical Areas
 - Recommended Plan
 - Address High E. coli in CR 126 Ditch
 - Explore methods to plan, construct, operate, maintain and finance public wastewater systems.
 - Continued education program on on-site systems.
 - Continued education program on effects of agricultural practices to reduce contaminants to surface waters.
 - Eliminate discharges of E. coli contamination to Yellow Creek.
 - Discourage medium to high density development requiring on-site wastewater systems where soils are not adequate to treat septic system waste.
 - Develop and Implement BMPs to reduce agricultural, commercial and residential sources of contaminants.
 - Identify Watershed Coordinator
 - Continue to work cooperatively with other watershed groups within St. Joseph River Basin.
 - Use Yellow Creek Management Plan as a template to address E. coli in other Elkhart County Watersheds.

3. Neighborhood Watershed Planning Meetings
 - Elkhart River – Yellow Creek, May 14, 2003
 - Yellow Creek Headwaters, May 19, 2003
 - Turkey Creek – Swoveland Ditch, May 28, 2003

4. Project Completion – July 15, 2003

Goshen's Sidewalk and Curb Reconstruction Program

The city of Goshen is once again offering its Sidewalk and Curb Reconstruction Program. This program provides an opportunity for all property owners, not just owner-occupied properties, to repair or replace sidewalk and curb.

The homeowner agrees to pay 50 percent of the cost of the work up-front and the city will pay the other 50 percent; however, the

property owner's share drops to 40 percent where four or more contiguous property owners improve a longer area or establish a new sidewalk where one had not existed.

Payments may be spread out for three years only if a homeowner's household income is below 80 percent of local median income.

The sidewalks and curbs

included in this program are those that are within the public right of way and parallel with a city street.

Property owners may participate by filling out an application with the Engineering Department, located in the Municipal Building Annex, 204 E. Jefferson St., Suite 1. Applications will be received until Aug. 29.

Watershed planning meetings

Elkhart County Board of Commissioners recently received a grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to investigate impaired watersheds within Elkhart County. This work has been performed by Lawson-Fisher Associates with assistance from Environmental Health Division of Elkhart County Health Department.

Preliminary work included the review of existing surface water quality data and additional collection and testing of waters from creeks, streams and ditches. Public meetings were held in

the areas identified as being the three areas of concern.

The results of this work will be available for discussion at three separate meetings being held in the areas of concern. Topics of discussion include water quality sampling results, pollution sources, on-site septic systems, pollution solutions and sewer districts.

Meeting times and places are as follows:

- Elkhart River-Yellow Creek (lower) Watershed, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, in Elkhart County Health Department, Elkhart County Public

Services Building, 4230 Elkhart Road, Goshen

- Yellow Creek-Headwaters Watershed, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 19, Harrison Christian School, 64784 CR 11, Goshen

- Turkey Creek-Swoveland Ditch Watershed, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 28, in New Paris Elementary School, 68080 Division St., New Paris.

Any questions regarding the meetings should be directed to Piper Tittle at Lawson-Fisher Associates (574) 234-3167 or John Hulewicz at Elkhart County Health Department (574) 875-3391.

Camping Internship Program participants selected

Six Goshen College students will spend their summer exploring vocational possibilities at Mennonite camps and retreat centers through the college's Camping Inquiry Program.

In its second year, CIP involves a collaborative effort by Goshen College, students' home congregations and the host camps. With the support of the United Service Foundation of New Holland, Pa., CIP enables students to participate in a leadership internship and receive a \$2,000 scholarship toward their return to college in the fall.

Melanie Hestand, a sophomore from Goshen, will intern at Amigo Centre, Sturgis, Mich.

She is the daughter of Jim and Linda Hestand and is a collegiate studies major. She is a member of Sunnyside Mennonite Church, Elkhart, and a graduate of Bethany Christian High School.

Eric Nisley, a junior from Goshen, will intern at Camp Hebron, Halifax, Pa., under the supervision of Mike Ford, program director. Nisley, an art and design major, is a member of Brenneman Memorial Church, Goshen, and a graduate of Goshen High School.

Larry and Janet Newswanger, of Goshen, envisioned a camping internship program to parallel existing programs in congregational ministry and

church-sponsored voluntary service. A grant from their family foundation made the program possible.

During a two-year trial period, CIP will provide six students per year with the opportunity to spend three months interning at one of several camps and retreat centers affiliated with the Mennonite Camping Association. The goal of CIP is to expose the students to the mission and programs of Mennonite camps and retreat centers, with an eye toward future outdoor ministry.

After the test phase, Goshen College and sponsoring camps will evaluate the program and consider ways to sustain it.

Northeast Indiana Conservation Camp Aug. 5-7

The three-day Northeast Indiana Conservation Camp for boys and girls ages 9-13 is scheduled for Aug. 5-7 and will once again be held at Camp Whitley, located on Troy-Cedar Lake in Whitley County.

This camp is made available through endeavors of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Wildlife Conservation Clubs

in Indiana.

Included in the camp study program are hands-on activities in wildlife, forestry, soils and water. Education programs are presented by Natural Resource specialists.

Applications will be available from the Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District. The fee to attend is \$80.

The SWCD will assist Elkhart County campers by helping to find sponsors to cover 50 percent of the cost of camp, if desired.

Call the SWCD office at (574) 533-3630, Ext. 3, for more information or an application form. If anyone needs help in finding a sponsor, the office will need to know by July 14. Deadline for applications is July 25.

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As many as 200 teens will work on home improvement projects as part of National Youth Service Day.

NATION/A7



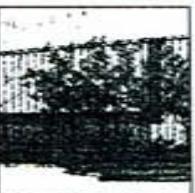
Tornadoes return to Midwest and South, killing two people in Illinois.

SPORTS/B1



Cameron "Crash" Yoder earns his first racing victory in the "Spongebob Squarepants" car.

BUSINESS/C1



A developer hopes to break ground on Fairfax Park in Baugo Township in the near future.

informal meetings

By Trevor Wendzonka
Truth Staff

GOSHEN — Updated property values will be accompanied by an invitation to talk about the new numbers. But owners shouldn't expect to get an answer to the big question about how much the taxes will be — at least not for a few months.

Next week, the first reassessment notices will be sent. Appraisers are offering time to meet with property owners about the data, a step that may head off many formal appeals. People interested in setting up a session should call 535-1057 or 535-1174 after they get the information through the mail.

Residents have 45 days to file ap-

peals on the same date as usual. No penalties will be applied until after that time.

"If people have questions about values or think there's something incorrect, they really should talk to us," said David Wunder, project manager for Cole-Layer-Trumble Co., the county's reassessment firm. "While we did the information gathering, there may be things we didn't know, like hidden structural problems or one too many bathrooms. We will adjust those numbers accordingly if we are in error, so those people won't have to file appeals."

Property owners should keep copies of any changes made to values, whether through the informal sessions or by appeals, to protect themselves in case of errors later in the process.

Wunder said he expects many more

residential properties, the new assessed value should be close to what the home would be worth on the market.

Osolo Township assessor Christina Phillips stated her concerns last week about the number of errors in the mass appraisal, but a representative of her office said a mid-June mailing is expected. Because of the size of Concord and Elkhart townships, two mailing dates are scheduled.

Gene Inbody, the Elkhart County assessor, said appeal forms will be available during the informal meetings with CLT representatives. Those documents must be filed with his office on the second floor of the Elkhart County Administration Building, 117 N. Second St., Goshen.

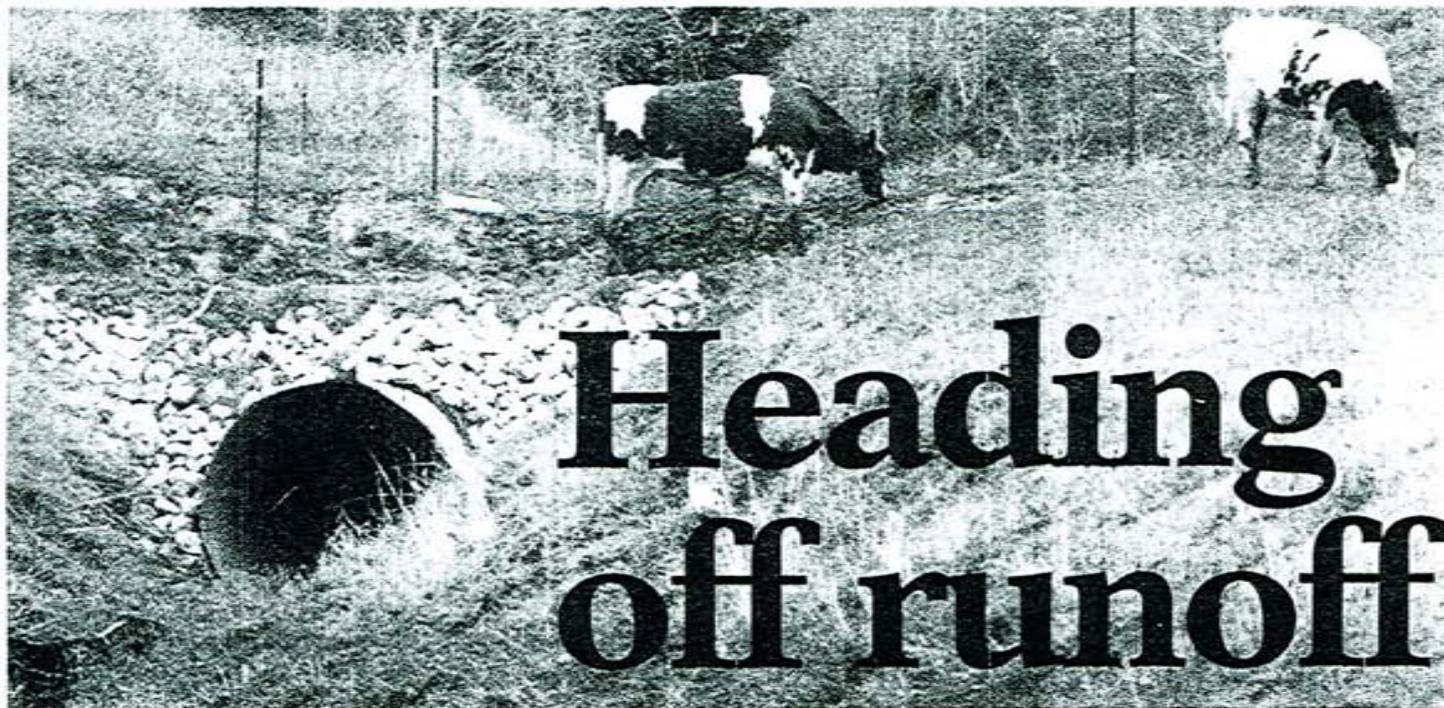
Contact Trevor Wendzonka at trevorw@etruth.com.

Area property owners will start receiving information in the mail as early as next week with the appraisal company to discuss the scheduled by calling 535-1057 or 535-1174. Appeals must be filed with the Elkhart County assessor within 45 days of the mailing. Baugo Township set a distribution date.

- May 12 — Benton, Jackson, Union and
- May 16 — Elkhart Township (unincorporated) and Cleveland Township
- May 23 — Elkhart Township (city of Goshen), Harrison, Olive, Clinton and Jefferson townships
- May 27 — Concord Township (city of Elkhart schools)
- June 6 — Concord Township (unincorporated) of Elkhart in Concord schools) and Middlebury and York townships
- June 13 — Osolo Township

ENVIRONMENTAL WOES

Thursday, May 8, 2003
Elkhart Truth



Heading off runoff

Dirty water: Manure runoff from livestock, improper spreading and spills can pollute watersheds, kill fish and wildlife, and cause sicknesses in humans. Inspectors with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management routinely check farms for compliance.

TRUTH PHOTO BY J. TYLER KLASSEN

ELKHART

Losco may face death penalty

Prosecutors seek death penalty in sister-in-law's murder

By Justin Leighty
Truth Staff

ELKHART — Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty without parole for a man in connection with the murder of his brother's wife, Linda...

The request was made by Circuit Court Judge James Hill, Elkhart County prosecutor. The formal request claims...

C/D1



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ATHER/B4



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FRIDAY



Proper handling of animal waste, sewers limits pollution

By **TREVOR WENDZONKA**
Truth Staff

Some cows standing too close to a ditch can cause problems for everyone. Just look at Yellow Creek, which has been abused by animals and humans to the point where potentially expensive projects are needed to improve water quality.

Farms aren't the only source of pollution. Some homeowners have bypassed failing septic systems with pipes straight to nearby ditches or

For more information: More information about runoff regulations is available on the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Internet site, www.in.gov/idem.

spread too many chemicals on lawns. But in agricultural circles, spring rains increase the chance for pollution, particularly if regulations are ignored.

"I'd say 95 percent of the farmers left in Elkhart County abide by the rules and exercise a great deal of caution," said David Blough, a Jefferson Township farmer. "Short of an act of God, nothing's going to happen near a body of water with those folks."

"You have problems when you have weak- enders or people who are just negligent." Elkhart County government obtained state funds to study pollution and solutions. Better ag management through education is possible, but so is a sewer project around Foraker

TALKS OF IMPROVEMENTS

Water quality sampling, pollution sources and possible improvements within certain Elkhart County watersheds will be discussed at three meetings in the coming weeks. Lawson-Fisher Associates of South Bend is county government's consultant for the study.

- Elkhart River and lower Yellow Creek: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, at the Elkhart County Public Services Building, 4230 Elkhart Road, Goshen.
- Yellow Creek headwaters: 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 19, at Harrison Christian School, 64784 C.R. 11, Goshen.
- Turkey Creek and Swoveland Ditch: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 28, at New Paris Elementary School, 68080 Division St., New Paris.

costing seven figures. Those topics may be raised during a series of public meetings starting next week.

Blough and Bert Egging, president of Elkhart County Farm Bureau, said most of the preventative steps are common sense. Animals must be kept out of ditches or streams, and manure should be knifed or chiseled into the ground depending on the weather.

Some farmers have taken the step of planting filter strips — wide swaths between fields and water — because if the stream is polluted,

fish and wildlife can die.

Pollution increases the likelihood of sickness in humans, too. Bob Watkins, director of the Elkhart County Health Department's environmental division, said E. coli contamination can cause gastrointestinal problems, and cattle carry the parasite cryptosporidium.

"For as long as I've been here — 14 years — I've been telling people to stay out of the Elkhart River for those reasons. When you have improperly managed feed lots and cattle wading in water and (manure) spills, it's no wonder," Watkins said. "Rock Run Creek used to be the worst, but I don't think that's the case any longer. Yellow Creek is still right up there."

Even if the problems always have existed, people's tolerance to certain bacteria has changed.

"Fifty years ago, it wasn't a big deal. People lived in rural areas and were exposed to animals regularly," said Jeff Burbrink, the county's extension educator. "Now, they're city kids. But they still are attracted to the creeks and want to play with the rocks and pick up turtles. There's no immunity there and as the generations move farther from the farm, the problems will only increase."

Farmers were updated on regulations at a hastily arranged meeting last month in Harrison Township. Even without much notice from the Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District, a good crowd turned out.

Please see **RUNOFF/A8**

Ex-residents recovering from coffee poisoning

Bechtels attend Maine church where drink was laced with arsenic

By **DAVE OVERTON**
Truth Staff

ELKHART — Former Elkhart residents Pat and Dick Bechtel were supposed to be in the city this past week-

The Bechtels were released from the hospital Wednesday, according to her sister, Janet Erickson.

"Pat and Dick are doing well, but will have to return to the health center for daily tests for at least two weeks," said her sister.

The Hess and Bechtel families were back-door neighbors on Roys and Frances avenues for more

Whitehall for many years until it closed.

Seven members of the Hess family went to New Sweden two years ago for the wedding of the Bechtels' son, Eric, a Concord High School graduate.

"We attended the church," said Elizabeth. Serving coffee and snacks after the service is a tradition at the small church, she added.

It is also a tradition at their local church, Lutheran Redeemer, said Ar-

Suspect kills himself; others may be sought

Truth Staff

Maine state police say a man suspected in the involvement of an arsenic poisoning April 27 at a New Sweden, Maine, church committed suicide.

The suspect, Daniel Bondeson, 53, died Friday night of a

membered
Lindsay Losch in
the knife attack
Dec. 23.



DAVID LOSCH

Dismemberment of the victim is one of the conditions that allow prosecutors to seek death penalty under state law. Vicki Becker, chief deputy prosecutor, would not comment on the allegation.

Elkhart police said Lindsay Losch, 24, was stabbed repeatedly with several knives in her home at 1018 Laurel St. Her brother called 911 and told a dispatcher he'd just killed a woman, asking to be taken to police. When officers arrived at the home, David Losch was walking out of the house with

Please see **L**

ELKHART COUNTY Teens face charges in fatal crash

By **JUSTIN LEIGHTY**
Truth Staff

GOSHEN — The county prosecutor has decided to file charges against two teens involved in a February crash that killed a 17-year-old High School student.

Chris Tarman, 17, of 6700 N. 23, New Paris, was killed when his car he was a passenger in crashed with another car on C.R. 11 at the intersection of C.R. 46 on Feb. 20.

The 16-year-old driver now faces felony charges of second-degree homicide and criminal recklessness in juvenile court, prosecutor Hill said Wednesday. The teen has been named in a criminal complaint. Police are to withhold the iden-

From Page A1

hands up. He gave a statement to police and admitted he went to the home of Lindsay and his brother, Michael, intending to kill Lindsay, police said.

After a murder charge was filed against him in Elkhart Circuit Court, David Losch went through a series of mental evaluations to determine whether he's competent to stand trial. He passed those evaluations.

The fact that he's competent to stand trial, though, doesn't rule out an insanity defense by his attorney, Steve Bowers — though such a defense is speculation at this point. "I've not had enough time to think it through. Certainly he was mentally ill at the time of the offense," Bowers said.

The competency determination came a few months after the crime and while Losch was on medication, Bowers said.

"The difficult thing in this situation is whenever you have a crime that is so horrific, it's hard for people to not be caught up in those facts and to lose track of the mental health issues.

"I've known David Losch since he was a little boy, and I have no hesitation at all to say under normal circumstances, he's not a threat to anybody. He's been in my home, played with my children, played the bass in the praise band at church," Bowers said, though he acknowledged Losch "has had his problems."

The whole situation, Bowers said, is "such a horrible thing to happen to two wonderful families." Lindsay was a sweet girl who was not only David's sister-in-law but was best friends with David's and Michael's sister, Melissa, Bowers said.

David Losch will appear in court next week for an initial hearing on the death-penalty request. Bowers said the case could take some time before it's resolved. "Anytime the death penalty is requested, there is an obligation on the part of the defense attorney to leave no stone unturned with respect to the defense," he said.

Contact Justin Leighty at jleighty@etruth.com.

From Page A1

"(Runoff) can be a problem and might have been a problem. But we just want to be sure everybody knows what is expected," said Egging, who farms south of Nappanee. "If people just use their heads, there shouldn't be any problems."

Blough said the rules are "about as workable as we could've asked for," particularly changes from 90 to 180 days of storage for manure. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management keeps tabs on farms and responds to spills.

"We strongly encourage people to know the rules and pay attention to how they're handling dry and liquid manure," IDEM's Kristin Whittington said. "We have 13 inspectors across the state, and we've had issues in Elkhart County. There's a lot of questions out there, and a lot of work we have to do."

An experience a few years ago in one farmer's kitchen convinced Burbrink of that.

"He looked at me and said he didn't know anything about environmental regulations. He said he'd never heard of such a thing," Burbrink said. "I looked over and saw he had a stack of Farmer's Exchanges sitting there. I asked him if he ever read it, and he said he did. The top story on the issue I picked up was about the new rules at that time.

"You can't just bury your head in the sand over this. You have to know people live downstream, and that cow in the creek is going to affect them."

Contact Trevor Wendzonka at trevorw@etruth.com.

TEENS

From Page A1

along C.R. 127 just before the 16-year-old lost control of his car and slid sideways into the path of the other car.

The driver of the other car, Charles F. Taylor, 74, of 5245 E. Bayview Drive, Syracuse, was hospitalized after the crash, as was the 16-year-old.

Hill requested further investigation from the Elkhart County Sheriff's Department after he received the initial reports on the fatal crash and recently received the additional information he was looking for.

Contact Justin Leighty at jleighty@etruth.com.



TRUTH PHOTO BY JENNIFER SHEPHARD

Day of service

Elkhart Baptist Christian School seniors (at left, from left) Luke Gibson, Kara Corn, Tori Ferguson, Kallay Swihart and Tyler Hershberger clean up areas of downtown Elkhart on Tuesday morning during an in-service day. (Above) Jenny Anderson (left) adjusts the homemade hat of classmate Bethany Haynie. Bethany decorated her hat with sticks and wild flowers she found during the cleanup.

BY LAUREN RUFFNER



PHOTO SUPPLIED

The Truth LOCAL/REGION

Elkhart Truth
5/15/03

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ELKHART COUNTY

Watershed pollution discussed

*Meetings will lead
to management plan*

By **TREVOR WENDZONKA**
Truth Staff

DUNLAP — A solution for Yellow Creek pollution can be costly, but it doesn't have to be.

Numerous problems with manure runoff from farms and failed or bypassed septic systems from houses result in very high levels of E. coli bacteria in the water during both dry and wet weather. High levels of pollutants can contaminate drinking water, cause illnesses and choke the surrounding habitat.

Sewer construction in areas from Foraker to Dunlap, costing millions of dollars, are one solution. Another

one, according to Nancy Brown of the Soil and Water Conservation District, is just as effective and requires a lot less money and government involvement.

"If each individual would do what they can in their own little corner of the world, this wouldn't be such an issue," Brown said after Wednesday's watershed planning meeting, the first in a series. "But it's never easy, because some people flat out refuse to realize they're part of the problem or simply don't want to do anything about it.

"Rock Run Creek (which used to rank at the top of the contamination list) is better today. But it's not better because of anybody in this room — it came about because people wanted to make the situation better."

With grant money obtained by Elkhart County government, 10 watersheds have been studied in the past year. Yellow Creek near the Elkhart River, the creek's headwaters in the C.R. 42 area, and Turkey Creek with Swoveland Ditch have been identified as three areas with the biggest needs, according to consultant Lawson-Fisher Associates of South Bend.

Baugo Creek also topped the list, but that area is under review by a regional planning organization.

The meetings in Elkhart County through May 28 will lead to a watershed management plan, which includes more education for farmers and homeowners, the elimination of

Please see **WATERSHED/A11**

THE DETAILS

Water quality, pollution sources and solutions will be discussed at a series of meetings this month throughout Elkhart County. The first session was Wednesday in Dunlap to discuss the Yellow Creek-Elkhart River area.

- Monday, May 19 — Yellow Creek headwaters, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Harrison Christian School, 64784 C.R. 11, Goshen.
- Wednesday, May 28 — Turkey Creek-Swoveland Ditch, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at New Paris Elementary School, 68080 Division St., New Paris.



TICKETS

From Page A1

Tickets will be available by phone or at the fair office beginning Saturday. Last year, only a few people printed and mailed an order form from the fair's Web site, www.4hfair.org, so there may not be such a form, said Schermer-

horn, who said tickets can't be purchased online.

The building trades class from Goshen High School is renovating the side bleachers at the grandstand to get them ready for use this summer, said Schermerhorn.

For people wanting to commemorate this year's fair, 130 collectible baskets will be sold in honor of the fair's 130th anniversary.

Contact Marshall V. King at mking@etruth.com.

WATERSHED

From Page A3

all direct discharges from homes into the creeks and formation of sewer districts. Another suggestion will be to discourage medium- and high-density development unless a connection to municipal utilities is possible.

"We need the extension of sewers in a number of areas in this county, and I hope this plan encourages that to happen," said Bob Watkins, the Elkhart County Health Department's environmental division director. "We issue more septic permits per year in this county than any other county in Indiana. That's saying something."

Almost half of the hour-long session was spent on septic maintenance, a much cheaper alterna-

tive to replacement or sewer hookup. Watkins said people should not put oils, acids or pesticides down drains or drive a vehicle over the septic field. Spreading out laundry loads, too, is important to give the tank time to catch up, he said.

Septic systems should be pumped every three years, according to Watkins, and last on average more than 20 years. That figure, though, depends on the contractor, inspections done at the time of installation and how the system was used.

"If anybody ever has a question, they shouldn't hesitate to call us," said Watkins, whose department's telephone number is 875-3391. "We're here to help. We're the government, don't you know?"

Brown's office in Goshen can be contacted at 533-3630 for information regarding best management practices for farms — information that eventually led to the improvement of Rock Run Creek. The Natural Resources Conservation Service office, also at the fairgrounds, has funds available for farmers wanting to install filter strips or other runoff controls, she said.

The watershed study is independent of other studies being done regarding combined sewer overflows and drinking water wellhead protection plans. Also, the state will be implementing updated stormwater regulations later this year.

Contact Trevor Wendzonka at trevorw@etruth.com.

SAUDIS

From Page A1

bassador Robert Jordan asserted the Saudi government failed to respond quickly to the U.S. request even after evidence accumulated that a major attack was imminent. "They did not, as of the time of this particular tragic event, provide the security that we had requested," Jordan told the CBS broadcast, "This Morning."

A U.S. official said the request was made around May 1 and would have covered more than 300 residential compounds around the country.

In Washington, senior U.S. government officials said they are extremely worried about the possibility of additional terrorist attacks in Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Kenya. In the past week, U.S. and foreign intelligence services have seen an increased level of activity among terrorist groups and suspected individuals involved in planning terrorist strikes, they said.

Meanwhile, Saudi sources here said the government was holding one suspect who turned himself into authorities on Monday before the bombings. Saudi officials had published the photos of 19 suspected al-Qaida members in newspapers a week earlier, and Saudis believe the detention of the suspect spurred the attackers to speed up their plans. However, the suspect has proven uncooperative, officials said.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud said 15 terrorists, all from Saudi Arabia, participated in the attacks. Nine bodies of suspected terrorists have been recovered from the sites, and an Interior Ministry official said the

REBURIAL

From Page A1

sufficient.

Iraqis also dismissed the plan pressed by human-rights groups for the United States to seal off the site so forensic experts can thoroughly investigate this field of death 50 miles south of Baghdad.

"According to our religion, we cannot leave these cadavers in this state," said Dr. Rafid al-Husseni, who is helping coordinate volunteers. "We must take them to proper places and re-bury them immediately."

"Families," he said, making a sweeping gesture at the throng of waiting Iraqis, "cannot wait for an investigation."

Similar sites dug during Saddam's reign are being located almost daily across Iraq, and the question of how to deal with them is one that U.S. and coalition partners are likely to face

ployed private security forces and worked as executioners for Saddam's regime, being paid by the kill. A farmer living near the site, who said he witnessed the executions, directed others to the mass grave after the perpetrators fled following the U.S.-led invasion.

Many of the dead here were buried with their identification cards, which has helped Iraqis

find their missing kin. In other cases, family members are relying on shards of clothing and jewelry — or even just their instincts — to identify victims.

"Even if he has no identification, no clothes, nothing, I will know my father when I hold his bones," said 23-year-old Majid Hamid Moraab. "I don't want to wait for an investigation. I want my father's bones."



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