



Van Buren Conservation District  
1035 E. Michigan Avenue  
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**Black River Watershed Project**  
Steering Committee Minutes  
10:00 a.m. Thursday, April 23, 2009  
Columbia Township Hall  
53053 County Road 388, Grand Junction

ATTENDANCE: Erin Fuller, Rosemary Insidioso, Marcy Colclough, Julia Kirkwood, Amy Lockhart, Chris Bauer, Joe Parman, Dave Foerster, Emily Wilke, Sam Ewbank

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

**BUSINESS**

- **Bloomingtondale park project:** Fuller reported that restoration work in the Bloomingtondale Little League Park (now called "Shady Brook Park") is continuing. Parman has a contractor lined up for the instream portion of the work and this work should be completed in the next few days.
- **Bloomingtondale area water monitoring:** Fuller is preparing a report of the results of water quality sampling from ten sites upstream of Great Bear Lake in the Bloomingtondale area. It appears that there some areas with higher phosphorus inputs, and Fuller will distribute the final report when it was completed.
- **Grant wrap-up schedule:** Fuller reported that the grant will be extended through August 2009, but there will be very minimal staff time after May 2009. The majority of the grant projects should be wrapped up by then.
- **Upcoming watershed workshops:** Fuller reported that the Conservation District is working with Lake Michigan College to present a community education workshop on building rainbarrels. The workshop will be held at the college's South Haven campus on May 2. Lockhart also reported that she and Parman will be holding a workshop on buffers sometime this summer.
- **Land use planning assistance for watershed municipalities:** Colclough reported that she is continuing to work with the four communities that were chosen for this project to prepare master plan and zoning ordinance language (Clyde Twp., Arlington Twp., Columbia Twp. and the City of Bangor). In addition, she has prepared language for the City of South Haven and South Haven Twp., and inserted some language that is protective of natural resources into the Bloomingtondale Twp. and Village Recreation Plan.



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Colclough also reported on the Long-term Hydrologic Impact Assessment that is being performed for the watershed by the consulting firm Kieser & Associates. They are comparing current and future land use maps and creating buildout scenarios to determine what pollutants (runoff, nutrients and sediment) will be increased in the future. This information will be stored in a Geographic Information System (GIS), so it can be updated if communities make changes to their future land use maps.

- Land Protection committee: Wilke reported that the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy has developed a strategy for creating an agriculturally-based land protection model. Kirkwood suggested coordinating this with efforts of the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council.
- Watershed Management Plan (WMP) updates: Fuller reported that she met with Kirkwood and Bauer to discuss updating the management plan, and that this will comprise the bulk of the work as the grant winds down. She also distributed a draft spreadsheet of the WMP tasks that has been reformatted from the original WMP.
- Two Rivers Coalition: Fuller reported that this organization is moving ahead and beginning to look for water quality projects to accomplish in the Black and Paw Paw River Watersheds. The next meeting of this organization will be 7:00 p.m., May 13 at Geneva Township Hall. Since this is likely the final Steering Committee meeting, Fuller will place Steering Committee members on the TRC mailing list so they can stay involved with watershed activities.

OTHER BUSINESS: Lockhart reported that the Conservation District will be having its annual native plant sale with an order deadline of May 15 and pickup day of May 30. She also distributed copies of the 2009 Van Buren County Local Food & Farm Guide. Parman reported that he is incorporating LID techniques into the stormwater and site plan review process for the drain commission.

SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING – None

ADJOURN – 11:35 a.m.