



Van Buren Conservation District
1035 E. Michigan Avenue
Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 657-4030 ext. 5
(269) 657-4925 fax

Black River Watershed Project
Steering Committee Minutes
10:00 a.m. Thursday, June 22, 2006
Columbia Township Hall
53053 County Road 388, Grand Junction

ATTENDANCE: Lynn Fleming, Deb Berkey, Julia Kirkwood, Bob Richardson, Beth Clawson, Steve Bare, Lon Koops, Joe Parman, Bill Nelson, Al Baerren, Becky Rininger, Pete Ter Louw, Carl Bouton, Dennis Beers, Amy Lockhart, Erin Fuller

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

BUSINESS

- Project background: Fuller provided a brief overview of the project history, discussing the Black River Watershed Planning Project, and the Watershed Management Plan that resulted from that phase of the project.
- Workplan & Timeline: Fuller presented the Black River Watershed Implementation Project workplan and timeline. This phase of the project will run from March 27, 2006 to March 31, 2009. The group discussed many aspects of the workplan.
- Local match: Fuller discussed the importance of local match and distributed a local match tracking form to attendees. Fuller will track local match at meetings, but asked that volunteers track other local match and report it to her quarterly.
- Land protection: The Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy will be heading up a targeted outreach campaign to work to promote conservation of sensitive land in the watershed. Ter Louw and Fuller will be setting up a committee to assist with this task, and asked attendees for suggested members for this committee.
- Updating the Watershed Management Plan (WMP): Fuller noted that the WMP will need annual updating, and asked attendees to keep this in mind as they become aware of changing conditions in the watershed. Fuller and Kirkwood also discussed a wetland mapping project that may be undertaken in this watershed, with the help of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. This will be included in the WMP updating process.



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- Black River Watershed Assembly (BRWA): Several meetings of the BRWA were held towards the end of the planning phase of the project. Fuller discussed that she hopes the BRWA will act as a citizen's advocacy group for water quality in the watershed.
- I & E Subcommittee/Watershed Short Course Planning Committee: Fuller asked for volunteers for the Information and Education Subcommittee. The first task of this committee will be to plan (jointly with the Paw Paw River Watershed Project) a Watershed Short Course for this fall.

OTHER BUSINESS

Fuller asked for ideas of other people/organizations to include as project stakeholders or steering committee members. Suggestions included the DNR, Bloomingdale Village officials, Michigan Lake & Stream Associations, City of South Haven officials, county planning representatives, other municipal officials, and lake associations. Fuller noted that some of these representatives are members of the steering committee, but were unable to attend this meeting. Fuller also reported that the first project quarter is almost over (April 1-June 30), and she will be creating and submitting a quarterly report to DEQ by the end of July.

SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING – 10:00 a.m. Thursday, September 21, 2006 at Columbia Township Hall.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

MINUTES SUBMITTED by Erin Fuller