

# **APPENDIX H.4**

## **NEWSPAPER ARTICLES**

# Press Release

Contact: Robert Thompson, RLA  
Phone: (317) 776-8495

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## COUNTY SURVEYOR RECEIVES WATERSHED GRANT

The Hamilton County Surveyor's office is about to expand the existing Cool Creek Watershed Management Plan to meet the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM) requirements for a Watershed Management Plan. The previous Cool Creek Watershed Study done by a local environmental firm, Clark-Dietz, Inc, in cooperation with the Town of Westfield and the City of Carmel, included some analysis of nonpoint source pollution issues; however, the main focus of the study was on flooding problems and development concerns in the watershed. The scope of the study will now be expanded to address IDEM's requirements for a Watershed Management Plan. On January 1st, the Surveyor's Office obtained a Section 319 grant to work with Clark-Dietz to modify the original study which will identify nonpoint source pollution management strategies so that additional grants may be obtained to implement some or all of the water quality best Management Practices (BMPs) in the future.

The Surveyor's Office is organizing a Steering Committee to direct the project. The Steering Committee will include representatives from government and the general public as well as business interests. The Steering Committee will meet quarterly throughout the one year project term. Steering Committee meetings will be open to the public and advertised as such in the local newspaper. The Steering Committee will identify the public's priorities as they pertain to water quality, develop strategies for addressing the public's concerns, and ultimately implement the plan.

If you are interested in participating in this Steering Committee please call the Surveyor's Office at 776-8495.

**Hans J. Peterson**

**From:** Robert Thompson [rct@co.hamilton.in.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 06, 2005 11:31 AM  
**To:** hansp@clark-dietz.com  
**Cc:** afoley@ci.carmel.in.us; mmcbride@ci.carmel.in.us; dalet@clark-dietz.com; Amanda Smith; Jeanette Gartner; miked@deboyland.com; acook@hoosiertradewinds.com; BELIFRIT@idem.in.gov; EOLIVER@idem.in.gov; PBROWN@idem.in.gov; lshrake@iupui.edu; msweat@washingtontownship-hc.us; bhauk@westfieldtown.org; nmyers@williams creek.net; sbaxter@williams creek.net  
**Subject:** Cool Creek Meeting

[x]

**Waterway study looks to clean up creek**

*By Rebecca L. Sandlin | Staff writer*

Residents who attend an April 13 meeting to discuss stormwater management issues in the Cool Creek Watershed are likely to learn some information they don't want to hear.

The watershed is on the Environmental Protection Agency's list of impaired water bodies, and to help take it off that list, the Hamilton County Surveyor's Office received a grant of nearly \$31,000 to study pollution in the creek and watershed.

The first public meeting will seek input from the community on key issues regarding Cool Creek. Included in the discussion will be existing stormwater problems in the watershed such as flooding and erosion, the effect of urbanization on the quality of water and the best ways to reduce pollution.

Robert Thompson, program manager at the Hamilton County Surveyor's Office, said he hopes to have many people attend the public meeting, which will take place at the Cool Creek Nature Center auditorium, 2000 E. 151st St. in Westfield.

"We want to find out what their thoughts are, what they believe are the significant sources of pollution and what they can recommend to do about it," Thompson said. "Also, we want to educate them about the watershed and why it is impaired."

The grant will fund a one-year study of the Cool Creek watershed. Thompson said there has been an ongoing study of problems associated with the watershed, beginning about three years ago.

"It was originally studied for flooding issues," he said. "This second one is for the water quality issues, the pollution issues that have occurred in the watershed. That study has been completed and now we're wanting to address the reasons why it is so impaired."

Some of those problems include E-coli bacteria that was discovered in Cool Creek. There are signs posted to warn against swimming, drinking or fishing from the water.

# Noblesville Daily Times<sup>LM</sup>

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## **Public invited to participate in water-quality committee**

Daily Times

The Hamilton County Surveyor's office is looking for volunteers to help expand the Cool Creek Watershed Management Plan.

The surveyor's office is going to expand the Cool Creek Watershed Management Plan to meet the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's requirements for a Watershed Management Plan. The surveyor's office will modify the original study to identify nonpoint source pollution management strategies.

The steering committee will direct the project. It will include representatives from government and the general public as well as business interests. The committee will meet quarterly throughout the one-year project term. Steering committee meetings will be open to the public. The committee will identify the public's priorities about water quality, develop strategies for addressing the public's concerns and implement the plan.

People interested in participating on this steering committee may call the surveyor's office at 776-8495.



Posted 6:37 PM February 10, 2005

## **Residents needed to study water quality**

February 11, 2005

NOBLESVILLE -- Residents are needed to serve on a steering committee for the Hamilton County Surveyor's Office to identify priorities for water quality, develop strategies to address concerns and implement a plan to address them.

The one-year project will expand the Cool Creek Watershed Management Plan to meet Indiana Department of Environmental Management requirements.

The steering committee also will include government and business representatives. The committee meets quarterly throughout the year. Persons interested in serving on the steering committee may call the Surveyor's Office at (317) 776-8495.



## Cool Creek polluted

By [Bob Hansen](#) | Editor

WESTFIELD — Rainwater mixed with crop residue apparently created a toxic substance that killed fish in Cool Creek Wednesday.

About 70 to 100 fish were killed, and the water for about three miles was discolored. According to Barry Sneed, a public information officer at the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, water laden with ammonium nitrate flowed into a storm sewer outlet at Waitt Elevator, located at 1131 State Road 32 East in Westfield. Workers from that agency were called to the scene after local officials found the source of the spill. They were still investigating Thursday.

"At this time, we don't believe there are any continuing effects," Sneed said Thursday afternoon.

An area resident called the Town of Westfield's public works department complaining that a creek had turned black and smelled like petroleum, said Kurt Wanninger, operations manager for the Department of Public Works.

The public works department located the source of the problem and called the state agency.

"The water was black for 3.1 miles downstream" from Waitt Elevator, Wanninger said. "Fish were found dead in Cool Creek and tributaries, including bass, shad and bluegill."

Most of the fish were fairly small.

Sneed and Wanninger said that apparently what happened is that Waitt Elevator was pumping out a pit under an old silo the company planned to tear down. Grain had been left in the pit, and rainwater had mixed with it over a period of time.

The company pumped out the mixture to a location next to a storm sewer outlet starting at about 11:30 a.m. Wanninger said the toxic substance then entered the storm sewer and flowed into the Goodrich Brothers Regulated Drain and then the Anna Kendall Regulated Drain. It then flowed into Cool Creek, which also is called the Wheeler and Bills Regulated Drain.

The water and crop residue mixture created ammonium nitrate, a substance that robs oxygen from the water. That explains why the fish died, Wanninger said.

The public works department received a call about the problem at 2:57 p.m. Wednesday. At about 4:30 he located the source of the substance at Waitt Elevator.

Sneed confirmed that the discolored water had a high concentration of ammonia and low oxygen levels.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management was continuing its investigation Thursday. As a precaution, the state agency was sampling the ground near the dumped material and near the polluted waterways, Sneed said. IDEM also was sampling the water in Cool Creek to find how far toxic concentrations of the pollution traveled.

Waitt Elevator will have to pump out the remaining water and residue and contain it so that waste will not flow into the drainage system, Sneed said. He did not know how much material was left in the pit.

Additionally, IDEM officials will be reviewing the situation to decide whether to levy a fine or take other action against the elevator company.

A phone call to Waitt Elevator owner Robert Drayer seeking comment was not returned before publication.

Besides the town public works department and IDEM, other agencies that assisted at the site included the Westfield police and fire departments, Hamilton County Surveyor's office and Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency.

# Westfield grain spill kills fish

## Workers raze old elevator, pump contents onto ground

By Diana Lamirand

Diana.Lamirand@TheNoblesvilleLedger.com

WESTFIELD — A black, smelly sludge entered a storm drain Wednesday afternoon and resulted in a fish kill in a tributary leading to Cool Creek.

According to a preliminary count Thursday afternoon, 100-150 fish were killed as a result of the toxic substance being released, said Russ Grunden, a spokesman for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

"There were shad, bluegill and at least one bass," said Kurt Wanninger, operations manager for the Westfield Public Works Department.

Employees tearing down an old grain elevator at Waitt Elevator, 1131 E. Indiana 32, had pumped about 2-3 feet of dirty water from the bottom of the elevator onto the ground.

The water, which contained old, fermented corn, soybeans and wheat, flowed into a nearby storm drain and eventually made its way to Cool Creek.

"It was nasty smelling stuff," Wanninger said.

Though the fish kill was minor when compared to the massive one in December 1999 that wiped out fish along a 50-mile stretch of the White River, Grunden said, it's still a loss of resources.

"We take any fish kill seriously," he explained. "These are resources that are part of the state of Indiana and something that all Hoosiers are responsible for."

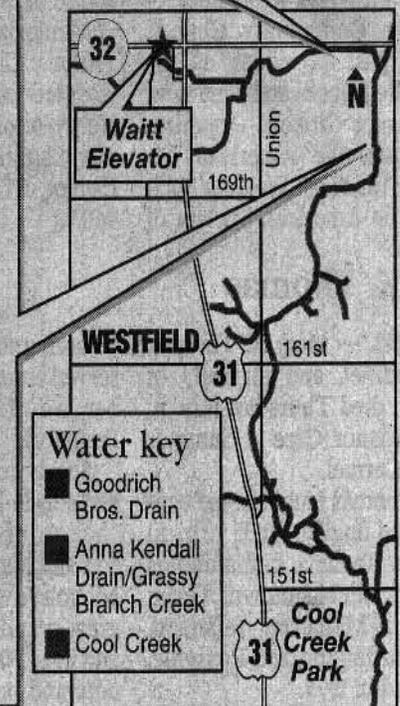
An Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) field officer found high ammonia nitrate readings in the



Fish were found floating dead Wednesday afternoon in a tributary under Timberbrook bridge in the Timberbrook Run subdivision south of Indiana 32. Between 100-150 fish were killed, officials said, as a result of a toxic substance released from Waitt Elevator Co. in Westfield.



Residents reported seeing this black sludge flowing downstream Wednesday afternoon in a Westfield tributary that leads to Cool Creek near Indiana 32.



See FISH, Page A22

Marilyn.Cooley@TheNoblesvilleLedger.com

# No fines for Waitt Elevator yet

FISH/From A1

tributary and creek.

The ammonia nitrate decreased oxygen levels and suffocated the fish, said public information officer Amy Hartsock.

Emergency response officials from Westfield, Hamilton County and IDEM tracked the toxic substance spill for about 3.19 miles from Waitt Elevator to near 161st Street, Wanninger said. The rain that fell Wednesday night and early Thursday flushed the substance further.

"It's probably down to White River by now," Wanninger said Thursday morning.

Residents called Westfield officials about 3 p.m. to report a "black smelly substance" in the Anna

Kendall drain or tributary that flows into Cool Creek, Wanninger said, and investigators tracked it for about one mile upstream before they found the contamination source at Waitt Elevator.

When told of the situation, Wanninger said, the company's owners "didn't think it was a big deal. We told them we thought it was a serious situation."

Roger Drayer, who owns the grain elevator business with Gary Fulton, said his employees did not know that they shouldn't pump the contaminated water onto the ground.

"I'm not really sure" what happened, Drayer said. "It's not a huge fish kill... I think Kurt (Wanninger) is trying to make a mountain out of a molehill."

Drayer also pointed out that

most of the fish were shad or "junk fish."

Gizzard shad, while sometimes overabundant, provide an important ecological niche in the fishing community, said Tom Flatt, an aquatic habitat coordinator for DNR. They are a plankton feeder, he said, and serve as food for bass fish.

Grunden said the toxic dumping is an ongoing investigation that will probably take a few days. Once the damages are assessed, he said, the responsible party will be notified how much it will cost to reimburse the state for the loss of life.

"We witnessed live fish downstream at some of the access points so it was not a long-running spill," Grunden said.

Hartsock said IDEM officials

"I'm not really sure" what happened.

**"It's not a huge fish kill. . . . I think Kurt (Wanninger) is trying to make a mountain out of a molehill."**

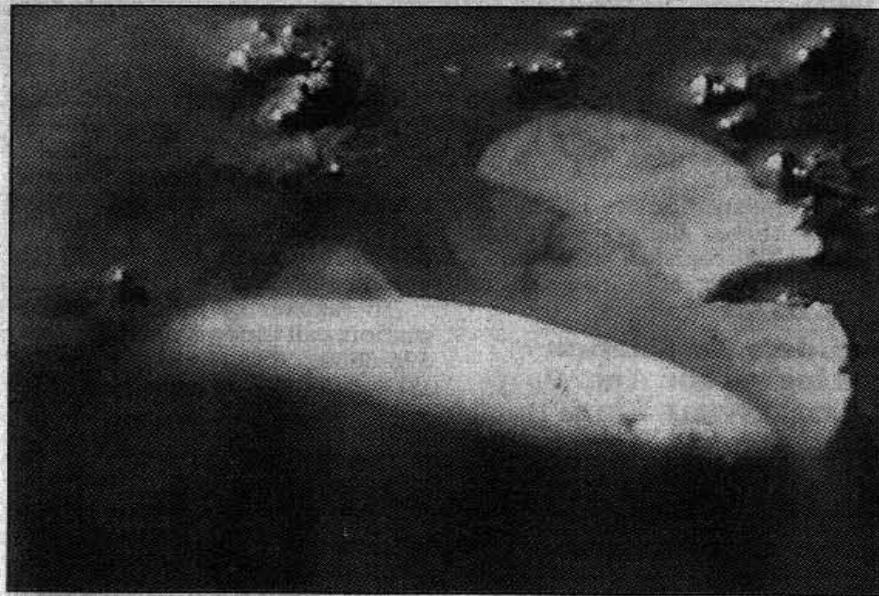
Roger Drayer,  
Waitt Elevator co-owner

returned to Waitt Elevator Thursday to further discuss ways to remove the toxic materials in an environmentally friendly manner.

The investigation will be reviewed internally before a decision is made to assess Waitt owners any fines.

"Right now, we don't know," she said.

Call staff writer Diana Lamirand at (317) 444-5545.



At least one bass, a popular sporting fish, was found dead Wednesday afternoon in the Anna Kendall Drain or tributary under Timberbrook bridge in the Timberbrook Run subdivision.

# Owners to restock fish, pay fine

**Waitt Elevator wants to 'make it right,' after fish kill in creek.**

**By Diana Lamirand**  
Diana.Lamirand@TheNoblesvilleLedger.com

**NOBLESVILLE** — The owners of Waitt Elevator have agreed to work with the White River Rescue group to restock more than 500 fish killed July 20 after employees dumped sludge down a storm drain.

"We will do some restocking" in addition to any fines that may be assessed by state agencies, said Roger Drayer, who owns the elevator with Gary Fulton. "We will work with Steve (Schwartz) to get that done."

Schwartz, who along with John Bundy formed White River Rescue 2000 after a massive fish kill in December 1999, approached Drayer.

He and Fulton are "trying to make it right," said Schwartz, who's also on the Hamilton County Council.

Schwartz and Bundy have been frustrated throughout the years, Schwartz said, that the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) assesses fines for fish kills but the agency doesn't use the money to restock the fish that were killed.

"They're (DNR) not putting fish back into that resource," he said. "We'd really like to have it done right."

Bill James, DNR's chief of fisheries, explained that the fines collected from fish kills go into a special account but could be spent on equipment to investigate fish kills or other related items. On a small fish kill like the one that occurred in Westfield, restocking is "not a real practical

thing to do," James said. Oftentimes, James said, Mother Nature takes its course and fish replenish themselves long before the state can find hatcheries with the type of fish killed. Other fish may move upstream or downstream and fill the void, too.

The fines are "a powerful fish-management tool but we try to use it discreetly instead of restocking whether it's needed or not," James said.

The fines may be used to buy fish-kill investigation equipment, educational materials for investigators, technical training, stream-side rehabilitation projects or buying conservation easement rights to protect key habitats from development.

"That's great," Schwartz said after learning how the funds could be used. "But we really need to restock these little streams.

Instead of waiting for nature to run its course, he said, adult fish need to be put back in as soon as possible. He also thinks DNR should charge stiffer fines so more funds are available to restock every lost resource.

The DNR said about 534 bluegill, green sunfish, minnows, white suckers, sculpins, yellow bullheads, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass and darters were killed in the upstream portion of Cool Creek.

Employees tearing down an old grain elevator pumped about 1,500-2,000 gallons of dirty water from the bottom of the elevator. The water, which contained fermented corn, soybeans and wheat, flowed into a nearby storm drain and eventually made its way to Cool Creek.

Call staff writer Diana Lamirand at (317) 444-5545.

Posted 1:07 AM July 26, 2005

## Fish kill toll grows

534 fish dead; fines expected

By Diana Lamirand

[Diana.Lamirand@TheNoblesvilleLedger.com](mailto:Diana.Lamirand@TheNoblesvilleLedger.com)

July 26, 2005

WESTFIELD -- The number of fish killed Wednesday after Waitt Elevator employees dumped a black, smelly sludge down a storm drain has increased to more than 500 fish, according to a state conservation officer.

John Gano of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said Monday afternoon that he counted 534 bluegill, green sunfish, minnows, white suckers, sculpins, yellow bullheads, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass and darters in an upstream portion of Cool Creek.

"It's a significant number of fish," Gano said, but still small when compared to the 5 million fish killed in December 1999 when a toxic chemical spill from Guide Corp. wiped out everything in the White River between Anderson and Indianapolis.

"It would have been a lot worse if it hadn't rained like it did," Gano said, explaining how the Wednesday night rain diluted the toxic substance as it flowed downstream. "We would have had a more sizeable fish kill . . . we're very fortunate that it rained."

Employees tearing down an old grain elevator at Waitt Elevator, 1131 E. Indiana 32, pumped about 1,500-2,000 gallons of dirty water from the bottom of the elevator. The water, which contained old, fermented corn, soybeans and wheat, flowed into a nearby storm drain and eventually made its way to Cool Creek.

"They didn't have intent to kill fish in the creek . . . there is no criminal intent," Gano said of the workers. But DNR officials will place a monetary value on the loss of fish -- some costing more than others based on their recreational value to local fishermen. "I'd be surprised if it's over \$1,000 . . . probably between \$500 and \$1,000."

The company may also face fines from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) after the state agency reviews investigating officers' reports, IDEM public information officer Barry Sneed said.

"Our goal is to work with the owner to educate him so, hopefully, we will not have any more accidents," Sneed said.

The majority of the fish killed, Gano said, were game fish like bluegill and the green sunfish. There were also 20-30 bass and about 20 bullheads or catfish. There were no gizzard shad, Gano said, despite initial reports.

All fish died within the first mile of the dumping, the conservation officer said, but some fish were still alive further downstream.

Besides being illegal, dumping anything but water into a storm drain is harmful to the environment, said Robert Thompson, program manager with the Hamilton County Surveyor's Office.

"What many people fail to realize is that they are polluting our drinking water supply," he said. "Less than 0.4 percent of the Earth's water supply is available to us by way of rivers, streams, lakes and ground water, and more than 99 percent is not readily drinkable."

"Public education . . . will go a long way to make people aware that storm sewers are for flood control and not for the disposal of wastes and contaminated surface water," he added.

After residents reported a black, smelly substance in the Anna Kendall drain or tributary that flows into Cool Creek, an IDEM field officer found high ammonia nitrate readings. The ammonia nitrate decreased oxygen levels and suffocated the fish, Gano said. Roger Drayer, who owns the grain elevator business with Gary Fulton, said his employees did not know that they shouldn't pump the contaminated water onto the ground.

Posted 11:31 PM November 23, 2005

## Program aims to oust water pollution

Officials to educate about dumping harmful liquids into storm sewers.

**By Leslie Collins**

Correspondent

November 25, 2005

NOBLESVILLE -- Washing the family car in the driveway could result in a violation of local and state ordinances. A more blatant offense is changing the car's oil and dumping the drained product into the storm sewer.

Hamilton County officials want to educate the public about illegal residential and commercial dumping into storm drains, rivers, creeks and other bodies of water.

Noblesville, Westfield, Arcadia and Cicero, along with Carmel and Fishers, are included in the Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping program. The Hamilton County Commissioners signed the illicit discharge ordinance in July.

"Through ignorance or laziness, people dump oil and other substances (into storm sewers)," said Robert Thompson, storm-water program manager for the Hamilton County Surveyor's Office. "These (substances) are not treated and go directly into rivers and streams."

Citizens washing cars in driveways can use eco-friendly detergents, Thompson said, adding that sudsy runoff from commercial car washes is treated.

The county is also cracking down on illegal commercial dumping.

Amy Ballman of the Hamilton County Health Department has cited at least one Carmel carpet company for discharging what is known as gray water into the storm sewer.

Commercial carpet cleaners often dump cleaning refuse from homes where carpets have been cleaned directly into neighborhood storm sewers, Thompson said.

Carpet companies aren't the only offenders under scrutiny. Construction company crews have been seen rinsing tools and other items in the street after installing concrete, Thompson said.

"That material (cement) has a high pH, which wipes out anything living in a river or stream," Thompson said.

He suspects companies that dump substances down storm sewers don't want to take the time to properly dispose of the waste, but taking that time could save violators a possible \$1,000-per-day fine.

David Cage of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management said companies have two options: Either haul the material and dispose of it according to state law or get written approval from the local wastewater treatment plant to discharge it into the sanitary sewer system.

The Carmel Utilities Department will allow businesses to discharge gray water directly into Carmel's sanitary sewers at a cost of \$38 per 1,000 gallons, according to Amanda Foley, Carmel's storm-water coordinator.

Foley was out of town last week and unavailable for comment. However, in an e-mail to Thompson, she said carpet-cleaning companies are illegally discharging cleaning fluids into the storm sewers throughout the county.

"This is likely a widespread problem," she said.

Information will be available during a workshop Dec. 7 at the Hamilton County 4-H Grounds, 2003 E. Pleasant St., when the county's new storm-water standards will be unveiled.

### REPORT STORM-WATER POLLUTERS

Citizens may report incidents of storm-water pollution or dumping of pollutants into storm drains by calling (317) 776-8495, or by completing a Report-a-Polluter form at [www.co.hamilton.in.us](http://www.co.hamilton.in.us)

To report a storm drainage problem, call the Hamilton County Surveyor's Office at (317) 776-8495.

### PITCH IT PROPERLY

Items such as solvents, pesticides and paint products can pose fire hazards and, if not disposed of properly, may threaten local waterways and groundwater.

The Hamilton County Household Hazardous Waste Center is at 1717 E. Pleasant St., Noblesville.

Hours are: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mondays-Wednesdays; 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays; 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Fridays; 8 a.m.-noon on the second and fourth Saturdays.

# Press Release

Contact: Robert Thompson, RLA  
Phone: (317) 776-8495

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **HAMILTON COUNTY TO RELEASE RESULTS FROM THE COOL CREEK WATERSHED STUDY**

The Hamilton County Surveyor's Office invites the public to attend a meeting to discuss findings and provide additional feedback on the Cool Creek Watershed Management Plan, which is scheduled for completion by the end of this year. On December 14<sup>th</sup> a public meeting will be held at 7 PM in the Cool Creek Nature Center Auditorium, 2000 E. 151<sup>st</sup> Street in Westfield.

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 the Surveyor's Office received a Section 319 Watershed grant from the State of Indiana to work with Clark Dietz, a local environmental firm as well as residents of Westfield and Carmel, to identify stormwater pollution reduction strategies in the Cool Creek Watershed. Since receiving the grant, representatives from Hamilton County, the City of Carmel, and the Town of Westfield, as well as interested individuals have met on several occasions to review water quality data from the Cool Creek Study and to make recommendations for improving the water quality in the watershed. Some of the issues investigated were:

- Existing stormwater problems in the watershed (stream bank erosion, flooding, etc.)
- The effect of urbanization on water quality (Cool Creek is on the State's list of impaired water bodies due to high bacteria levels)
- Best Management Practices (ways to reduce stormwater pollution)
- Reduction of invasive species

Hamilton County, the City of Carmel and the Town of Westfield believe that the residents of the Cool Creek Watershed have played and will continue to play an important role in improving water quality in the watershed. Identification of Best Management Practices to reduce pollution as well as potential stormwater quality improvement projects will be outlined in the meeting. For further information contact:

Robert Thompson, Program Manager, Hamilton County Surveyors Office

E-mail: [RCT@co.hamilton.in.us](mailto:RCT@co.hamilton.in.us)

Telephone: (317) 776-8495

Fax: (317) 776-9628

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# Important Press Release

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Phone: (317) 776-8495

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **SURVEYOR HOLDS MEETINGS ADDRESSING WATER QUALITY IN HAMILTON COUNTY**

On December 7<sup>th</sup> the Hamilton County Surveyor, the Hamilton County Phase II Public Education Committee along with the towns of Cicero, Fishers, Arcadia, the Cities of Carmel and Noblesville held a workshop to inform developers, builders, engineers and public officials about new water quality regulations in Hamilton County. Over 240 representatives attended the all day workshop that outlined new requirements that will help address water quality issues at construction sites as well as post-construction stormwater runoff pollution. New requirements include permits for commercial and residential construction on sites of 1 acre or more, installation of water quality BMP devices in new developments (Best Management Practices) that will help remove pollutants before they enter the streams, rivers and lakes as well as stiff penalties for developers that fail to meet the new requirements.

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005 another meeting was held at the Cool Creek Nature Center to release the results of the Cool Creek Watershed Study. Representatives of Clark-Dietz, Inc. presented to representatives of the County, the City of Carmel, the Town of Westfield and interested individuals, According to Hamilton County Surveyor,

According to Kenton C. Ward, Hamilton County Surveyor, this study which was part of an EPA Watershed Management Grant began in the early spring of 2005, was aimed at identifying and analyzing stormwater management concerns as a result of the continuing development in the watershed and to provide specific plans to manage stormwater quality for Cool Creek which has been listed by IDEM as an impaired body of water for e-coli.

Among the recommendations of the study was to construct Regional Stormwater Quality facilities that would reduce streambank erosion and reduce non-point source pollutants like e-coli, heavy metals, and nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorous that result from excessive lawn fertilization and agricultural runoff. Other recommendations include public education, stream bank stabilization at several sites, elimination of failing septic systems, adopting a county wide policy of prohibiting construction in floodways, and requiring vegetated buffers along Cool Creek and its tributaries.

If you have any questions, please contact the Hamilton County Surveyor's Office at 317-776-8495.

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On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 the Surveyor's Office received a Section 319 Watershed grant from the State of Indiana to work with Clark Dietz, a local environmental firm as well as residents of Westfield and Carmel, to identify stormwater pollution reduction strategies in the Cool Creek Watershed. Since receiving the grant, representatives from Hamilton County, the City of Carmel, and the Town of Westfield, as well as interested individuals have met on several occasions to review water quality data from the Cool Creek Study and to make recommendations for improving the water quality in the watershed. Some of the issues investigated were:

- Existing stormwater problems in the watershed (stream bank erosion, flooding, etc.)
- The effect of urbanization on water quality (Cool Creek is on the State's list of impaired water bodies due to high bacteria levels)
- Best Management Practices (ways to reduce stormwater pollution)
- Reduction of invasive species

Hamilton County, the City of Carmel and the Town of Westfield believe that the residents of the Cool Creek Watershed have played and will continue to play an important role in improving water quality in the watershed. Identification of Best Management Practices to reduce pollution as well as potential stormwater quality improvement projects will be outlined in the meeting. For further information contact:

Robert Thompson, Program Manager, Hamilton County Surveyors Office

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Telephone: (317) 776-8495

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# Town & Country

Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District

Winter 2005

## Applications for Cost Share Now Being Accepted

**EQIP** — Applications for the 2006 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) are currently being accepted at the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The EQIP program is available to anyone qualifying as a farm. A wide variety of practices are available for cost sharing through the EQIP program. Applications must address environmental concerns determined at the local, state and national levels.

Cost share rates are typically 50% of the actual costs or are set as a flat rate incentive for those practices such as no-till, nutrient management and pest management. Practices must be applied on a planned schedule developed at the time of application. Once an application is accepted and a contract is signed, there is a penalty for not completing all of the planned practices or withdrawing from the contract.

All applications will be ranked on the environmental benefits derived from the contract. The more benefits are derived from the contract and the longer lasting the effects on the environment, the better an application will rank and the better chance for funding. In Indiana, all applications received by the initial cut off date will be ranked together.

Examples of eligible projects might include manure management, filter strips, tree planting, streambank erosion control, and wildlife habitat development. To make an application, contact the local Natural Resources Conservation Service office at 1108 St. 9<sup>th</sup> street, Noblesville, phone 317/773-2181 Ext. 101.



**CREP** — Applications are also being accepted for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program which can provide cost share, incentive, and annual rental payments to apply conservation practices on eligible cropland in Hamilton County. These practices include Warm Season Grass Establishment, Hardwood Tree Planting, Permanent Wildlife Habitat, Grass Filter Strips, Riparian Buffers, Wetland Restoration, Bottomland Timber Establishment.

Sign-up for the Indiana CREP went into effect August 1, 2005 and will continue until enrollment goals are attained or through December 31, 2007, whichever comes first. Contact the local Farm Service Agency at 317-773-2181 Ext. 100 for more details or to enroll in the program.

**SWCD Cost Share Programs** — The Hamilton County SWCD also has a variety of cost share programs available to local residents, including a **well capping program**. Funds are available to assist in the cost of properly capping abandoned wells. The picture shown at the right is of a recent project that utilized these funds. A complete list of the SWCD cost share programs can be found on our web site at [www.hamiltonswcd.org](http://www.hamiltonswcd.org), or by calling 317-773-2181 Ext. 101.



### Do You Want To Attend The National No-Till Conference ?

The Hamilton County SWCD will pay half the cost of registration for individuals wishing to attend the National No-tillage Conference, which will be held in St. Louis, MO in January 2006. This conference is unparalleled in the U.S. in terms of no-till information and technology. Please call if interested 317-773-2181 Ext. 101.



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**Town & Country**

Published quarterly and distributed to landowners, farm operators, teachers, local agencies, public officials, conservation organizations and other interested individuals.

**Personnel Changes — BUSH LEAVING OFFICE**

*(no not George...John)*

John Bush has been the acting District Conservationist for Hamilton Co. since the beginning of August when Aaron Lauster was transferred. John has announced that he is retiring effective the end of 2005.

John has been the District Conservationist in Boone County since the fall of 1976. John started his career with the Soil Conservation Service in 1969 as a student trainee in Vermillion County. During his career he has served in various positions in Vermillion, Delaware, Henry, Hamilton, Parke, Putnam, Howard, Montgomery, Tippecanoe and Fountain counties in Indiana.

After retirement, John intends to do some traveling, continue his hobby of woodworking and working with the 4-H shooting sports program in Boone County as an instructor. He and his brother still have the home farm in Vermillion County which he intends to continue to farm.

The Hamilton County SWCD would like to express our appreciation for John's dedicated service in conservation. His years of experience and knowledge will be hard to replace. Thanks John.

**Stream Bank Stabilization Project at Cool Creek Park**

Streams and creeks can be a mixed blessing. They are absolutely needed to transport stormwater from our neighborhoods and farmlands to White River. They are also an important component for wildlife habitat and serve as corridors for wildlife movement. What we don't often comprehend is the force, power and persistence of flowing water.

A stream in a stable watershed (a watershed is the contributing land area that creates the water flow) may have little soil erosion for many years. However, large storm events like those experienced in Hamilton County in 2003 and 2004 can cause rapid soil erosion and significant damage to the stream. Major changes in the watershed (increased impervious surface resulting from development) can also cause increased erosion. The Cool Creek watershed is an example of a watershed that is experiencing degradation, and stream bank erosion has become a serious problem.

Hamilton County is hoping to mitigate this environmental damage by proactively addressing the issue through more stringent stormwater management practices and by repairing areas already experiencing degradation. Work is being done on the Cool Creek Watershed Management Plan, which will identify improvements needed to protect the overall health of this important community resource. With the help of Clean Water Indiana funds and the cooperation of the Hamilton County Park and Recreation Department, the Soil and Water Conservation District has already begun the repair process by completing a stream bank stabilization project in Cool Creek Park.

The project demonstrates several new products that can be used for stream stabilization and erosion control of the banks. These practices include soil wrapped terraces, locking pavers, riprap, biologs, compost logs, A-jacks, and a concrete mattress.

Project may be viewed on site at Cool Creek Park, or on our web site at [www.hamiltonswcd.org](http://www.hamiltonswcd.org). For questions about the project call the SWCD at 773-1101 Ext. 106, and for questions or concerns about the Cool Creek watershed call the Surveyor's office at 776-8495.