

***November 16, 2005  
Public Meeting***

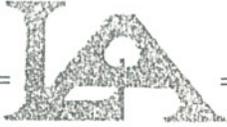
Press Release

Elkhart County Commissioners Puterbaugh Creek - Heaton Lake  
Watershed Management Plan

Elkhart County Commissioners have received a \$60,000 Federal Fiscal Year 2002 205(j) Water Quality Planning Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency for the development of a Watershed Management Plan for the Puterbaugh Creek - Heaton Lake Watershed. The Puterbaugh Creek - Heaton Lake Watershed encompasses an area of approximately 17 square miles. Its northern boundary extends into the State of Michigan and south to include the Heaton Lake and Puterbaugh Creek. This watershed study area encompasses nearly all of Osolo Township and the western portion of Washington Township.

A Joint Stakeholder Meeting is scheduled for 6:00 PM on Wednesday, November 16, 2005 at Eastwood Elementary School located at 53215 CR 15 North, Elkhart, Indiana. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the public and solicit comments about the Watershed Management Plan Project prior to the final submittal of the Plan to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Questions concerning this meeting should be directed to Mr. Christopher J. Jeter at Lawson-Fisher Associates (574) 234-3167 or Ms. Kristine Krueger at the Elkhart County Commissioners Office (574) 535-6746.



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JOHN A. MIDDLETON, P.E.  
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THOMAS S. SHARP, P.E.  
THERESA E. HARRISON, P.E.  
JON E. RIEMKE, P.E.  
JEFFREY L. McKEAN, P.E.  
RANDOLPH J. LINDLEY, P.E.  
SKY K. MEDORS, P.E.  
→ CHRISTOPHER J. JETER, P.E.  
DENNIS A. ZEBELL, P.E.  
BENJAMIN P. HOLDEN, P.E.  
DAN G. DELGADO, P.E.  
MARK H. FOSTER, P.E.  
CHARLES F. FARRELL, P.E.  
MICHAEL J. GUZIK, P.E.  
MICHAEL F. JOHNSTON, P.E.

November 7, 2005

Ms. Nancy Brown, Program Manager  
Elkhart County SWCD  
17746-B C.R. 34  
Goshen, IN 46528

RE: Elkhart County Commissioners  
Section 205(j) Watershed Management Plan Grant  
Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake Watershed  
Watershed Steering Committee Meeting

Dear Ms. Brown:

The following letter is to inform you that a Watershed Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for the above referenced project. The meeting is scheduled for 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 16, 2005, at Eastwood Elementary School located at 53215 County Road 15 North, Elkhart, Indiana. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the public about the Watershed Management Plan Project and invite participation in the Watershed Planning process.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or comments.

Very truly yours,

LAWSON-FISHER ASSOCIATES P.C.

Christopher J. Jeter, P.E.  
Civil Engineer

CJJ/bsa

c: Kristine Krueger  
John E. Fisher, P.E.  
Piper C. Tittle, P.E.

**Elkhart County Commissioners  
Section 205(j) Watershed Management Plan Grant  
Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake  
Watershed Steering Committee Meeting  
November 16, 2005**

Ms. Kristine Krueger  
Elkhart County Government  
117 North Second Street  
Goshen, IN 46526

Mr. Robert Watkins  
Elkhart County Health Department  
4230 Elkhart Road  
Goshen, IN 46526

Mr. John Hulewicz  
Elkhart County Health Department  
4230 Elkhart Road  
Goshen, IN 46526

Mr. Denny Lyon  
Elkhart County Surveyor's Office  
4230 Elkhart Road  
Goshen, IN 46526

Mr. Blake Doriot  
Elkhart County Surveyor's Office  
4230 Elkhart Road  
Goshen, IN 46526

Mr. Steve Schweisberger  
Elkhart County Surveyor's Office  
4230 Elkhart Road  
Goshen, IN 46526

Ms. Nancy Brown  
Elkhart County SWCD  
17746-B C.R. 34  
Goshen, IN 46528

Ms. Bev Stevenson  
Elkhart County SWCD  
17746-B C.R. 34  
Goshen, IN 46528

Mr. Donald Parker  
2101 Grant Street  
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. Everett Lienhart  
22541 Lakeshore Drive  
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. Scott Robinia  
22880 Lakeshore Drive  
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. Bill West  
23170 Heaton Vista  
Elkhart, IN 46514

Ms. Bonnie Shanholt  
23197 Heaton Vista  
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. Don West  
52352 C.R. 13  
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mary Sproull  
23173 Heaton Vista  
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. James Riley  
22886 Lake Shore Drive  
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. and Mrs. Ty Miller  
29893 Olin Court  
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. Ben Russo  
25600 County Road 4  
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. Kyle Hannon  
5 Kim Court  
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. Bob Stone  
23019 Lakeshore Drive  
Elkhart, IN 46514

**Elkhart County Commissioners  
Section 205(j) Watershed Management Plan Grant  
Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake  
Watershed Steering Committee Meeting  
November 16, 2005**

Mr. Dave Simmons  
22892 Lakeshore Drive  
Elkhart, IN 46514-9571

Mr. John Hardy  
54507 David Drive  
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. and Ms. Tom Davis  
52860 County Road 15  
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. Nathan Rice, Grant Project Manager  
Indiana Dept. of Environ. Mgmt.  
Watershed Management Section  
100 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Mr. Maynard Good  
23257 County Road 18  
Goshen, IN 46528

Mr. and Mrs. Shawn Nicodemus  
2600 Broadmoor Drive  
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. Eric Kurtz  
Elkhart County SWCD  
17746-B C.R. 34  
Goshen, IN 46528



## MEMORANDUM

November 17, 2005

**TO:** LFA Project File 200406.00

**FROM:** Christopher J. Jeter, P.E. CJJ

**RE:** Elkhart County Commissioners  
Section 205(j) Watershed Planning Grant  
Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake Watershed Management Plan  
Stakeholder Meeting No. 7  
Public Meeting No. 8

The seventh Stakeholder Meeting for the above referenced project was conducted at Eastwood Elementary School on November 16, 2005. This meeting was the eighth in a series of eight (8) public meetings being conducted for the project. Copies of the agenda, sign-in sheet and handouts are included with this memorandum.

The meeting began with an introduction and a brief overview of the Watershed Planning Project by Mr. Chris Jeter. The overview included a presentation of the Goals of the Watershed Management Plan and Mr. Jeter solicited additional input from the stakeholders. Mr. Jeter indicated that the project Goals and Action Items had been reviewed with the Elkhart County Commissioners on October 31, 2005. In addition, Mr. Jeter indicated that he forwarded a list of the Goals and Action Items to Mr. Duane Burrow, Stormwater Manager for the Greater Elkhart County MS4.

After completing the overview and project updates, the following items were discussed:

- A few of the attendees suggested that the Goals and Action Items be prioritized. Table 13 of the Watershed Management Plan outlines the timeframe over which the project goals could occur.
- Mr. Dave Simmons suggested that public education and outreach be listed as the first goal of the Watershed Management Plan. This outreach could consist of the distribution of education fliers and public meetings.
- Mr. Dave Simmons also indicated that it would be preferable that the watershed coordinator live in the Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake Watershed.
- A few of the attendees were concerned with the current lake levels in Heaton Lake. Mr. Jeter discussed the fact that Northern Indiana is currently in a drought and this is a major factor in the lake levels being lower throughout the area.
- Mr. Dave Simmons suggested that Elkhart County continue performing water quality sampling activities at the six (6) locations that were sampled for this Watershed Management Plan. A monitoring strategy will be outlined in the final report.
- Mr. Nathan Rice from IDEM explained to the stakeholders that Indiana Lake Management Grant Funds are available for water quality education.
- Mr. Everett Lienhart discussed the 1,400 acre area that is north of C.R. 4 and east of C.R. 15 that is scheduled to be developed as an industrial area. His concern is the runoff of pollutants to the protected bog to the west of C.R. 17 and those pollutants eventually migrating to Heaton Lake.
- This meeting was the final meeting to be conducted for the Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake Watershed Management Plan.

CJJ/cas  
Encls.





***Elkhart County Commissioners  
Section 205(j) Watershed Planning Grant  
Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake Watershed Management Plan***

***Joint Stakeholder Committee Meeting***

*November 16, 2005 at 6:00 P.M.*

***Agenda***

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Previous Stakeholder Meeting Issues
  - *Goals and Decisions*
  - *Presentation to County Commissioners*
3. Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake Watershed Management Plan Project
  - *Watershed Management Plan*
  - *Schedule*
4. Conclusion
5. Discussion

**Table 13**  
**Calendar of Events and Project Milestones**

<i>Event or Project Milestone</i>	<i>Date/Timeframe</i>	<i>Activity</i>
Milestone	January 1, 2004	ECC 205(j) Grant Project Begins
Event	March 11, 2004	Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake Watershed, 1 <sup>st</sup> Public Meeting
Event	June 7-8, 2004	INDOT Stream Restoration Training Workshop
Event	June 16, 2004	Joint Steering Committee Meeting (Public Meeting)
Event	September 15, 2004	Getting in Step: Engaging and Involving Stakeholders in Your Watershed Seminar
Event	September 29, 2004	Joint Steering Committee Meeting (Public Meeting)
Event	December 15, 2004	Joint Steering Committee Meeting (Public Meeting)
Event	March 24, 2005	Joint Steering Committee Meeting (Public Meeting)
Event	June 23-24, 2005	Urban Watershed Management BMPs Seminar
Event	June 30, 2005	Joint Steering Committee Meeting (Public Meeting)
Event	January 1, 2006	ECC 205(j) Grant Project Ends
Milestone	January, 2006 – January, 2007	Identify Watershed Coordinator. (Goal 11)
Milestone	January, 2006 – January, 2007	Identify Source(s) of Rhineheart Lateral Contamination. (Goal 1)
Milestone	January, 2006 – January, 2007	Identify Source(s) of Mather Ditch Contamination. (Goal 2)
Milestone	January, 2006 – January, 2007	Identify Source(s) of Kindig/Kellog Ditch and Bishop Ditch Contamination. (Goal 3)
Milestone	January, 2006 – January, 2007	Review existing ordinances, policies and land use plans. (Goal 6)
Milestone	January, 2006 – January, 2008	Evaluate means to plan, finance, construct, operate and maintain public wastewater systems. (Goal 4)
Milestone	January, 2006 – January, 2008	Review County Subdivision and Roadway Standards. Incorporate (if necessary) appropriate BMPs for construction and post construction conditions. (Goal 10)
Milestone	January, 2006 – January, 2009	Encourage science program through local school system. (Goal 9)
Milestone	January, 2006 – January, 2009	Recruit an individual or group to participate in Hoosier River Watch Program. (Goal 9)
Milestone	January, 2007 – January, 2009	Eliminate source(s) of Rhineheart Lateral Contamination. (Goal 1)
Milestone	January, 2007 – January, 2009	Eliminate source(s) of Mather Ditch Contamination. (Goal 2)
Milestone	January, 2007 – January, 2009	Eliminate source(s) of Kindig/Kellog Ditch and Bishop Ditch Contamination. (Goal 3)
Milestone	January, 2006 – January, 2011	Perform sanitary survey of Puterbaugh Creek and its tributaries. (Goal 5)
Milestone	January, 2006 – January, 2011	Use the Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake Watershed Management Plan as a template for other watersheds. (Goal 7)
Milestone	January, 2006 – January, 2011	Increase conservation tillage practices by 5% within the watershed. (Goal 10)
Milestone	January, 2006 – January, 2011	Construct 5 acres of filter strips within the watershed. (Goal 10)

**Table 12  
Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake Watershed Management Plan  
Goals and Action Items**

GOALS	ACTION ITEMS	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
Goal #1: Reduce E. coli, Nitrates, and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) in Rhineheart Lateral	Identify the specific source(s) of waste: Conduct a systematic dye testing program of adjacent homes and farm field tiles	ECHD, Cass County Health Department (CCHD)	1-Year
	Eliminate source(s) of waste: Once the contamination source(s) are identified, the ECHD and the Cass County Health Department will need to work together to rectify the situation.	ECHD, CCHD, Property Owner	1-2 Years
Goal #2: Reduce Surfactants and Suspected Septic Contamination in Mather Ditch	Identify specific source(s) of waste: Conduct a systematic dye testing program of adjacent homes.	ECHD	1-Year
	Eliminate source(s) of waste: Once the failing system(s) are identified, the ECHD will work with the property owner to rectify the situation.	ECHD, Property Owner	1-2 Years
Goal #3: Increase Dissolved Oxygen (DO) levels in Kindig/Kellog Ditch and Bishop Ditch	Identify the specific source(s) of waste: Determine if organic matter is decomposing in these areas and contributing to the low DO readings	ECHD	1-Year
	Eliminate source(s) of waste: Once the contamination source(s) are identified, the ECHD will work with the property owner to rectify the situation.	ECHD, Property Owner	1-2 Years
Goal #4: Explore methods to plan, construct, operate, maintain, and finance public wastewater systems	Evaluate options with Regional Sewer District. Coordinate with existing public sewer systems (City of Elkhart).	ECC	2-Years
Goal #5: Eliminate direct discharges of septic tank effluent	Continue to monitor E. Coli levels in Puterbaugh Creek and its tributaries and Heaton Lake.	ECHD	Ongoing
	Conduct a sanitary survey of Puterbaugh Creek and its tributaries; perform dye testing once specific areas of septic contamination are identified.	ECHD	5-Years
	Eliminate source(s) of septic waste: Once the contamination source(s) is identified, the ECHD will work with the property owner to rectify the situation.	ECHD	1-2 Years
	Explore funding source(s) to eliminate septic waste	ECHD	Ongoing
Goal #6: Discourage medium to high density development requiring on-site wastewater systems where the soils are not adequate to treat the septic effluent in order to protect the surface waters and groundwater	Review existing ordinances, policies, and land use plans and revise as needed, with respect to existing subdivision and zoning regulations.	Elkhart County EC Planning Dept.	1-Year
	Encourage development to occur in areas where public sewer systems are available.	EC Planning Dept.	Ongoing
Goal #7: Use the Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake Watershed Management Plan as a template to address E. Coli in other Elkhart County watersheds	Continued sampling by ECHD to identify areas of water quality impairment.	ECHD	Ongoing
	Develop watershed management plan(s) for other areas.	ECC/SWCD	5-Years
	Develop a program of sanitary surveys for the entire county. This item may be coordinated with IDEM Rule 13.	ECHD	3-Years
Goal #8: Continue to educate residents of on-site wastewater systems	Distribute educational information at appropriate locations and events.	ECHD, ECC, SWCD	Ongoing
	Continue to educate public through the investigation of failing septic systems.	ECHD	Ongoing
	Develop a web-page addressing non-point source pollution and wet weather issues.	ECHD/SWCD	Ongoing
	Educate public through local media (newspaper, television, and radio).	ECHD/SWCD	Ongoing
Goal #9: Continue an education program on water quality and management practices to reduce contaminants to surface waters	Encourage a science program through the local school systems to address local water quality and watershed issues.	SWCD	3-Years
	Recruit an individual or group (school classroom) to participate in the Hoosier River Watch Program collecting water samples from Puterbaugh Creek, its tributaries, or Heaton Lake.	SWCD, Public	3-Years
	Include water quality issues on web-page.	ECHD/SWCD	3-Years
	Publish articles in the SWCD/NRCS newsletter that is incorporated monthly into local issues of the Farmer's Exchange Newspaper.	SWCD/NRCS EC Extension	Ongoing
	Educate public through the local media (newspaper, television, and radio).	ECHD/SWCD	Ongoing
Goal #10: Develop and implement BMP's to reduce sources of contaminants	BMPs to address agricultural sources of pollution include filter strips, crop management plans, and manure management plans.	ECHD, SWCD, NRCS	Ongoing
	Review County Subdivision and Roadway Standards. Incorporate (if necessary) BMPs to address erosion control for both construction and post construction conditions.	EC Planning Dept. EC Highway Dept.	2-Years
	Include BMPs on web-page.	ECHD/SWCD	3-Years
	Encourage conservation practices to address erosion associated with crops. There are cost sharing programs to assist agricultural producers.	NRCS/SWCD	Ongoing
Goal #11: Identify a watershed coordinator	Identify coordinator.	ECC/SWCD	1 – Year
Goal #12: Continue to work cooperatively with other watershed groups within the St. Joseph River basin	Attend Joint Steering Committee Meetings.	ECC/ECHD, SWCD	Ongoing