

VI. Implementation Plan

A. Plan and Schedule

Each of the goals and action items detailed in the previous section are summarized in Table 12, along with the entities responsible for carrying out the action items and a proposed timeframe for each action. The timeframe includes a schedule that places a higher priority on critical areas.

B. Calendar of Events and Project Milestones

A list of Watershed Management Plan Events, past and future, and target project milestones is provided in Table 13.

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

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 st 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	October 6, 2005	Joint Steering Committee Meeting (Public Meeting)
Event	November 16, 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)