

ST. JOSEPH RIVER REVIEW

Volume 9, Issue 4

Quarterly Newsletter of the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative Partnership

Winter, 2007

Newsletter Editor: Tina Puitz

On-line project will improve public access to water quality data

The St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative Partnership has received a Section 319 grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to fund a project that will make water quality monitoring information available to the public via the Internet. The goal of the project is to improve on the level of water quality data available to the public, and thereby increase the positive stewardship activities across the watershed.

The general public, as well as students and researchers, will have easy access to St. Joseph River water quality information that has been collected by the SJRWI, the Fort Wayne City Utilities, and the Fort Wayne-Allen County Health Department.

The new site will allow users to view, print or download water quality data, either by site or by date, from a server linked to the Initiative's website, www.sjrwi.org. Data will include measurements of water temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity, as well as E. coli, the pesticides Atrazine, Alachlor, Metolochlor and Cyanazine, and the nutrients ammonia and phosphorus.

The database will include sampling information from 24 river and tributary sites in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan that are sampled weekly by the Initiative, three river sites sampled weekly by the City and two ditch sites sampled by the Fort Wayne-Allen County Health Department, all located within the St. Joseph watershed.

A technical committee composed of representatives from the SJRWI Staff and Board of Directors, the City of Fort Wayne Water Utilities, the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Fort Wayne-Allen County Health Department, and the Department of Biology at IPFW is overseeing the project. Tetra Tech of Michigan is the subcontractor which will create and host the database through 2012. ■



SAVE THE DATE February 27, 2008

Tri-State Conservation Farming Expo

A Roadmap For Improving Your Bottom Line
by balancing production with conservation practices
Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum - 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets \$15
Includes breakfast
and morning break
refreshments, lunch
and admission to
ACD Museum

To purchase tickets:

- Call 260-484-5848 ext. 120
- Go online at www.sjrwi.org
- Visit your local Soil & Water Conservation District
- Check with your favorite local agricultural retailer

Registering early is recommended due to limited space.
Continuing education credits are available.

SEE YOU THERE!

EXPO SPEAKERS BIOFUELS

- Christopher Hurt, Purdue Univ.
- Kurt Thelen, Michigan State Univ.

ECONOMICS

- Brent Sohngen, The Ohio State Univ.
- Todd Hesterman, Conservation Action Project

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

- Kevin Elder, Ohio DNR

COVER CROPS

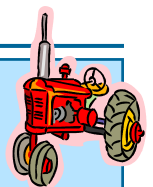
- Barry Fisher, USDA-NRCS, Indiana

PESTICIDES

- Fred Whitford, Purdue Pesticide Programs, Purdue Univ.

RESULTS OF LOCAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS

- John Crumrine, Heidelberg College
- Steve Davis, USDA-NRCS, Ohio
- Source Water Protection Initiative, Agricultural Research Service Scientists



Watersheds and Hydrologic Unit Codes

What's a Watershed?

A watershed is the total area of land that drains into a particular body of water. A wetland has a watershed. So does a stream. Rivers, lakes and seas all have their own watersheds. Smaller watersheds may cover only a few acres, but they are nested within the larger watershed that may measure thousands of square miles!

Watersheds are not bound by county, state or other political boundaries. The St. Joseph River watershed crosses 8 county lines in 3 states. The Lake Erie Basin watershed crosses the US border with Canada.

Land use and storm water runoff from a small watershed determine the quality of surface water in small streams and waterways. These small streams can in turn influence the water quality of larger streams. So the way you use the land in your neighborhood can affect the quality of water many, many miles downstream from your home or work place!

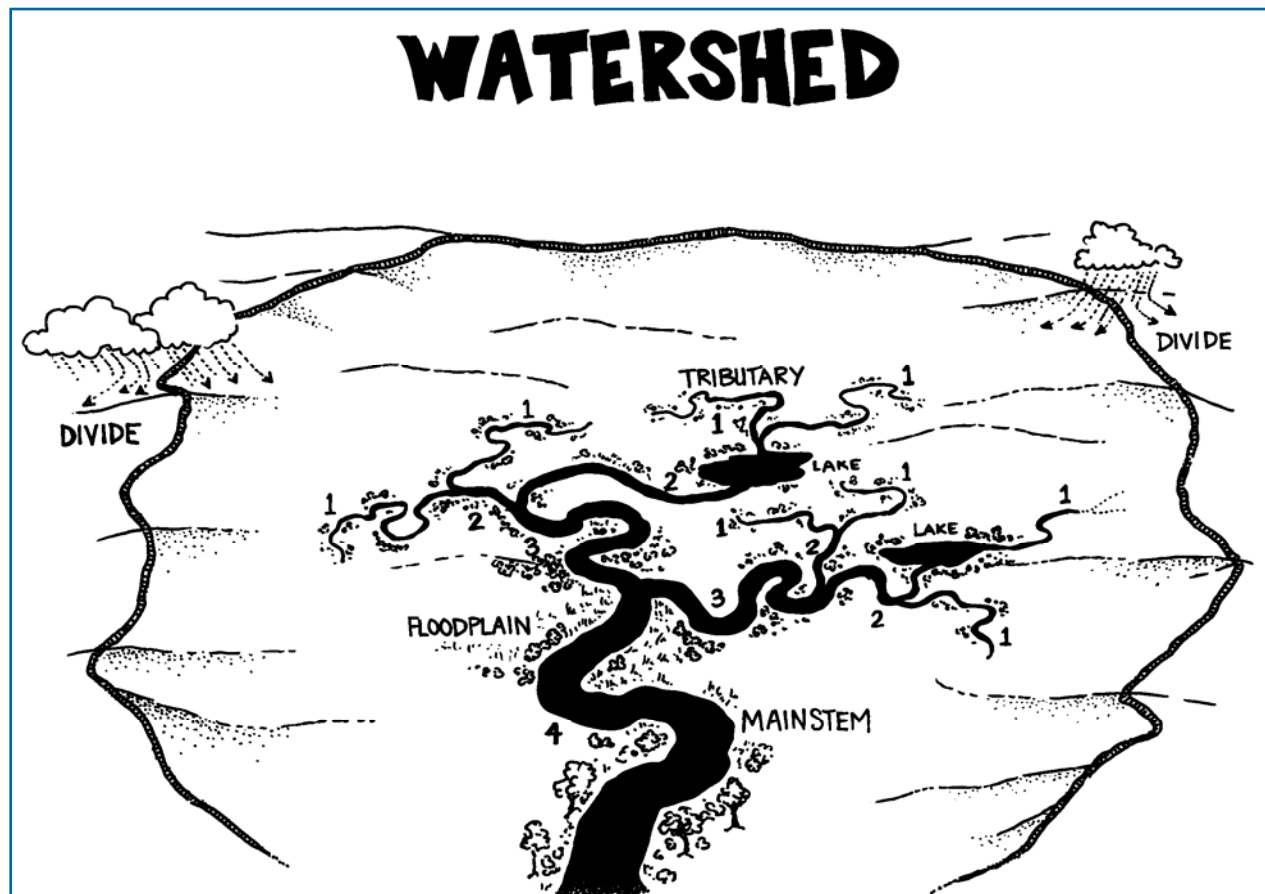
Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC)

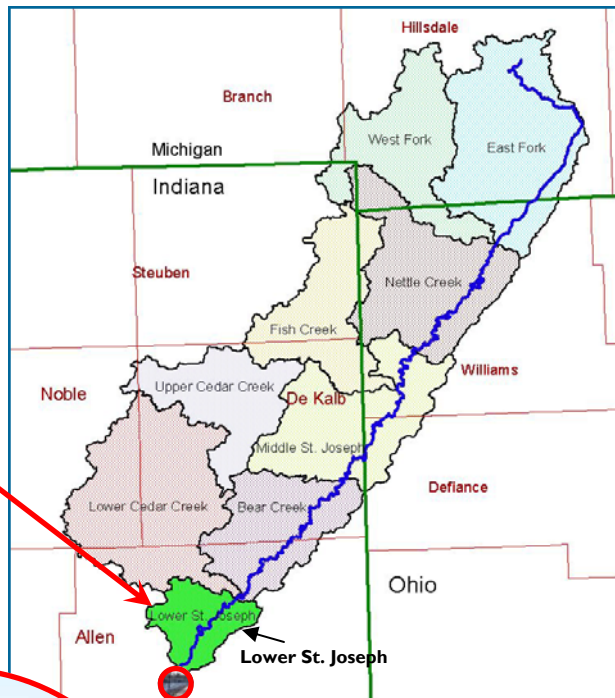
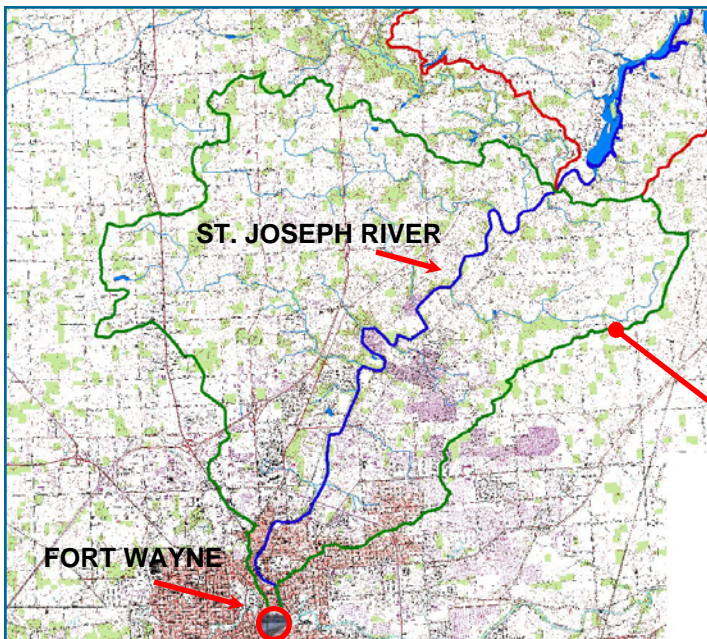
A HUC is a way of identifying all of the drainage basins or watersheds in the United States in a nested arrangement from largest to smallest. (See page 3 for a visual example). Described by the U.S. Geological Survey, hydrologic units represent the geographic boundaries of water as it flows across the landscape.

The St. Joseph River Watershed is identified as an 8-digit HUC number 04100003. The 04 identifies it as being part of the Great Lakes watershed.

The St. Joseph River Watershed is divided into nine sub-watersheds which have 11-digit HUC numbers. For example the Lower St. Joseph's HUC number is 04010003100.

Within the Lower St. Joseph watershed in Allen County, there are four subwatersheds with 14-digit HUC numbers. The Schoppman Drain is one of those, located just north of downtown Fort Wayne. The Schoppman Drain's HUC number is 04100003100040.





2

The Lower St. Joseph sub-watershed (outlined in green) is one of nine 11-DIGIT HUCs in the St. Joseph River Watershed

The nine 11-digit HUCs in the St. Joseph River Watershed

3

1

The Schoppman Drain in north-central Fort Wayne is a 14-digit HUC in the Lower St. Joseph sub-watershed

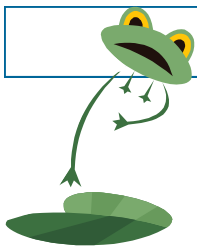


Western Lake Erie Basin Major Watersheds
The St. Joseph River Watershed is one of ten 8-DIGIT HUCs in the Western Lake Erie Basin

5

Great Lakes Watershed in the United States and Canada

4



Lower St. Joseph-Bear Creek Subwatershed

The St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative has completed a watershed management plan for Fort Wayne, northeastern Allen County and southeastern DeKalb County, including Leo-Cedarville, Grabill, Spencerville and St. Joe. The effort was funded by a \$79,000 planning grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to the City of Fort Wayne Water Utilities. The City contracted the work to the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative Partnership.

The Lower St. Joseph-Bear Creek planning effort began in June, 2005. Quarterly public meetings throughout the grant period helped planners to gather information from a broad array of stakeholders. That information was incorporated into the existing conditions and goals sections of the document. The plan will remain in draft form until it has been approved by IDEM, at which time it will be printed and

available for distribution.

The 28-month effort produced some very important data about the Lower St. Joseph and Bear Creek sub-watersheds. Products including land use maps and water quality information were used to develop a ranking system that can assist planners in determining how to better target management techniques and changes in land use that will have the greatest impact on water quality in the St. Joseph River. Additionally, brochures and other educational products that can be targeted to rural and urban/suburban landowners have been created and are available from the Initiative's office.

A campaign of outreach education based on the information and materials produced in the planning effort is scheduled for 2008. The approved management plan opens the way for additional grants from EPA, IDEM and others that can be used for implementation of the plan's goals.

Cedar Creek Subwatershed

Cedar Creek Stakeholder Meeting

Thursday, November 29, 6:00 p.m.

Eckhart Public Library, Auburn, IN
See www.sjrwi.org

Funding Still Available for Cedar Creek Landowners

The Cedar Creek is often contaminated by bacteria, and one of the sources of bacteria is failed septic systems.

75% Cost-share (with a maximum of \$3,000) is available to homeowners in the Cedar Creek watershed in Allen, DeKalb and Noble counties for the replacement of failing septic systems.

This project ends in the fall of 2008, so act now! For more information, please call the Initiative at 260-484-5848 x120, or contact your local Health Department.



What do Rubber Duckies have to do with Nonpoint Source Pollution?



Check out this important public service announcement from IDEM about how you can reduce nonpoint source pollution. <http://www.in.gov/idem/programs/water/video/index.html>

If all the water in the Great Lakes were spread evenly across the continental United States, the ground would be covered with almost 10 feet of water.





6:30 Meet and Greet and Refreshments
 6:50 *A Watershed Mentality*
 7:20 Discussion and Q & A with a panel of your community experts

Please join us for
 A SCREENING OF
A Watershed Mentality

A documentary connecting our land use with water quality in the Maumee Watershed.
 PRODUCED BY PBS-39

Tuesday, December 4, 2007
 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. - DeKalb County Annex Bldg., Auburn, IN

Panel Members

- Todd Sattison, Stormwater Program Coordinator-City of Auburn
- Jeff Conrad, Board Chair-DeKalb County SWCD
- Jane Loomis, Executive Director-St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative
- Chuck Ort, DeKalb County Commissioner
- Clint Knauer, Zoning Administrator-DeKalb County Plan Commission
- Al Diefenbach, Cedar Creek Wildlife Project, Inc.
- Mary Jane Slaton, Program Manager-Fort Wayne City Utilities

Sponsored by: Cedar Creek Watershed Steering Committee in cooperation with the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative, The City of Auburn and The DeKalb County Soil & Water Conservation District

Seasons Greetings

Board of Directors

Mary Jane Slaton, Chair
 City of Fort Wayne, IN

Bob Koerner
 Williams Co., OH farmer

Bill Word, Vice-Chair
 Hillsdale Co. Drainage Commission

Angie O'Neill
 Clear Lake Resident

Jerry Hohla, Treasurer
 Retired A&L Great Lakes Laboratory

Rodney Renkenberger
 Maumee River Basin Commission

Martha Ferguson, Secretary
 Master Gardener, Landowner

Tara Storey
 Fort Wayne-Allen Co. Resident

Tom Crowe
 Allen County SWCD

STAFF
Jane Loomis
 Executive Director

Marvin Dietsch
 Williams Co. Farm Bureau

Kevin Breit
 SWPI Technician

Joe Draper
 The Nature Conservancy

Tina Puitz
 Program Support Assistant

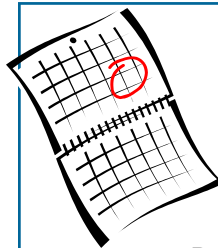
Dan Easterday
 Hillsdale County, MI farmer

Jason Buuck
 Agronomy Technician

Bob Gillespie
 IPFW Biology Department

Board of Directors Meetings

The public is invited to attend the Board of Directors meetings for the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative on the first Monday of Feb., Apr., June, Oct. and Dec. The next meeting will be December 3 at the DeKalb County Annex Building in Auburn, IN beginning at 6:30 p.m. ■



Upcoming Events

St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative

- **November 29 Cedar Creek Stakeholder Meeting**, Eckhart Public Library, Auburn, IN, 6:00 p.m.
- **December 3 Board of Directors Meeting**, DeKalb County Annex Building, Auburn, IN, 6:30 p.m.
- **December 4 A Screening of "A Watershed Mentality"**, DeKalb County Annex Building, Auburn, IN, 6:30 p.m. (see page 5)
- **February 27, 2008 2008 Tri-State Conservation Farming Expo**, Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, Auburn, IN, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. (see front page)

This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreements C9975482-02 and C6975750-04 to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

Take Action
to protect our
precious
water
resources

Support the
St. Joseph River
Watershed
Initiative
TODAY!

SJRWI is a non-profit organization formed by local citizens, agencies, and organizations. Our mission is to improve water quality in the St. Joseph River Watershed by promoting economically and environmentally compatible land uses and practices.

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ made payable to The St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative (SJRWI).

- Please accept my unrestricted gift to be used to support the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative
- Please accept my gift to support _____
- Please accept my gift In Memory In Honor of _____
- I do not wish to have my name publicized.

Please send notification of gift to:

Name _____

Address _____

The St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative is a 501(c)3 organization. Your gift to support the Initiative is tax-deductible.

My Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please make checks payable to
SJRWI and send to:

3718 New Vision Drive - Fort Wayne, IN 46845



The St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative says

Thank you

*to the stewards of the environment, those who work
all year to improve the water quality of the
St. Joseph River and its tributaries.*

*You have given everyone the
"Gift of Clean Water".*



3718 New Vision Dr.
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46845

Ph: 260.484.5848 ext: 3
Fax: 260.484.5080

www.sjrwi.org

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