

# ST. JOSEPH RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE



**Cedar Creek Watershed Management Plan Development  
Steering Committee  
April 26, 2023  
Huntertown Town Hall  
15617 Lima Road, Huntertown, IN 46748**

## Minutes

- In Attendance:
  - Drew Wallace – Auburn MS4 Program Coordinator
  - Jim Shiffler – St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative (SJRWI) Board member
  - Therese Shiffler – SJRWI Board member
  - Ean Degitz – Allen County Surveyor’s Office
  - James Wolff – SJRWI Board Chairman
  - Dennis Taylor – DeKalb Co Cedar Creek Board; Maumee River Basin Commission
  - Gary Timmerman- Noble County Commissioner; Maumee River Basin Commission
  - Doug Fasick – SJRWI Executive Board; City of Fort Wayne Utilities
  - Greg Lake – Allen County SWCD District Coordinator
  - Ben Taylor – ACREs Land Trust
  - Bruce Bell – DeKalb County Drainage Board Chairman
  - Nellie Peffley – DeKalb County SWCD District Director
  - Brian Carroll – Town of Avilla Superintendent
  - Chad Shaw – Allen County SWCD Board Chair; Fort Wayne Parks and Rec
  - Mike Aker – Huntertown Town Council
  - Samantha Theisen – SJRWI Board member; Purdue FW Environmental Resource Center
  - David VanGilder – Friends of Cedar Creek Board Chairman; Attorney
  - Bob Gillespie – SJRWI board advisor; Purdue FW Environmental Resource Center
  - Kyle Quandt – Quandt Consulting Services; SJRWI contractor
  
- Overview of IDEM 205(j) grant funding
  - Clean Water Act 205(j) grant - \$125,624
  - Passed through IN Department of Environmental Management
  - No match requirement

- Three main tasks
  - Watershed Management Plan development
  - Water Quality sampling at twelve sites to capture all eleven subwatersheds
  - Education and outreach
- SC roles and responsibilities
  - Meet Quarterly through Feb 2025
  - Will do some communication and decision making via email
  - Help guide the development of a comprehensive WMP and determine critical areas to focus implementation and education to reduce impact on water quality in the Cedar Creek Basin
- Set regular quarterly SC meetings
  - Will meet at 4:30pm on the fourth Wednesday in Auburn, quarterly
  - Address will be sent out prior to meeting
  - Schedule as follows
    - July 26, 2023
    - October 25, 2023
    - January 24, 2024
    - April 24, 2024
    - July 24, 2024
    - October 23, 2024
    - January 22, 2024
- List stakeholder concerns – Group discussion about concerns in the watershed. SC was asked to identify their top five concerns from the list. The concerns below are listed in order of most important to least (though all important).
  - Excess nitrates/fertilizers – 8
  - Sedimentation - 8
  - Habitat loss – 7
  - Log jams and bank erosion – 7
  - Developer education on erosion control, stormwater retention, post construction maintenance, etc – 7
  - Drinking water for 320,000 individuals – 6
  - Wetland protection – 6
  - Climate change and adjusting stormwater retention and infrastructure to accommodate for increased precipitation – 5
  - Recreation management of the creek (more and safer access, garbage, etc) – 4
  - Invasive species – 3
  - Enforcement of permits – 3
  - Livestock production – 3
  - Tree removal – 2
  - Increased discharge (due to heavier rains and increased impervious surfaces) – 2
  - Decision-maker buy-in to WMP and conservation – 2
  - Agriculture outreach – 1
  - Point sources of pollution – 1

- Wildlife and biodiversity - 1
- Land conversion - housing abundance – 1
- Increase in impervious surfaces - 1

Links:

Water Quality Information System – can see historic and on-going water quality sampling results in the Maumee River Basin including historic sampling sites in the Cedar Creek watershed.

<http://wqis.cityoffortwayne.org>

Cedar Creek Watershed Management Plan – 2005

<https://www.in.gov/idem/nps/resources/watershed-management-plans/cedar-creek-wmp-01-383/>

Next Meeting:

July 26, 2023 at 4:30pm

Auburn, IN

Address: TBD