

ST. JOSEPH RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE



Cedar Creek Watershed Management Plan Development

Steering Committee

October 11, 2023 @ 4:30pm

Huntertown Town Hall

15617 Lima Rd. Huntertown, IN 46748

Meeting Notes

- In Attendance:
 - Nellie Peffley – DeKalb SWCD
 - Dennie Taylor – Cedar Creek Drainage Board
 - Ben Taylor – ACREs Land Trust
 - Mike Aker – Huntertown Council
 - Jim Shiffler – SJRWI Board
 - Theres Shiffler – SJRWI Board
 - Mike Watson – DeKalb County Commission
 - Samnatha Theisen – SJRWI Board
 - Chad Shaw – Allen County SWCD/FW Parks and Rec
 - Drew Wallace – Auburn MS4 Coordinator
 - Bob Gillespie – PFW/SJRWI Advisor
 - Davd VanGilder – Friends of Cedar Creek
 - Doug Fasick – SJRWI Executive Director
 - Kyle Quandt – Contractor/Cedar Creek resident

- Overview of second quarter deliverables/accomplishments
 - WMP development on going
 - Water Quality sampling continuing through October
 - One article submitted and one going out about fall native vegetation planting (2/6)
 - Partnered on Roemke soil health field day with Allen SWCD (1/2)
 - Public mtg held on July 26 (1/2); 2nd mtg will be at the end of the project to present findings
 - Attended EcoFest, Pedal, Paddle, Play, Open Streets in Fort Wayne and Bloomfest in Leo (4/4) – will hold more in 2024 branching out into other counties

- Cedar Creek project page developed on City of Fort Wayne Utilities website. Can be found at utilities.cityoffortwayne.org/cedarcreek
 - Two rain barrel workshops were held in spring at ACREs (2/4); discussion about partnering with DeKalb SWCD and MS4 program coordinator on workshops in Auburn
 - Basic water quality workshop held on July 26 (1/2); will hold second using actual data from this project
 - Hoosier Riverwatch training was scheduled but due to low sign-up postponed it to next year (0/2); will split it into two 4 hr workshops. Will be held at Metea Park.
- Overview of third quarter deliverables and needed assistance from Committee
 - Have the fall native plantings article to go out tomorrow. November will put out article on cover crops. Need help disseminating this information.
 - Kyle requested that the Committee share their media contacts to ensure her media list is up to date and accurate.
 - Kyle will share all information created as part of this project for the Committee to share with their constituents/followers. Please share with Kyle how you were able to disseminate the information so that she can report it to IDEM.
 - All public event outreach has been in Fort Wayne with the exception of Bloomfest in Leo. What events would it make sense for this project to have a presence at in your neck of the watershed?
 - Drew suggested Spring into Nature at Eckhart Park in Auburn. Drew will forward contact information for Parks Dept to get registered. A Cedar Creek clean-up is held in Auburn every August.
 - Kyle requested the Committee share the Cedar Creek webpage with your followers?
 - Any other thoughts on education and outreach?
 - Ben suggested partnering with schools with after school programs to get the Hoosier Riverwatch Training out.
 - Windshield surveys will be conducted in the watershed. This involves driving the watershed to look for sources of water quality impairment such as heavy erosion, gullies and rills in ag fields, construction in a floodway, lack of sediment control at construction sites, livestock in the stream, manure runoff, etc. Kyle will need a second person in the car to ensure a safe and productive survey in late November or early December. The following committee members volunteered to help:
 - David VanGilder – Allen County
 - Ben Taylor – DeKalb County (Nov 29)
 - Mike Aker – Noble County
 - Reach out to Kyle with dates that work with your schedule to do the survey.
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- Areas of concern in the watershed – Mapping activity
 - Kyle asked committee members to mark areas of concern they have noticed in their area that should be looked at during the windshield survey. There were four locations identified in Allen County.
- Kyle mentioned that the next meeting will be important as we will have water quality data and the land use inventory to review and start to determine critical areas for implementation. The next meeting will likely be longer than 1 hour but not longer than 1.5 hours.
- Next Meeting – January 24 @ 4:30pm (Location TBD – Kyle asked the committee to reach out if they have a space they would like to hold the next meeting at)
- Adjourn – 5:30pm