



# Tech Check

A monthly technical bulletin for the St. Joseph River Watershed

April 2004 Activities

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This is the fourteenth issue of the monthly technical bulletin for the St. Joseph River Watershed Management Planning Project.

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## Task 4 Prioritization of Concerns

A subwatershed scoring technique based on the [217 subwatersheds](#) in the basin had been developed earlier in the project. Those 217 subwatersheds were grouped into 42 major drainage units based on tributaries entering the St. Joseph River. GIS shapefiles of these major units were created, and the scores derived for the subwatersheds within those units were averaged to develop a major subwatershed score.

## Task 5 Identify Improvement Opportunities

A Steering Committee meeting was held on April 15. The [Subwatershed Scoring Report](#) was presented to the Committee. The Subwatershed Scoring identifies major subwatersheds of the basin which could be targeted for preservation (based on forest and wetland land cover) or targeted for mitigation (based on land use, impaired water bodies and county-level statistics).

A BMP menu highlighting examples in the watershed, and a compilation of model ordinances are being developed.

## Task 6 Communication

KIESER & ASSOCIATES (K&A) [presented an update](#) on this project at the Annual St. Joseph River Symposium hosted by the St. Joseph River Basin Commission on April 23. The presentation highlighted the [subwatershed scoring](#) for the major subwatershed units. These illustrate potential target areas for preservation efforts and implementation of BMPs.

## Task 8 Watershed Management Plan

A proposal for meeting the U.S. EPA Nine Elements for Watershed Management Plans was developed, and a conference call between the Friends, K&A, MDEQ, IDEM the Great Lakes Commission and USEPA regarding those requirements was held on April 27, 2004. An analysis of model ordinances and watershed protection strategies is being conducted. The aim is to compile BMP examples in the watershed and model ordinances to share across the basin and facilitate data sharing.

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### What's Next?

Research on model ordinances and the creation of a BMP menu.

### What's Needed?

Steering Committee feedback on all aspects of the project and website is welcome and encouraged. To provide feedback, a [discussion board](#) has been developed for the website.