



# Tech Check

A monthly technical bulletin for the St. Joseph River Watershed

December 2003

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

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Please note that the [Friends of the St. Joe River Association](#) is seeking new leadership. With the resignation of the former Executive Director, Sandra Nordmark, Kieser & Associates will be responding to most project questions in the interim. Call us at 269-344-7117.

## Task 2 Drainage Basin Characterization

Spatial data for the watershed was found on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Oil Spill Response Inland Sensitivity Analysis webpages. GIS files of managed areas in the watershed were downloaded. Maps, which can be zoomed in on, were created and added a [Managed Areas page](#) on the project website.

## Task 4 Prioritization of Concerns

A preliminary scoring method using GIS and mapped watershed data was developed in November 2003. The scoring method was updated, and known habitat information was incorporated in December. A landscape analyst GIS extension, which was downloaded from the Canaan Valley Institute, was studied for its applicability in scoring the subwatersheds.

## Supplemental Tasks Interviews

A budget change was approved by the MDEQ in which K&A is now conducting interviews of watershed stakeholders. Use of spatial data, modeling and review of published data has largely been completed. Further progress in the development of the Watershed Management Plan will involve gathering information from watershed stakeholder interviews. A list of interviewees and an interview strategy were developed. One interview was conducted in December, and all others were scheduled for January 2004. The December interview of the St. Joseph County, Indiana Conservation District resulted in the collection of useful information regarding ordinances, concerns and subwatershed groups operating in St. Joseph County.

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### What's Next?

The next Steering Committee meeting will be Thursday, February 26. The results of the interview process will be shared. The [Designated Use Tables](#) will be updated based on the interviews.

### 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. You can provide information there or contact us directly at [nott@kieser-associates.com](mailto:nott@kieser-associates.com).