



Tech Check

A monthly technical bulletin for the St. Joseph River Watershed

May 2004 Activities

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

Task 5 Identify Improvement Opportunities

A [BMP Menu](#) was developed. It lists various sources of pollutants in the watershed and the associated Best Management Practices for addressing those sources. When available, an example of each practice from within the watershed is provided to facilitate basin-wide data sharing. Model examples and ordinances from outside the watershed are also included to aid in watershed protection.

Task 6 Communication

The project website was updated to provide additional watershed information, make it more user friendly and include more appealing graphics. The homepage was fitted with the option to display an [animated watershed image](#) which illustrates the various management boundaries: cities, townships, counties, watersheds, major drainage units and river valley segments. Additional web resources were added to the [geology page](#), and the [subwatershed page](#) was updated to include a map of the major drainage units. Historical data resources were added to the links page. An [alternative links page](#), in which the links are organized by subject (as opposed to source of link), was also added to the website. The [presentation delivered by Mark Kieser](#) at the St. Joe River Association Annual Symposium was uploaded to the project website. The presentation highlights the progress of the project and the recently-conducted subwatershed scoring procedure.

Task 8 Watershed Management Plan

Discussions among the Friends, K&A, MDEQ, IDEM, the Great Lakes Commission and USEPA regarding the USEPA Nine Elements and additional funding to meet those elements occurred. Kieser & Associates presented a Work Plan for meeting the Nine Elements and the IDEM requirements for Watershed Management Plans.

Literature resources for model ordinances were compiled and evaluated for their applicability to the watershed. These will be coordinated with the BMP Menu discussed above.

What's Next?

Compilation of model ordinances and the finalization 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.