



Tech Check

A monthly technical bulletin for the St. Joseph River Watershed

November 2003

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

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

Task 3 Identification of Critical Areas

A Road-Stream Crossing Watershed-wide Workshop was held on November 5, 2003. Presentations were delivered by the St. Joseph County, IN Drain Surveyor; the IN Dept. of Natural Resources, Soil Conservation Division; the Berrien County, MI Road Commissioner; the Rocky River Watershed Coordinator; the MI Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Division; and Kieser & Associates. Proper culvert placement using the "MESBOA" method and the quantification method for erosion from stream banks and road-stream crossings were discussed. The audience was invited to provide feedback on the model form. A final meeting of the Road-Stream Crossing Subcommittee will be scheduled. The final form and methods to share data across the watershed will be discussed.

A [Road-Stream Crossing Webpage](#) was developed on the project website. This page contains presentations and follow-up information from the Workshop.

Task 4 Prioritization of Concerns

A November 3, 2003 Technical Subcommittee meeting focused on prioritization of areas of the watershed to direct preservation and implementation efforts. A method of drawing Zones of Implementation where specific restoration and protection activities are to be directed was discussed. A method of scoring each of the 217 subwatersheds based on land use, proximity to urban areas and county-wide agricultural and population data was agreed upon. A preliminary scoring method using GIS and mapped watershed data has been developed and will be presented to the Technical Subcommittee at the next meeting. A landscape analyst GIS extension was downloaded from the Canaan Valley Institute, and its applicability in scoring subwatersheds is being explored.

Maps illustrating watershed data organized at the subwatershed, county and river valley segment levels were added to the [website's Task 4 page](#).

What's Next?

Maps illustrating the prioritized critical areas will be developed based upon technical tasks accomplished to date and interviews of watershed stakeholders by the Friends. The nonpoint source loading model will be finalized based on MDEQ feedback.

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.