



Tech Check

A monthly technical bulletin for the St. Joseph River Watershed

October 2003

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

Task 3 Identification of Critical Areas

A Road-Stream Crossing Technical Subcommittee meeting was held on October 27, 2003 in preparation for the November 5, 2003 Watershed-wide Workshop. Ten road-stream crossing sites in both the Hog Creek and Rocky River Watersheds were field tested with the erosion quantification form. Annual sediment loading was calculated for each site and regressed against the subjective score for each site produced by the MDEQ-required form. No correlation was found, illustrating the need for a quantification component in the surveys. This information was used for preparing a technical presentation for the Road-Stream Crossing Workshop scheduled for November 9, 2003.

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

Task 4 Prioritization of Concerns

To prioritize potentially critical areas, the Technical Subcommittee had asked the full Steering Committee to score the general watershed concerns based upon importance and ability to implement BMPs to address these concerns. That prioritization revealed [sediments and nutrients to be the top watershed concerns](#). A method to pinpoint areas for preservation and areas to implement BMPs to address these concerns was prepared in advance of a November 3, 2003 Technical Subcommittee meeting. It focused on drawing Zones of Implementation where specific restoration and protection activities are to be directed. Illustrative maps to present to the Subcommittee were developed. These will be used to refine strategies to help prioritize watershed management need for the St. Joseph River Watershed.

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 and posted on the project website.

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.