



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

March 22, 2010

Dear Stakeholder:

SUBJECT: Informational Meeting to Present the Ox Creek Watershed Characterization and Source Assessment Report in Preparation for the Upcoming Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Ox Creek, Located in Berrien County

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE), with support and contractual assistance from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, is developing a TMDL for Ox Creek, as required under Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). The federal CWA requires a TMDL to be written for water bodies not meeting Michigan's water quality standards. Ox Creek is not meeting the "Other Indigenous Aquatic Life and Wildlife" designated use. The purpose of the TMDL is to gather data, identify problems, and develop appropriate goals and reasonable assurance that will work toward restoring the designated uses to the water body. You have been identified as an important stakeholder in the TMDL process.

We would like to present and discuss the Ox Creek Watershed Characterization and Source Assessment Report with you. We will present a summary of the information documented in the report, which includes background information on land use, soils, and hydrology, water quality indicators and potential pollutants, a summary of biological, sediment, and water chemistry data we have collected, and information concerning possible sources of pollution throughout the watershed. The information in this report will be used to develop the TMDL. **We are inviting you to a public meeting on April 21, 2010, at 6:30 p.m., at the Benton Charter Township Hall, 1725 Territorial Road, Benton Harbor, Michigan.** This meeting will provide us an opportunity to hear any questions or concerns you have regarding the information presented in the report.

The meeting and the report will be public noticed beginning March 29, 2010, and the report will be available on our Web site at http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3686_3728---,00.html.

We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you. If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please contact me at 517-335-1058, or at lipseyt@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Tamara Lipsey, Aquatic Biologist
Surface Water Assessment Section
Water Bureau

cc: Mr. Greg Danneffel, Kalamazoo District Supervisor, DNRE
Ms. Brenda Sayles/TMDL File, DNRE