

## **Hickory Creek Watershed Partnership Meeting Summary 1/31/2012, Lincoln Township Hall**

Present: Marcy Colclough, Dick Stauffer, Ron Griifin, Wayne Gleiber, Nancy Carpenter, Tom Frank, Larry Merritt, Rick Ast, Chris Bauer, Lynda Smith, Gary Bluschke, Teri Freehling, Gaye Blind, Tom Norbey, Tim Fenderbosch, Jack Houser

### **1. Resolution of Support**

Marcy reported that suggested changes were made to the resolution of support for the Partnership. Copies were made available for final review. Marcy will also place it on the Hickory Creek website [www.swmpc.org/hickory.asp](http://www.swmpc.org/hickory.asp). The next step will be to get it in front of municipalities, organizations and agencies for signing. There is no commitment of funding, just stating support for the Partnership's mission and efforts. If necessary, Marcy is available for assisting with presentations. Also, there is a presentation about Hickory Creek on the website that can be used by volunteers for background information on Hickory Creek. Also, if the agency does not usually sign resolutions, the name can be changed to Memorandum of Understanding or Partnership Agreement. The following people committed to presenting the resolution:

Dick Stauffer – Lake Charter Township and Lincoln Charter Township

Tim Fenderbosch – St. Joseph Charter Township

Terri Freehling/Gaye Blind – Baroda Township and Village

Larry Merritt – Berrien County Road Commission

Nancy Carpenter – Berrien Conservation District and Farm Bureau

Marcy Colclough – County Commissioners, Drain Commissioner, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, Friends of the St. Joe River Association, Southwest Michigan Water Authority (Steve Tilly)

### **2. Education/Committee Report**

#1 priority – Develop and implement a student volunteer program to monitor/inventory the watershed/creek. Jack Houser has contacted Bridgman, Lakeshore and St. Joseph High Schools. Wayne Gleiber has experience working with the schools and students on monitoring projects.

#2 priority – work with Sarett Nature Center to develop a program where the creek is used as an outdoor laboratory for middle school and elementary age students.

#3 priority – Adult education on general water quality issues and also specifically target riparian owners.

Next education committee meeting – Feb 7 at 6pm at the Lincoln Twp Library

### **3. Inventory/Technical Committee Report**

Gaye Blind has been researching inventory/monitoring options. She recommends using the MiCorps sampling program that includes a habitat assessment and benthics sampling. The program includes training and a database to store the information. <http://www.micorps.net/> Plus there are volunteer monitoring grants available through MICorps. The grant is due Feb 17 and Gaye will follow up on this opportunity.

Wayne Gleiber is with Great Lakes Scientific, a lab that does water testing. Dr. Gleiber has been interested in local waterways and beaches and E. coli over the past several years and has been doing sampling in the area including Hickory Creek. He discussed some key findings in Hickory Creek. He has discovered hot spots of E. coli (bacteria). He has worked with Lakeshore, St. Joseph, Bridgman and River Valley schools on monitoring E. coli, pH, Phosphorus and Nitrogen on Hickory Creek. High E. coli

has been found at John Beers and Marquette Woods and at Washington (a pipe outlets to the creek). At Niles Avenue E. coli has been found in the sediment (top 3 inches) and can survive for 3 weeks in sediment and about 2 weeks in water depending on conditions.

Mr. Glieber's work will be extremely useful in crafting future monitoring efforts.

#### **4. Hickory Creek Interceptor Leak**

Marcy had asked Wightman & Associates to attend the meeting to give an update or summary of a report that was in the Herald Palladium regarding a leak on Jan. 11, 2012. Unfortunately, there were conflicts and could not attend, but asked to be put on the list for future meetings. The group was informed that the contract had blocked a 4" pipe into the interceptor system that served 3 houses near Glenlord Road. The blockage caused a leak and was fixed as soon as it was discovered.

#### **Other:**

The Watershed Partnership has a Facebook Page – Like it if you are on Facebook and invite your friends to Like it! [http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Hickory-Creek-Watershed-Partnership/194653167278942?bookmark\\_t=page](http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Hickory-Creek-Watershed-Partnership/194653167278942?bookmark_t=page)

The Partnership received great press coverage in January from the Herald Palladium, WSJM and ABC57 in South Bend.

**Next Meeting:** To be determined. Gaye will let Marcy know if she needs anything for the grant and if a meeting is necessary before grant deadline.