

HICKORY CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP MEETING SUMMARY

Tuesday, February 15 at 6:30 pm, Lincoln Township Hall, Stevensville

Forming A Hickory Creek Watershed Partnership – Moving Ideas to Action

What?

A group focused on improving, protecting and fostering stewardship of the water quality and habitat in the Hickory Creek Watershed by promoting education, conservation, land stewardship, restoration and preservation. **(note - this can be used as a basis for forming a mission statement)**

Who?

People concerned about the water quality and habitat in the Hickory Creek Watershed (residents, landowners, elected and appointed officials, municipal staff, farmers, business owners, non-profit organizations, drain commissioner, county community development, road commission, county board of commissioners, sportsman groups, MDNRE (MDEQ & MDNR), Conservation District, NRCS, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, utilities, Sewer Authority, schools/educators, contractors, developers, etc)

Where?

Hickory Creek Watershed – Hickory Creek, its tributaries and all the land that drains into Hickory Creek (this includes land in all or portions of the following municipalities: *Baroda Township and Village, Lake Township, Lincoln Township, Oronoko Township, Shoreham Village, Stevensville Village, St. Joseph Township, Weesaw Township, Buchanan Township, Royalton Township*).

How?

Watershed management approach (identify and prioritize problems, involve stakeholders, develop and implement solutions, measure and celebrate success)

What are the major Pollutants/Problems/Threats?

Sedimentation (18)

Lack of public awareness/involvement, lack of communication/collaboration (14)

Polluted runoff (8)

Loss of Wetlands (6)

Increases in flashiness, flooding and eroding banks (6)

Degradation of fishery habitat (4)

Algae in ponds (excess nutrients) (3)

Dump sites/industrial discharges/brownfields (1)

Lack of monitoring (1)

Illicit connections to storm system/dumping in storm drains (1)

Lack of or failing septic systems

Increases in water temperature

Spread of invasive species

Increases in falling trees

**Remember you can find additional information on
Hickory Creek at www.swmpc.org/hickory.asp.**

Committees and Suggested Activities

1-Steering Committee (Members: Patrick Freehling (lead), Gary Bluschke, Bob Kalinowski, Marcy Colclough, Jim Brow)

1. Develop a mission statement
2. Get formal support from municipalities in the watershed (develop draft resolution of support outlining group's mission/purpose)
3. Develop a plan of action for the entire group (oversee and coordinate committees)
4. Facilitate the sharing of ideas for better management of the creek and what can be done to improve it
5. Communicate and share ideas with other watershed groups

2-Inventory/Technical Resource Committee (Members: Mark Florian (co-lead), Larry Merritt, (co-lead), Gaye Blind (co-lead), Chris Bauer, Stephanie Kalinowski)

1. Plan and complete a field and GIS inventory of the creek, its tributaries and the watershed with assistance from the Technical Committee
2. Assist volunteers in performing an inventory of the creek to identify problem areas and then develop solutions
3. Learn about and collaborate with drain commissioner on drain maintenance and flood control activities to ensure solutions do not negatively impact the creek (Learn more about the plans for the recent petition for Williamson Drain to be improved in Lincoln Township.)
4. Discuss specific implementation recommendations from FTCH study performed for Stevensville or other proposed solutions/projects as needed (Johnson Road wetland construction and Hickory Creek Pond improvements (remove berm and install bottom draw outlet))
5. Develop a water quality and/or macroinvertebrates monitoring program (involve youth)
6. Provide assistance with implementing a water quality and/or macroinvertebrates monitoring program or other programs/events/campaigns as needed

3-Education/Community Involvement Committee (Members: Jack Houser (lead), Nancy Carpenter, Teri Freehling, Don Turney, Tim Fenderbosch, Tom Norbey, Ron Griffin, Deb Panozzo)

1. Target Kids - Establish programs or events to educate children about watersheds, habitat, water quality, etc. (coordinate with PR/Community Involvement Committee)
2. Target Homeowners - Promote best practices for home/land/car management to protect water quality
3. Target Farmers - Promote farming conservation practices to protect water quality in partnership with NRCS and Conservation District (buffers, wetlands, conservation tillage, cover crops, etc)
4. Promote Better Development – Review municipal land use policies and regulations that will protect water quality and promote low impact development building techniques to builders, contractors, engineers, etc.
5. Develop a plan to increase interest and awareness of water and habitat quality issues in Hickory Creek (promotion and recruitment) utilizing the media and other outlets
6. Plan and host creek cleanups (involve youth)
7. Implement and recruit volunteers for a water quality and/or macroinvertebrates monitoring program (involve youth)
8. Collaborate with others on development and promotion of a Hickory Creek Linear Trail/park system

4-Grant-Writing Committee (Members: Marcy Colclough, Mark Florian, Jack Houser, Don Turney, Gaye Blind)

1. Search for funding opportunities
2. As needed provide assistance with preparing proposals for funding