

Hickory Creek Partnership Meeting
Stevensville Village Hall
Sept 30, 2010
6:30 – 8:30 pm

Detailed Agenda

- 1. Overview – Marcy Colclough, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission**
 - a. What is a watershed?
 - b. Hickory Creek Watershed Characteristics
 - c. Hickory Creek Water Quality Issues
 - i. Flashiness – Straightening and dredging; loss of wetlands, increases in impervious surfaces
 - ii. Sediment – runoff from agricultural lands, construction sites, etc
 - iii. Nutrients – fertilizers from agricultural fields and lawns
 - d. Why care?
 - i. Decrease in fish populations
 - ii. Increased algae blooms in streams, lakes, Lake Michigan
 - iii. Decreased property values
 - iv. Increased need to dredge St. Joseph River harbor (costs millions of dollars)
 - e. Connection between water quality and land use
 - i.

- 2. Meeting Purpose – Jack Houser, Village of Stevensville**
 - a. Stevensville’s interest and progress in learning about and improving water quality and habitat of Hickory Creek (FTCH study, creek clean-ups, etc)

- 3. Solutions – Marcy Colclough**
 - a. What is watershed management?
 - b. Everyone needs to do their part
 - i. Municipalities – Planning and Zoning, support educational opportunities
 - ii. Agricultural Landowners – Best Management Practices (buffers, wetland restoration, conservation tillage, etc.)
 - iii. Homeowners – everyday activities around the house, participate in stream clean-ups, etc.

- 4. How to Implement Solutions – Jack Houser (discussion with group)**
 - a. Form a partnership
 - b. Role of the partnership
 - c. Next steps
 - d. Next meeting

Hickory Creek Watershed presentation and studies on the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission website at: www.swmpc.org/hickory.asp

Friends of the St. Joe River at www.fotsjr.org