



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



STEVEN E. CHESTER
DIRECTOR

October 16, 2009

Dear Stakeholder:

SUBJECT: "Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Development for Ox Creek, Located in Berrien County" Information Meeting

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), with support and contractual assistance from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, is developing a TMDL for Ox Creek, located in Berrien County, Michigan, 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 discuss the TMDL process and associated activities with you. To accomplish this, we are inviting you to an informational meeting on November 4, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., at the Benton Charter Township Hall, located at 1725 Territorial Road, Benton Harbor, Michigan. We will present information concerning the macroinvertebrate community, sediment, and water quality data that has been collected; explain the TMDL process and next steps we will take; and collect any feedback or information you may have regarding the water quality in the Ox Creek watershed.

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
Lake Michigan Unit
Surface Water Assessment Section
Water Bureau

cc: Mr. Gregg Danneffel, Kalamazoo District Supervisor, MDEQ
Ms. Brenda Sayles/TMDL File, MDEQ