

**Paw Paw River Watershed Project  
Steering Committee Meeting  
February 20, 2008**

**Present:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Geoffrey Cripe	Southwest MI Land Conservancy	Dave Foerster	VB Land Preservation Board
Chris Bauer	MDEQ	Matt Meersman	SWMPC
Beth Clawson	VB MSUE	Marcy Colclough	SWMPC
Julia Kirkwood	MDEQ	Laurence Picq	K&A
Doug Stiles	Almena Twp	Steve Petersen	Hamilton Twp PC
Gary Stock	Landowner		

**Project Updates**

**1. PPRW/BRW Workshops**

Rain Garden – March 11

Healthy Home - April 1

**2. Build-Out Model Tool Results** – after reviewing the table with the committee, there seems to be a mistake in the results. Matt will work with K&A to ensure we have the correct numbers.

**3. PPRW Flashiness Example** – Matt showed the committee data from USGS after the large rain and snow melt event on January 9, 2008. The Paw Paw River showed the least flashiness of all the rivers in southwest Michigan. The forested floodplains along the mainstem and the remaining wetlands throughout the watershed allow the Paw Paw to handle large storm events better than most river systems in lower-Michigan.

**PPRW Watershed Management Plan**

**1. Urban Critical Area Review** – reviewed the final map resulting from the discussion at the last meeting – no additional comments received

**2. Impaired/Threatened Designated Uses** – Reviewed MDEQ 6 designated uses. Discussed Waterbodies at a Glance table which showed about 20 waterbodies in the PPRW and listed their non-attainment/TMDL status, any impaired or threatened uses, known and suspected pollutants affecting that waterbody and the critical area type and priority level.

Discussion about the designated use assessment – it only addresses pollutants, not habitat fragmentation.

MDEQ suggested creating a table of lakes with size, whether on municipal sewer or septic, outlet to Paw Paw River or isolated, whether a biosurvey has been done and if it is considered non-attaining for mercury

**3. Watershed Goals** – 3 categories - protection, restoration and desired uses. The goals and objectives may evolve as the plan is completed, but the basic concepts are there.

**4. Prioritization of Critical Areas** – all areas in the watershed are in a protection area (3 levels – high, higher and highest); all areas in the watershed are also in a restoration area (either agricultural or urban with 3 levels high, higher, highest).

**5. Next Steps** –

Prioritization of pollutants and sources

Develop action plan and load reductions

**Other Comments, Concerns, Ideas, etc.**

**1. NAWCA grant update** - SWMLC and TNC are partners with Ducks Unlimited in a grant application to USFWS for wetland restoration and protection in southwest Michigan. Matt showed the committee a map of the projects in the PPRW that are part of the grant application. If the grant is awarded, the majority of the funding will go to these projects.

**2. Allegan County LID workshop** – Marcy will send information by email

**3. Potawatomi RC&D Conference – Funding the Dream, Finding the Green** – Matt will be attending, expensive conference, but should be good content

**4. Others?** None

**Next Meeting:** March 18 at 9:30 pm