

**Wildcat Creek – Stahl Ditch/Kitty Run Watershed Management Plan
Steering Committee Meeting**

3-4 pm Thursday, September 22, 2005
Kokomo – Howard County Plan Commission Conference Room
120 E. Mulberry St., Suite 114 in Kokomo, Indiana

MEETING SUMMARY

Members Present:

Michelle Arvin, Howard County Health Department
Mike Karickhoff, Kokomo City Council
Greg Lake, Howard County Surveyor's Office
Ryan Smith, Indiana American Water
Carey Stranahan, City of Kokomo Engineering Department

Others Present:

Zach Bishton, CBBEL
Donald Cree, City of Kokomo Engineering Department
Jack Rhoda, Wildcat Creek Watershed Alliance (WCWA)

1. Welcome and Introduction of Steering Committee Members

Each member introduced themselves, a sign in sheet was routed, and each member was asked to sign in and record their mileage for the required in-kind match. Jack Rhoda introduced himself and thanked the Steering Committee for their efforts on the project, and mentioned that he was encouraged that the previous watershed plans that the WCWA had completed were moving into the implementation phase. Jack also mentioned that the amount of Federal funding being made available for the implementation of watershed plans seems to be increasing.

2. Review Agricultural Recommendations and Implementation Projects

Zach distributed a handout from the last meeting which summarized the agricultural projects and recommendations that were discussed at the previous Steering Committee Meeting. Also distributed was a handout summarizing the fundamental concepts of drainage water management. Greg mentioned that he has had some discussion with Purdue Extension and that it seems that the extent to which drainage water management could be implemented in Howard County is limited, but that there may be some localized areas within the watershed that would be suitable for the practice.

3. Discussion on Human and Animal Waste

Septic systems, Combine Sewer Overflows (CSOs), and wildlife and pet waste were identified as the three leading sources of human and animal waste in the Stahl Ditch and Kitty Run Watersheds.

The Committee identified the following as the likely problems associated with septic systems.

- Straight Pipe Discharges - there are many landowners in the watershed with direct connections to local ditches and/or field tiles.
- Soil Suitability - approximately 95% of soils in the County are considered severely limited for septic systems.
- Financial Constraints – households living on fixed incomes often lack the financial capability to properly maintain and/or repair their existing septic systems.
- Awareness – residents are often unaware that their septic systems need to be maintained, and in some cases may not be aware that they utilize a septic system for wastewater treatment.

As part of this discussion the following neighborhoods and subdivision were identified as being potential priority or critical areas.

- Rolling Acres (Near CR 100 North and CR 300 West - Kitty Run)
- Urbandale (Near CR 100 South and CR 300 West – Kitty Run)
- Derbyshire (Near CR 100 North and 600 West – Kitty Run)
- Red Bird (Near CR 50 South and 300 West – Kitty Run)
- Darrough Chapel (Near Goyer Road and SR 22 – Stahl Ditch)

The Committee also identified the following as potential mitigation measures to address problems associated with septic systems.

- Developing and conducting an education and outreach program focusing on septic system operation and maintenance.
- Developing a County-wide Septic Maintenance District
- Researching the possibility of providing secondary wastewater treatment services to areas known to have wide spread septic system inadequacies. Treated wastewater would then be pumped to the Kokomo Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant for additional treatment.
- Identifying funding opportunities in order to provide landowners with financial assistance in replacing and or repairing inadequate septic systems.

The Committee briefly discussed the status of the City's CSO Long Term Control Plan (LTCP). Carey mentioned that the plan has been submitted to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The plan is scheduled to be reviewed in 2007.

It was agreed that pet and wildlife waste were causes of water quality pollution in the watersheds, and that potential recommendations should focus on education and outreach, the implementation of pet stations at local parks, and ways to minimize the impacts of urban geese populations.

4. Set Next Steering Committee Meeting Date

The next Steering Committee meeting was scheduled for November 10, 2005 at 3:00 p.m.

5. Adjourn