

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

3-4 pm Thursday, January 26, 2006
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
Glen Boise, WCWA and Kokomo-Howard County Plan Commission
Mike Karickhoff, Kokomo City Council
Don Cree, City of Kokomo Engineering Department

Others Present:

Sheila McKinley, Christopher Burke Engineering, Ltd

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.

2. Discuss Existing Land Uses and Urban Issues of Concern

Sheila referenced some recent satellite-based land use data and map that shows 56.3% of the Kitty Run and Stahl Ditch watersheds is in row crop production; 17.0% residential; 8.4% pasture; 7.1% commercial, industrial, or transportation corridors; 5.4% parks and open space; and 2.6% open water and wetlands. Of interest to this discussion is the 25-30% that is classified as urban land uses. Don and Glen identified areas of these watersheds that have been platted, currently under construction, or recently developed.

The Stream Reach Characterization, completed in January 2003, concluded that the in-stream habitat of the urban stretches of Wildcat Creek were marginal to poor quality. These conditions were attributed to limited vegetative cover, increased sediment deposition, altered stream channels, unstable streambanks, and narrow riparian buffers. Several Committee members added that there are 49 Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) in the City of Kokomo that contribute to poor water quality in the Wildcat Creek and tributaries. Michelle noted that residents outside of sewer areas, living in the floodplain, are dependent on septic systems which also could be contributing to poor water quality.

3. Discuss Potential Land Use Planning Management Strategies

The committee reviewed the future land use map from the recently adopted Howard County Comprehensive Plan. This map shows conservation corridors along Wildcat Creek, Kokomo Creek, and Little Wildcat Creek. There are only a few areas of high density residential land use and they are shown immediately adjacent to the City of Kokomo. Substantial blocks of medium density residential are shown on the west and

south side of Kokomo as well as in Greentown and Russiaville. Long, narrow swaths of low density residential are projected east and west of Kokomo along Wildcat Creek. Heavy and light industrial development will be concentrated on the north side of Kokomo. Glen added that an objective of the Comprehensive Plan is to protect and preserve natural drainage areas in the 100-year floodplain through no net loss of floodplain storage capacity. Glen noted that the City of Kokomo participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). This is a volunteer program that awards communities that go above and beyond the minimum NFIP requirements with lower flood insurance premiums.

In addition to the future land use map in the Comprehensive Plan, Glen shared an illustrative map of temporary rezoning and subdivision moratorium. This moratorium affects the Stahl Ditch watershed and is in effect until the realignment of US Hwy 31 is resolved.

Mike added that City has started activities to implement recommendations in the Long Term Control Plan to tackle the CSO problem and improve water quality.

4. Discuss Potential Stormwater Management Strategies

Don elaborated on the City's Illicit Discharge, Detection, and Elimination (IDDE), Construction, and Post-Construction programs required by Phase II. The Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Ordinance is being reviewed for adoption which will greatly benefit the City's enforcement efforts. Greg Lake was unable to attend the meeting but according to Don, the County's program is similar to the City's. Sheila added that CBBEL staff will be meeting with the City and County MS4 Coordinator/Operators to better understand their programs and how they will improve water quality in the Stahl Ditch-Kitty Run watersheds.

5. Next Steering Committee Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2006 at 3:00pm in the Kokomo-Howard County Plan Commission Conference Room. Sheila noted that during February and March, CBBEL will be meeting with the various department, agencies, and groups with knowledge about local water quality conditions. These include: Health Department, NRCS/SWCD, Kokomo WWTP, Drainage Board, MS4 Stormwater Coordinators, IDEM TMDL Team, and Wildcat Guardians.

6. Adjourn