

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **New Watershed Management Plan being Prepared for Kokomo and Howard County**

A new Watershed Management Plan is being developed for the Stahl Ditch and Kitty Run watersheds in Kokomo and Howard County. There are numerous water quality problems in these watersheds not uncommon to many other urban-rural fringe watersheds throughout the State. The entire reach of Wildcat Creek as it flows through these watersheds is listed on IDEM's 2002 303(d) impaired streams list for PCB, Ammonia, dissolved oxygen, cyanide, lead, and nitrates.

The Wildcat Creek Watershed Alliance, Inc. (WCWA) was awarded a Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program grant to study the water quality in these watersheds. Planning for this 30-month project began in November 2004 and will wrap up with the development of a watershed management plan in May 2007. The WCWA retained the professional services of Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL) from Indianapolis to facilitate the planning process and prepare the watershed management plan.

A Steering Committee of local water quality resource experts and interested citizens has been formed and will meet on a bi-monthly basis to review and evaluate existing chemical, biological, and physical water quality data. Existing water quality data will be correlated with urban, suburban, and rural land uses throughout these watersheds. During the planning process, 2 workshops will be held with watershed stakeholders to develop water quality goals, management measures, and an action plan to address water quality issues in the Stahl Ditch and Kitty Run watersheds. At the end of this planning process 2 public meetings will be held to present the draft plan and gather comments from the general public.

For additional information, please contact Sheila McKinley from CBBEL at 317-266-8000 or [smckinley@cbbel-in.com](mailto:smckinley@cbbel-in.com).

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