

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Development of Watershed Management Plan will study the impact of land use on local water quality

The Steering Committee for the Wildcat Creek Stahl Ditch-Kitty Run Watersheds has begun to review and evaluate existing chemical, biological, and physical water quality data. The Steering Committee includes local water quality resource experts and interested citizens including: Michelle Arvin from the Howard County Health Department, Glen Boise from the Kokomo-Howard County Plan Commission, Sarah Brichford from the Wildcat Guardians, Sarah Garrison from the Howard County Soil & Water Conservation District, Mike Karickhoff from the Kokomo City Council, Greg Lake from the Howard County Surveyors Office, Carey Stranahan from Kokomo City Engineering Department, and Ryan Smith from Indiana American Water. The planning effort is facilitated by Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. from Indianapolis.

The Steering Committee meets on a bi-monthly basis and will be discussing the following land use topics:

- § Agriculture – Crop Production & Livestock Production
- § Urban – Human & Animal Waste (failing septic systems, wildlife and domestic pets)
- § Urban – Development Practices (land use planning, stormwater runoff, erosion and sediment control, impervious areas, riparian corridors, dams and logjams)
- § Urban – Household & Yard Waste (toxic materials, lawn and garden chemicals)

More details regarding the details of bi-monthly Steering Committee meetings can be found at the Wildcat Creek Watershed Alliance, Inc. webpage www.wildcatalliance.org

The Wildcat Creek Watershed Alliance, Inc. (WCWA) was awarded a Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program grant to study the water quality in the Wildcat Creek Stahl Ditch – Kitty Run watersheds in Kokomo and Howard County. 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.

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.

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