

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communications Center: Council Update

Watershed Partners,

The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council (KRWC) is working to connect Kalamazoo River Watershed Stakeholder efforts with the Great Lakes Resource Management Community.

A) The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council will be a panelist at the upcoming workshop: "Getting the Message Out on Great Lakes Restoration: Communicating with Local Communities on Restoring Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern".

Friday, November 9, 2007

Michillinda Lodge

Whitehall, Michigan (15 miles north of Muskegon)

An updated agenda and registration form are available online at <http://glc.org/spac/workshop-fall07.html>

Please consider attending this one day workshop. The website has details and registration information.

B) We also recently presented a talk at the State of Lake Michigan Conference in Traverse City on October 3, 2007.

Abstract: "A Moment of Synergy for People, Plans, and Programs in the Kalamazoo River Watershed". In 1998, the Kalamazoo River Watershed Public Advisory Council updated an early watershed management plan called the Remedial Action Plan and identified PCBs, polluted runoff, pathogens, and land use planning as priorities to be addressed. PCB cleanup has proceeded under a Superfund process. Many watershed groups have planned and implemented subwatershed projects covering nonpoint sources of pollution, stormwater, phosphorus reduction, wellhead protection, groundwater protection, drinking water protection, habitat recovery, recreation, dam removal, and rural and agricultural management practices. Over the years, stakeholders called for communication and coordination at the watershed scale. As grant funding and agency staff availability continue to be stretched thin across the state and the region, watershed scale organization becomes more challenging, and even more important. Through several projects, the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council is beginning to tie it all together. Our existing organization agreed to serve as the Watershed "umbrella organization" and we are formalizing a "watershed partnership agreement". We are: 1) filling in the planning gaps that remain in our watershed; 2) inviting active watershed partners to share information and learn from local efforts; 3) utilizing new technologies to encourage participation and ease communication across the watershed; and, 4) relating it all to the valuable services the ecosystem provides. Our target audiences are wide, from the individual land owner, to Great Lakes organizations and management agencies. We hope our efforts will recognize and strengthen the many related efforts already underway and ultimately benefit the watershed, Lake Michigan, and the rest of the Great Lakes Basin.

Simplified electronic copies of the presentation are available on request.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 300 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message. Contact me to be removed from this e-mail distribution list which has been constructed from several lists previously maintained by KRWC and other watershed partners (e.g., TMDL lists).

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communications Center: Phosphorus TMDL meeting

Watershed Partners,

The Lake Allegan/Kalamazoo River Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Committee will meet November 8th, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant located at 1415 N. Harrison St. A meeting agenda is attached.

If you have never attended a meeting of this or related TMDL working groups, contact me and I can answer your questions or direct you to the appropriate Committee leader.

Phosphorus TMDL information is available at <http://www.kalamazooriver.net/tmdl/overview.htm>

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 300 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Watershed Partners,

The Implementation Committee of the Lake Allegan/Kalamazoo River Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program is developing a strategic plan. The plan will help focus Committee efforts to achieve phosphorus load reductions in the watershed during the next 3 years.

Three documents are attached that detail the Strategic Planning Subcommittee's efforts to define critical Issues/Solutions. The documents cover point source, nonpoint source, and combined Issues/Solutions. The Committee would like to encourage TMDL participants and stakeholders to review the documents and comment by November 30. Send comments to krwc@kalamazooriver.org.

The tables prioritize long term actions (>3 years) and short term actions (<3 years) and categorize the phosphorus loading reduction potential of suggested Solutions (1 equals highest; 3 equals lowest).

For more information about the phosphorus reduction effort see <http://www.kalamazooriver.net/tmdl/overview.htm>.

Best Regards,
Jeff

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Kalamazoo River Watershed Communications Center: Meeting Announcement

Watershed Partners,

The Kalamazoo River Protection Association will sponsor a public meeting to update the local communities as to progress being made under the "Superfund Act". The question of delisting the lower stretch of the river from the National Priorities List under Superfund in order to obtain possible Great Lakes Legacy Act grant funds that might be used to dredge portions of Lake Kalamazoo will be discussed.

Press announcement:

http://www.hollandsentinel.com/stories/010608/local_20080106018.shtml

The meeting will be held January 8th in the library room of Saugatuck High School located at 401 Elizabeth starting at 7:00 pm.

Contact Dayle Harrison at KRPA at 269-686-7822, 616-218-4444, or email at krpa@accn.org for more details.

For more information see the following web links:

"Harbor Master Plan" available on this website (note, very large download):
<http://www.saugatuckcity.com/web-pages/planning-commission.htm>

Recent Press:

http://www.hollandsentinel.com/stories/122607/local_20071226001.shtml

http://www.hollandsentinel.com/stories/122107/local_20071221015.shtml

Best Regards,
Jeff

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Kalamazoo River Watershed Communications Center: Phosphorus Reduction

Watershed Partners,

Allegan County is considering an ordinance to ban phosphorus in lawn fertilizer. The link below leads to a recent news story about the status of this consideration.

http://www.hollandsentinel.com/stories/122807/local_20071228015.shtml

A version of the draft ordinance is available at the following link:

http://www.allegancounty.org/MtgMinutes/Board/2007BOC/09-27-07/D4%20-%2007-218_OrdinanceBanPhosphorus.pdf (note this link may be split)

Over the years, phosphorus reduction has been a primary focus of active Kalamazoo River watershed and subwatershed groups, primarily due to the ongoing cooperative phosphorus reduction effort associated with the Kalamazoo River Phosphorus TMDL program.

The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council recently provided a support letter to encourage Allegan County leaders to do what they can to reduce phosphorus. Watershed efforts have demonstrated that residential lawns overwhelmingly contain adequate phosphorus and do not require phosphorus fertilizer for routine upkeep.

Many local communities in the Great Lakes are using similar ordinances to protect local water quality through phosphorus runoff prevention, such as the City of Battle Creek, Ottawa County, Muskegon County, Bay County and others. These efforts also affect Great Lakes Water Quality.

Bay County Example:

<http://www.mlive.com/news/bctimes/index.ssf?/base/news-10/1195057009265380.xml&coll=4> (note this link may be split)

Best Regards,
Jeff

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Kalamazoo River Watershed Communications Center: Phosphorus Reduction

Watershed Partners,

Here is a link to an article released today updating us on the status of an Allegan County phosphorus ordinance now under consideration.

<http://www.mlive.com/news/grpress/index.ssf?/base/news-2/1199717104148890.xml&coll=6>

Best Regards,
Jeff

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Kalamazoo River Watershed Communications Center: Phosphorus Reduction

Watershed Partners,

Many of you are tracking progress on an Allegan County effort to reduce phosphorus in lawn fertilizer. I have heard a good deal of "chatter" and new interest in these efforts in recent weeks. The following link leads to an online news article that will update you on the status, concerns, and next steps in Allegan County.

<http://www.mlive.com/news/kzgazette/index.ssf?/base/news-27/1200066613220950.xml&coll=7>

The Watershed Council is pleased to help spread the news that leaders in Allegan County are committed to reducing excess phosphorus in runoff from this "nonpoint" source. This action should complement numerous watershed efforts to improve and protect water quality in local waterways, the Kalamazoo River, and Lake Michigan.

Similar strategies have been implemented in several other Michigan units of government including Ottawa, Muskegon, and Bay Counties, and the City of Battle Creek. Some are even considering a statewide effort. The following article summarizes the status in Macomb County and mentions a possible statewide effort.

http://www.macombdaily.com/stories/011108/loc_n2001.shtml

Further Macomb County details are available here.

http://www.co.bay.mi.us/bay/home.nsf/Public/Phosphorus_Ban.htm

Finally, the state of Minnesota implemented a similar strategy and has included useful resources at the following website.

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/waterprotection/phoslaw.htm>

Best Regards,
Jeff

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Kalamazoo River Watershed Communications Center: Statewide Phosphorus Reduction
Watershed Partners,

There appears to be movement on efforts to get excess phosphorus out of waters statewide. The following article is important and timely, "PHOSPHORUS DEBATE GOES TO LANSING":

<http://www.mlive.com/news/bctimes/index.ssf?/base/news-11/120032732760850.xml&coll=4>

The Kalamazoo River Watershed Community has worked for more than ten years to figure out how to reduce excess phosphorus inputs to the Kalamazoo River and tributaries from known, manageable sources.

I see an opportunity here for the Kalamazoo River Watershed Community to speak. Thousands of stakeholders have been educated over the years through public events, canoe events, soil testing, and other efforts. People and communities are connecting with their water resources.

The Watershed Council will continue to track these developments. We will look for opportunities to participate in statewide efforts and lend our voice. We will encourage Watershed Partners to participate. And we will continue to encourage local leaders to push ahead on local phosphorus reduction efforts.

Best Regards,
Jeff

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Meeting Reminder: February 14, Phosphorus TMDL Implementation Committee

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

The Lake Allegan/Kalamazoo River Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Committee will meet February 14 at 9:00 a.m. at the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant located at 1415 N. Harrison St. A meeting agenda will be provided by e-mail soon. This meeting will be particularly important because the Strategy Committee will present a proposed Strategic Plan to the group.

If you interested, but have never attended a meeting of this or related TMDL working groups, contact me and I can answer your questions or direct you to the appropriate Committee leader.

Phosphorus TMDL information is available at
<http://www.kalamazooriver.net/tmdl/overview.htm>

The TMDL Implementation Committee also has agreed to serve as a Steering Committee for a Kalamazoo River watershed-wide nonpoint source pollution planning project led by the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council. To review a recent presentation on how the Council is stitching together numerous people, plans, and programs under the “watershed umbrella”, see the presentation “A Moment of Synergy for People, Plans, and Programs, in the Kalamazoo River Watershed” at the following link:
<http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/SOLM2007/presentations/aocs.html>.

Best Regards,
Jeff

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Agenda Update: March 4 Low Impact Development Seminar, Allegan

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communications Center

Watershed Partners,

An updated agenda is attached for this local seminar where you can learn more about Low Impact Development, and I've updated related resource links further down the page. Go Green! - Jeff.

-“The Allegan Conservation District and the Gun River Watershed Steering Committee would like to invite you to the upcoming Low Impact Development Seminar on March 4th, 2008 from 6:00-8:30pm at the Gun Lake Tribe Community Center, Shelbyville, MI 49344.

Low Impact Development (LID) is an ecologically friendly approach to site development and stormwater management that aims to lessen impacts to land, water and air. This approach emphasizes the integration of site design and planning techniques that conserve natural systems and hydrologic functions on a site. The Gun River Watershed Project in partnership with Fishbeck Thompson Carr and Huber Consultants and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will be offering a Low Impact Development Seminar for Planning Commissioners, Realtors, Builders and interested citizens on March 4th, 2008.

This seminar will bring you up to speed on what LID concepts offer, such as reduced development costs, increased marketability and the protection of water quality and wildlife habitat. At the seminar hear from Bazanni and Associates who have implemented LID practices in their developments, case studies from Macintyre Builders on what has worked and not worked in the field and of course how to implement these LID practices”-

Updated resource list from the Watershed Council:

Local/Regional/Watershed:

1) A recent LID workshop was held by the City of Battle Creek
<http://www.bcwater.org/newsandevents/2007.asp>

2) LID resources developed by the Four Township Water Resources Council
<http://www.kbs.msu.edu/ftwrc/publications.htm>

State:

1) State press release on LID
<http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3308-133973--,00.html>

2) Developing effort for a statewide LID manual
<http://semcog.org/LowImpactDevelopment.aspx>

Federal/Great Lakes/National:

1) Waterways at Risk: How Low-Impact Development Can Reduce Runoff Pollution in Michigan (October 2005)
http://www.americanrivers.org/site/PageServer?pagename=AR7_Publications

2) Rooftops to Rivers - Green Strategies for Controlling Stormwater and Combined Sewer Overflows

<http://www.nrdc.org/water/pollution/rooftops/contents.asp>

3) EPA, National and Environmental Groups Launch "Green Infrastructure" Plan to Benefit Communities and the Environment

www.epa.gov/npdes/greeninfrastructure/general

4) New LID Center Website Design

<http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org>

5) EPA Reports on Clean Water Infrastructure Needs - 2004 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey

<http://www.epa.gov/cwns/>

6) Using Rainwater to Grow Livable Communities

www.werf.org/livablecommunities

7) Reducing Stormwater Costs through LID Strategies and Practices

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/lid/costs07/>

8) District of Columbia MS4 Green Infrastructure Enhancement

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/npdes/dcms4.htm>

9) New York City to Clean Up Waterways by Greening Roadways and Roofs -- City Council Adopts New Measure for Sustainable Stormwater Management Plan

<http://www.nrdc.org/media/2008/080130.asp>

Quantifying LID (warning, these are direct links to large reports). Work is underway at many levels to best estimate and monitor LID practice performance and to engineer LID practices appropriately, here are two recent resources. Local and state resources are also under construction:

1) http://www.mmsd.com/stormwaterweb/PDFs/Appendix_L.pdf

2) <http://www.epa.gov/nrmrl/pubs/600r06033/epa600r06033toc.pdf>

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note 1: Some web links above may be split in half due to settings in your e-mail software. In that case you may have to cut and paste both parts of the link into your web browser to reach the website.

Note 2: 310 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Note 3: If you receive this message forwarded by someone else, contact krwc@kalamazooriver.org to be added to the distribution list and future electronic watershed communications.

Meeting Reminder and Materials: February 14, Phosphorus TMDL Implementation Committee

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

The Lake Allegan/Kalamazoo River Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Committee will meet February 14 at 9:00 a.m. at the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant located at 1415 N. Harrison St. **DRAFT MEETING MATERIALS ARE ATTACHED.** This meeting is particularly important because leaders will review the revised Strategic Planning Tables and plan the next steps for TMDL subcommittees.

Implementation Committee Members: Please review the attached Strategic Planning Tables prior to the meeting. We anticipate that the vast majority of the meeting will be spent on this topic.

If you interested, but have never attended a meeting of this group of stakeholders, contact me and I can answer your questions or direct you to the appropriate Committee leader. This group has been working cooperatively since the late 1990s to reduce phosphorus inputs from point and nonpoint sources to the Kalamazoo River and tributaries.

Best Regards,
Jeff

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Phosphorus Reduction in Allegan County

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Allegan County has moved to reduce phosphorus inputs to local waterways, the Kalamazoo River, and Lake Michigan by passing a lawn fertilizer phosphorus reduction ordinance.

http://blog.mlive.com/grpress/2008/02/phosphorus_fertilizer_ban_carr.html

The following groups expressed support for the effort during a public hearing yesterday afternoon: Allegan County Conservation District, Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, Great Lakes Alliance, and Lake Allegan/Kalamazoo River TMDL Implementation Committee (letter read aloud).

Allegan County joins the City of Battle Creek in taking the lead in the Kalamazoo River Watershed to reduce excess phosphorus inputs to our shared waterways.

The Watershed Council is gathering information on this topic to share with other watershed partners. Contact me for more information and I can connect you with other interested parties.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Events List: Kalamazoo River Watershed Communications Center

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Here is a condensed list of five upcoming events you might be interested in.

- A] Kalamazoo Area “Green Drinks” – February 26
- B] Battle Creek Area “Green Drinks” – February 28
- C] Portage Area - Sustainable Exterior Scapes for a Green Environment – March 20
- D] Unwanted Medicine Disposal: Doing it the Right Way – April 2
- E] Southwest Michigan Sustainable Business Forum – April 17

A] Kalamazoo Area “Green Drinks”

Date: February 26, 2008

Time: 5:30 PM until 7:ish (or later if you're having a great conversation)

Location: Shakespeare's Pub (northwest corner of the pub - for those directionally challenged, we'll have a sign) For directions to Shakespeare's go to:
www.shakespearespub.com

Topic: Manitou Arbor Ecovillage (MAEV) - Vern Jorgensen will be providing an overview of this local project.

The MAEV is an eco-spiritual community dedicated to caring for people and the Earth by living and demonstrating a sustainable culture appropriate to our bioregion. This community is in the process of formation. To learn more about MAEV
<http://www.manitouarbor.org/>

Also, we will be displaying the Kalamazoo Green Drinks Logo submittals so far. The deadline for final entries is March 21, 2008. We will choose our logo at the March gathering. Cheers!!

Audrey A. Wierenga
Field Representative
Pollution Prevention Section
Environmental Science & Services Division
MDEQ, Kalamazoo District Office
269-567-3509
wierenga@michigan.gov

B] Battle Creek Area “Green Drinks”

Date: 2/28/08

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., or stay as long as you like

Location:

Arcadia Brewery
103 West Michigan Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49017

The Battle Creek Clean Water Partners invite those with an interest in environmental issues to attend this month's Green Drink gathering. A brief presentation will be given by Michelle Reen, Assistant to the Battle Creek City Manager, about the City Hall Energy Efficiency Project.

Green Drinks is an informal, environmental-sustainability-focused monthly gathering. Green Drinks is an organic, self-organizing network which asks for no dues, volunteers, committee work, fund raisers or board obligations. Just come to talk about ideas or to learn about local environmental initiatives. Visit www.greendrinks.org for more information. Green Drinks gatherings are the fourth Thursday of the month and are coordinated by the Battle Creek Clean Water Partners.

Dates and topics for upcoming gatherings are:

March 27, 2008—Southwest Michigan Sustainable Business Partners
April 24, 2008—Solar and Wind Power by Bauer Power

For more information, contact:

Christine Kosmowski
Environmental Programs Coordinator
City of Battle Creek
T: 269-966-0712 / F: 269-966-3482
E: CMKosmowski@ci.battle-creek.mi.us
WQ : www.bcwater.org

CJ The Portage Public Library proudly presents Sustainable Exterior Scapes for a Green Environment

Join us for a panel discussion on using affordable, sustainable, attractive resources in residential yards and gardens including planting native plants, roof gardens, rain gardens and building to the land. Panelists will include a landscape designer, an architect, a specialist in rain gardens and founders of the Wild Ones. Area conservation organizations and residential retailers will host informational tables from 6:00 -6:30.

Thursday, March 20
6:00 -8:30 pm

-Introductions Denise Cleg

-Welcome Portage Mayor Peter Strazdas

-Rain gardens Linda Whitlock Instructor Master Gardner, Michigan State Extension

-Residential landscape gardens what's available, most affordable, easiest to maintain, and will fit your space and budget Bob Romence, Owner of Romence Gardens

-Landscape designer: how to fit the feel, aesthetic and function you are striving for in an outdoor space. Timothy Britain, Registered Landscape Architect, owner of Site Design Solutions, LLC.

-Build to the Land orientation of a home, a garden, outdoor buildings and spaces, cost concerns, decisions to make before breaking ground or renovating, examples of porous paving Kris Nelson a home builder and Project Architect with Schley Architects

-Native gardens: "Native Plants: Landscaping in the Time of Extinction of Species" Tom & Nancy Small, co-founders of the Kalamazoo Area Chapter of Wild Ones, Native Plants, Natural Landscapes

Tables:

Master Gardner program

Green drinks meetings/Southwest Michigan Sustainable Business Forum Jim

Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy Mike

Kalamazoo Conservation District Kathy Buckham 327-1258

Sister Virginia Jones Manitou Arbor Ecovillage and Transformation Spirituality Center

Romence Gardens

Renewable Energy, Mark Bauer of Bauer Power

Audubon Society of Kalamazoo

Wild Ones

DJ Unwanted Medicine Disposal: Doing it the Right Way

A Workshop for communities, pharmacies, medical offices and medical facilities.

April 2, 2008

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Cleary University, Johnson Center

Howell, MI

Due to advances in medicine, more people are using medicines for maintaining health and vitality. For many reasons, medicines are not always entirely consumed. Disposing of unwanted medicines is becoming an environmental, public safety and criminal concern with the traditional flushing disposal practice no longer deemed acceptable by public health and natural resource experts. Many medicines pass through wastewater treatment facilities and septic systems, ending up in streams, lakes and groundwater throughout the

country. In addition, prescription medicines are a major source of poisoning among children and contribute to teen drug abuse.

This workshop will provide information and tools for community pharmaceutical collection programs, as well as pharmacies and medical facilities to safely manage unwanted medicines. Presenters will focus on alternatives to flushing, including best practices from solid waste facilities in Michigan, and surrounding states/provinces.

Register online by March 27 at www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops, click on "Upcoming DEQ Workshops". Registration Fee: \$75, includes continental breakfast, lunch, and workshop materials. Contact: Lucy Doroshko, Environmental Science and Services Division, 517-373-1322, or Email at doroshkl@michigan.gov for information about CE credits for pharmacists and questions about this workshop. Registration Information: Environmental Assistance Center, 800-662-9278, or Email at deq-ead-env-assist@michigan.gov.

E] Southwest Michigan Sustainable Business Forum

Quarterly SWMSBF Meeting
Thursday, April 17, 2008 at 12:00 PM
Quarterly meeting- Topic TBA

Check this website for updates and contact information:
<http://www.naturecenter.org/Home/SouthwestMichiganSustainableBusinessForum/tabid/133/Default.aspx>

Best Regards,
Jeff

KRWC goes to Washington – Watershed Communications Center

Watershed Partners,

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, February 26, 2008

The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council Goes to Washington:
Kalamazoo Resident Encourages Decision Makers to Protect the Great Lakes

Kalamazoo, MI – The Great Lakes are important to local citizen, Jeff Spoelstra. In fact, Michigan's beautiful blue gems are so important that it's taking Spoelstra to Washington, D.C. During his trip, he will educate and encourage Michigan's congressional decision makers to implement programs and policies to protect and restore the Great Lakes for our future generations. Mr. Spoelstra will carry with him the needs identified and lessons learned by hundreds of partnering watershed stakeholders working to clean up old pollution problems and prevent new ones.

The Great Lakes hold one-fifth of the world's freshwater supply and currently provide drinking water to over 42 million people. Yet each day, the Lakes are damaged economically and ecologically by untreated sewage, toxic pollution, and invasive species. Every day we wait, these problems get worse and the solutions get more costly. Unless we act now, future generations may never experience our lakes and rivers as we know them today.

Mr. Spoelstra is the Coordinator for the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, which will join the Healing Our Waters- Great Lakes Coalition (HOW) and other Great Lakes organizations in Washington, D.C. this week for Great Lakes Day. The Coalition designates one day a year at the U.S. Capitol as Great Lakes Day to discuss the importance of the Great Lakes, how they are currently being threatened, and the manageable solutions that need to be implemented to help restore our Great Lakes to their grandeur. Over 100 groups in the region are part of the HOW coalition and bring their members to the Capitol. Some of these groups include the Sierra Club, Clinton River Watershed Council, Ducks Unlimited, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, and National Wildlife Federation.

WHAT: The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council Goes to Washington, D.C. to Educate Great Lakes Public Officials

WHO: Jeff Spoelstra, Coordinator, Kalamazoo River Watershed Council

WHEN: Wednesday, February 27 and Thursday, February 28

WHERE: Washington, D.C. Capital

Event Location Change, March 20, "Sustainable Exterior Scapes.."

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

The "Sustainable Exterior Scapes for a Green Environment" scheduled for March 20 has outgrown its space in the Portage Public Library (what a nice problem to have!). The program has been relocated to the Portage Senior Center, 320 Library Lane, right behind the Library - same date, same time (see below).

Thurs, March 20, 6-8:30 pm, Portage Senior Center: "Sustainable Exterior Scapes for a Green Environment".

Panel discussion on affordable, sustainable, attractive resources in residential yards and gardens. Area conservation organizations and residential retailers will host informational tables from 6:00 -6:30.

Program

- Introductions Denise Cleg
- Welcome Portage Mayor Peter Strazdas
- Rain gardens Linda Whitlock Instructor Master Gardner, Michigan State Extension
- Residential landscape gardens, Bob Romence, Owner of Romence Gardens
- Landscape design Timothy Britain, Registered Landscape Architect, owner of Site Design Solutions, LLC.
- Build to the Land - orientation of a home, a garden, outdoor buildings and spaces, cost concerns, decisions to make before breaking ground or renovating, examples of porous paving Kris Nelson a home builder and Project Architect with Schley Architects
- Native Plants: Landscaping in the Time of Extinction of Species - Tom & Nancy Small, co-founders of the Kalamazoo Area Chapter of Wild Ones, Native Plants, Natural Landscapes

Informational tables include: Master Gardner program, Green drink meetings/Southwest Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, Kalamazoo Conservation District, Manitou Arbor Ecovillage and Transformation Spirituality Center, Romence Gardens, Mark Bauer of Bauer Power, Audubon Society of Kalamazoo, Wild Ones

Green Gala highlights sustainable energy solutions, Thursday March 13, Kalamazoo

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communications Center

Watershed Partners,

Green Gala highlights sustainable energy solutions

<http://www.wmich.edu/wmu/news/2008/03/010.html>

KALAMAZOO--Environmentalist Majora Carter will speak on sustainable energy solutions at an event sponsored by Western Michigan University at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 13, at the Kalamazoo Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites.

The event, dubbed the Green Gala, is free and open to the public and will feature Carter's address, live music, snacks and posters of environmental initiatives in Kalamazoo.

Hailing from the South Bronx in New York City, Carter travels the world in pursuit of resources to improve the quality of life in her environmentally challenged community. She founded Sustainable South Bronx in 2001, and her efforts helped secure more than \$20 million for the South Bronx Greenway project, which will begin construction this year.

She also has created riverfront parks and green roofs, dramatically increased the number of trees in the South Bronx, worked to remove an underused expressway in favor of positive economic development and successfully implemented one of the nation's first urban green collar job training efforts--the Bronx Environmental Stewardship Training program.

She earned the prestigious John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, New York University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Humanitarian Service, and the National Audubon Society's Rachel Carson Award. She sits on New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer's Energy and Environment Transition Team as well as the Clinton Global Initiative's Poverty Alleviation Panel.

Her speech is sponsored by Campus Concerns Committee, Honors Student Association, Students for a Sustainable Earth and the Western Student Association. For more information, contact Travis Meier at t3meier@wmich.edu or (248) 895-8771.

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

It gives me great pleasure to share with you this article summarizing important basic research on stream nitrogen dynamics conducted in part in the Kalamazoo River Watershed. Dr. Stephen Hamilton, a co-investigator on the research effort, is also our current Kalamazoo River Watershed Council Board President. The Council will consider the implications of the research when recommending sustainable stream and drain management practices as we continue our collaborative watershed planning and restoration efforts.

“Rivers Great And Small Can Fight Pollution, If Given Chance - ScienceDaily (Mar. 13, 2008) — Big rivers typically get the credit for being powerful and mighty, but a sweeping national study shows that when it comes to pollution control, even little streams can pack a punch.”

Link to full article:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/03/080312141246.htm>

Best Regards,
Jeff

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

West Michigan Strategic Alliance's
Green Infrastructure
Regional Watershed Workshop

Thursday, March 27, 2008
Alumni House
GVSU Allendale Campus

West Michigan Strategic Alliance's Green Infrastructure Leadership Council would like to invite you to the third regional watershed workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to promote regional collaboration related to watershed management and green infrastructure. The workshop provides a framework for the following:

- Increase networking among the region's watershed stakeholders.
- Opportunities to hear about some of the latest watershed tools that are being used and/or developed.
- Input and direction from watershed stakeholders to the Green Infrastructure Leadership Council on how to more effectively and efficiently improve watershed management and planning through implementing green infrastructure in the region.

REGISTER BY TOMORROW, MARCH 21

Full details, registration, agenda, and contact information available here:

<http://editor.ne16.com/he/vO.aspx?FileID=149286&MemberID=222861911&MailID=4495543>

Best Regards,
Jeff

Superfund informational meeting: April 2, 2008 @ 6:30 in Plainwell, Michigan

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

The next US Environmental Protection Agency hosted Kalamazoo River Superfund contaminant cleanup informational meeting -

“will take place Wednesday, April 2, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Comfort Inn, 622 Allegan St., Plainwell, to discuss the project. Representatives from partner agencies including the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will attend.”

More information:

http://www.allegannews.com/articles/2008/03/20/local_news/5.txt

We would like to remind you that due to the ongoing dam removal and cleanup work the river is closed and impassable to all boats between the City of Plainwell and the City of Otsego minimally through December 2008. Please share this information.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Events List: Kalamazoo River Watershed Communications Center

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communications Center

Watershed Partners,

Here is a condensed list of four upcoming events you might be interested in.

- 1) River protection meeting, Tuesday, March 25
- 2) Green Drinks Kalamazoo, Tuesday, March 25
- 3) Green Drinks Battle Creek, Thursday, March 27
- 4) Unwanted Medicine Disposal: Doing it the Right Way, Workshop, April 2
- 5) Southwest Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, April 17

1) The Kalamazoo River Protection Association is meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, in the library room of Saugatuck High School, 401 Elizabeth St. Presentations will center on ecological landscapes, wildlife conservation and potential development in areas near the river mouth, including Tallmadge Woods, Oxbow Lagoon, Oval Beach and dune land owned by Saugatuck LLC commonly known as the McClendon property. Presenters will include Edward Hansen, professor of geology and environmental sciences at Hope College, Earnest Sarkpato, field representative of the Land and Water Management Division of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and Dayle Harrison, association president. A short aerial video and slide show of the coastal dune areas and Kalamazoo River will be shown. For more information, contact Dayle Harrison at (616) 218-4444 or send e-mail to krpa@accn.org.

2) Kalamazoo Green Drinks MARCH 25, 5:30 - 7ish at Shakespeare's, downtown Kalamazoo. SPECIAL Gathering this month - we will give all attendees the opportunity to give a 60 second elevator speech (only if you want to) about your business, your non-profit, your green achievements, your program, or your reason for gathering with a bunch of other green drinkers. PLUS ++++ This is the night we will choose the Kalamazoo Green Drinks logo!!! Fabulous Prize Awarded. To see logo's submitted to date go to www.naturecenter.org, SWMSBF, Green Drinks Logo. Logo designs are still being accepted thru close of business Friday March 21. 2008. Send all entries to this email address. For more information, contact:

Audrey A. Wierenga
269-567-3509
wierenga@michigan.gov

3) Battle Creek Area Green Drinks - for those with an interest in environmental issues.
Date: 3/27/08
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., or stay as long as you like
Location:

Arcadia Brewery
103 West Michigan Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49017

The Battle Creek Clean Water Partners invite those with an interest in environmental issues to attend this month's Green Drink gathering. A brief presentation will be given by Steve Allen, President of Geum Services, Inc., about the Southwest Michigan Sustainable Business Partners Forum. Green Drinks is an informal, environmental-sustainability-focused monthly gathering. Green Drinks is an organic, self-organizing network which asks for no dues, volunteers, committee work, fund raisers or board obligations. Just come to talk about ideas or to learn about local environmental initiatives. Visit www.greendrinks.org for more information. Green Drinks gatherings are the fourth Thursday of the month and are coordinated by the Battle Creek Clean Water Partners. Dates and topics for upcoming gatherings are:

- April 24, 2008—Solar and Wind Power by Bauer Power

For more information, contact:

Christine Kosmowski

T: 269-966-0712

E: CMKosmowski@ci.battle-creek.mi.us

WQ : www.bcwater.org

4) The Department of Environmental Quality has announced it will be hosting an upcoming workshop to provide information and tools for community pharmaceutical collection programs, as well as pharmacies and medical facilities to safely manage unwanted medicines. The workshop, Unwanted Medicine Disposal: Doing it the Right Way, will be held on April 2, at Cleary University, Johnson Center, in Howell. Due to advances in medicine, more people are using medicines in their daily lives; however, for many reasons, medicines are not always entirely consumed. Disposing of unwanted medicines is becoming an environmental, public safety, and criminal concern with the traditional "flushing" disposal practice no longer deemed acceptable by public health and natural resource experts. Many medicines pass through wastewater treatment facilities and septic systems, ending up in streams, lakes and groundwater throughout the country. In addition, prescription medicines are a major source of poisoning among children and contribute to teen drug abuse. Workshop presenters will focus on proper disposal methods for medicines, including best practices from solid waste facilities in Michigan and surrounding states/provinces. The registration fee of \$75 includes continental breakfast, lunch, and workshop materials. The registration deadline is March 27. See this website for more information <http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135--185533--,00.html>.

5) The Southwest Michigan Sustainable Business Forum will host an event on April 17th at Kalamazoo Valley Community College – M-Tec Education Center at 7107 Elm Valley Drive in Kalamazoo. Nichols, Inc. is the Sponsor for this event – you may thank them for your discounted rates! Renae Hesselink, V.P. of Sales and Marketing, Nichols Paper and Supply will be presenting: Green Cleaning... More Than Just Products.

Registration details are contained within the flyer available at <http://www.naturecenter.org/Home/SouthwestMichiganSustainableBusinessForum/tabid/133/Default.aspx>. Please register at least 48 hours in advance to guarantee lunch availability. For more information contact:

Heather Smith

269-381-1574 x14

hsmith@NatureCenter.org

www.NatureCenter.org/sbf

Lake Sturgeon Recovery and the Kalamazoo River

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Let's bring back the Lake Sturgeon! Let's help them recover in the Kalamazoo River and its tributaries. Let's keep working to give them a river system with less contamination, fewer deteriorating dams, less polluted runoff, greener river corridors, and restored habitat.

An upcoming meeting:

“Sturgeon Research & Restoration in West Michigan March 29, 2008”

<http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/downloads/fisheries/SturgeonMtgFlyer-3-2008.pdf>

Recent Press:

“Officials seeking ways to protect sturgeon: Saturday meeting will feature experts from around Michigan”

http://www.hollandsentinel.com/stories/032408/local_20080324011.shtml

Best Regards,
Jeff

Water Withdrawal and the Kalamazoo River Watershed

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

A common thread weaves through all of the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council's planning, restoration, and protection efforts. We insist that the public always has the opportunity to participate in local water resource management decisions and that waters are managed for the public benefit. To that end, we would like to share our view on competing water withdrawal legislation packages currently on the floor of the Michigan House and Senate. Both packages would ratify the critically important Great Lakes Compact to help protect the Great Lakes from overexploitation, including water exports. We are supportive of the house package of bills (HB 5065 - 5073) because they contain the most sustainable set of options for the Kalamazoo River Watershed with its mix of all types of river and stream habitats from cold to warm. The competing Senate Bill package calls for the extraction of far too much baseflow water from local waterways big and small, up to 25% in many areas, and would reduce the opportunity for local, public involvement.

In our view, groundwater and surface waters like streams and lakes are a single, connected water resource deserving of comparable levels of protection. We support the recommendations of numerous groups including the Great Lakes, Great Michigan Coalition and Trout Unlimited in supporting the House package of bills. These bills contain the most protective standards for fragile and unique coldwater, transitional coldwater, and warmer water stream habitats and fish populations, with which the Kalamazoo River Watershed is blessed. These bills best balance wise water use, economic development, and water resource sustainability. Additionally, these bills ensure that meaningful local public involvement is possible with the establishment of an effective permitting process.

We encourage Kalamazoo River Watershed stakeholders to explore this important and timely issue, reach their own conclusions, and take action either on their own, or with guidance available at websites such as www.michiganwaternotforsale.com or <http://www.tu.org/c.kkLRJ7MSKtH/b.3937243/siteapps/advocacy/ActionItem.aspx>.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Kalamazoo River Watershed Management – Promoting Partners, Celebrating Success,
Connecting Communities, and Using Technology

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communications Center,

Watershed Partners,

The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council is pleased to share two videos with you.

The first video documents how we responded to the watershed community's call for an "umbrella organization" to foster communication between numerous watershed entities in the region working on water resource improvement and protection.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtdKTQMswpM>

The second video serves two purposes. First, it helps us answer a question we often find ourselves facing "What is the Watershed?". Perhaps you have read some of my previous e-mails and asked yourself this question. Second, it demonstrates some of the new and exciting ways to use rapidly evolving communications tools to share ecosystem management concepts. We believe that the "sometimes elusive" watershed stakeholder might use these tools to explore how, from their front doorstep, they are connected to groundwater, local streams, drains, rivers, and the Great Lakes.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXzsqJAKXE>

We look forward to several next steps in the coming months. We will be:

- releasing a new electronic newsletter,
- populating a new website with current watershed project updates and partner efforts,
- inviting partners to sign a partnership agreement,
- and, sharing several new watershed management planning products.

As always, we encourage public feedback, and we will continue to share information relevant to the Kalamazoo River Watershed.

It was not long ago that this watershed community declared that it was time to turn toward the river. I believe that it is happening.

Best Regards,

Jeff

* KRWC takes no responsibility for some of the other wacky stuff on YouTube where these videos are currently housed

Kanoe the Kazoo 2008

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

We are pleased to be able to support and promote Kanoe the Kazoo 2008. We hope you can join in the fun this year and help promote this event on behalf of the organizers, supporters, and sponsors.

From the 2008 brochure arranged by Kingman Museum.....“An annual event since 2003, Kanoe the Kazoo has introduced over 1,000 area citizens to the beauty and recreational opportunities provided by the Kalamazoo River and its tributary streams and lakes. As we go to press, this year eight organizations are offering floats on various stretches of the Kalamazoo River, its tributaries and lakes within the watershed. Please visit our website at www.kingmanmuseum.org/kanoethekazoo for an up-to-date calendar and to register.”

The brochure is attached and contains all the contact information you will need to be a part of Kanoe the Kazoo, 2008.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Free Lawn Soil Testing –Saturday, April 19, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

“Now is the time when property owners long to get out and enjoy warmer temperatures, and get that grass growing green. While nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and other nutrients are necessary for a healthy lawn, misapplication of fertilizers wastes money, harms plants, and pollutes water. In our area, that water includes the Kalamazoo River, its tributaries and our numerous lakes.”

The attached flyer contains details of the Free Lawn Soil Testing event scheduled for April 19 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at several locations in the region. Please share the news.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Watershed Cities to Work Together on Brownfields

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

We are pleased to share developing news that three cities in Allegan County (Allegan, Otsego, and Plainwell) along the Kalamazoo River have secured resources to work together on brownfields. These communities and others like them in the Kalamazoo River Watershed have much to gain from nearby river contaminant cleanup and restoration work that can restore lost economic, environmental, and social benefits.

News link:

<http://www.mlive.com/news/kzgazette/index.ssf?/base/news-28/120819001287500.xml&coll=7>.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Kalamazoo River Superfund: State to be Reimbursed \$4.1M

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

A sign of continued, accelerating progress at the Kalamazoo River Superfund site:

“State to be Reimbursed \$4.1 Million for Response Activity Costs Associated with Kalamazoo River Superfund Site”, see link for full announcement.

<http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135--189120--,00.html>

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 330 e-mail recipients on this message

Watershed Runoff Article

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

The following article seems to do an excellent job explaining the benefits and challenges of controlling runoff and pollution at its source. I am certain that many of you who are actively managing water resources may find this article useful.

http://www.gradingandexcavating.com/sw_0711_stormwater.html

I'm also interested in hearing from you about whether the article is useful and applicable to this region, watershed, and local land uses.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Canoe a Cleaner, Safer, and Greener Kalamazoo River Watershed

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Here is a Kalamazoo River Watershed paddling timeline, starting in 1992 and looking to the future. It gets more exciting as you read down the page.

1992 – River Partners host “Canoe the Kazoo in 92”.

2003 – Watershed Phosphorus Partners host “Kanoë the Kazoo” – watch the video documenting the launch of the program at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fE8pRuRwis8>.

2004-2007 – Kanoë events continued annually.

2008 – Sign up now for Spring and Summer Kanoë the Kazoo float trips at <http://www.kingmanmuseum.org/kanoë.htm>. Watch e-mail and local media for detailed announcements about individual float trips up and downstream.

2008 – Local Battle Creek River Canoe Photo takes top prize
<http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080428/NEWS01/804280318>.

2008 – More watershed work lined up to cleanup and prevent pollution problems in watershed tributaries like the Gun River, Portage, and Arcadia Creeks
<http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135--190843--,00.html>.

2008 and beyond – The Plainwell Dam removal is half done and several contaminant hotspots are being cleaned up. Because the work is happening as we speak (or read), the mainstem of the river is closed between the City of Plainwell and the City of Otsego to ALL traffic through 2008, see http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10371_10402-189203--,00.html for complete information. If you need a poster to print and display in your community about this closed section of river just send me an e-mail, and I will send you an electronic file. Once the dam is gone, paddlers will be one step closer to floating safely downstream toward Otsego, but decisions and work remains regarding the fate of other dangerous downstream dams and associated contaminants.

2008 and beyond – A group of volunteer partners are assembling a Kalamazoo River Watershed Heritage Water Trail. To preview draft tidbits about the Trail, browse the maps and related links on the left of this webpage http://www.wmich.edu/glcms/watertrails/kzotrails_1.htm. The group is picking up steam and soon will complete planning, sell sign sponsorships, and begin to launch sections of the trail during the summer of 2008.

Want to get involved? Sign up for a float trip. Want to do more than that...let decision makers and parties responsible for cleaning up old river pollutants and preventing new ones know that you are paying attention. And let them know that your expectations are high. Ours are.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 332 watershed stakeholders received this e-mail message

Superfund Meetings in Kalamazoo May 15 and 16

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

A Kalamazoo River contamination cleanup meeting announcement is forwarded here (in quotes). Related information is included further down the page.

Announcement:

“EPA meetings on Kalamazoo River Superfund site May 15, 6:30 P.M., and May 16, 9:30 A.M.

(Chicago, Ill. - May 7, 2008) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 is holding two open houses on Thursday, May 15, and Friday, May 16, at the Edison Neighborhood Association office, 816 Washington Ave., Kalamazoo, Mich., to discuss the latest developments at the Kalamazoo River Superfund site.

Thursday's session will begin at 6:30 p.m., with a presentation at 6:45 p.m. (Officials will be available after the presentation.) The Friday session will be from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. with no formal presentation but an opportunity to meet one-on-one with EPA and other officials.

The sessions will include results of a study of the contamination at the Allied Paper Landfill portion of the site.

For more information or special accommodation at the meetings, contact Community Involvement Coordinator Don de Blasio by May 12 at 800-621-8431, Ext 64360, or deblasio.don@epa.gov. Site information is also posted on the Internet at www.epa.gov/region5/sites/kalproject.”

Related Information:

The Allied Site Contamination Report, called the Remedial Investigation, is available on the following website www.epa.gov/region5/sites/kalproject and titled “Allied Paper, Inc. Operable Unit Remedial Investigation Report - March 2008 - report text only (PDF) (175pp, 3.0MB)”.

Recent press: “Allied landfill in Kalamazoo under scrutiny for any PCB seepage” at http://blog.mlive.com/kzgazette/2008/04/headline_to_come.html.

The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council has a paper copy of the entire document. Contact us if you would like to arrange to view the full document. Please call ahead 269-978-4606.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council is pleased to share the following announcement (see below). The Great Lakes Legacy Act is a critically important federal resource for cleaning up contamination, particularly when a party has not been identified as financially responsible for cleanup costs. In Michigan, several cleanups have occurred in recent years and were made possible primarily due to the availability of matching funds through the last State of Michigan Clean Michigan Initiative environmental bond. Most remaining bond funds are either spent or committed to projects wrapping up this year.

The Lower Kalamazoo River mainstem corridor is a Great Lakes Area of Concern, and it is undergoing cleanup under the federal Superfund program. The announcement below is good news for all Great Lakes contaminant hotspots in need of cleanup

Levin and Voinovich Introduce Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2008

WASHINGTON – Senator Carl Levin, D-Mich., and Senator George Voinovich, R-Ohio, co-chairmen of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force, today introduced the bipartisan Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2008 to expand on legislation passed six years ago. The bill aims to clean up contaminated expanses in the Great Lakes known as “Areas of Concern” within 10 years.

“The Great Lakes are an indispensable natural, economic and recreation resource for Michigan and many other states,” said Sen. Levin. “We must continue the progress we’ve made on cleaning up the contaminated sites in the lakes. This legislation builds on the existing Legacy program in several crucial ways and will help protect and restore this unique treasure for the benefit of citizens throughout the Midwest and across the nation.”

“Protecting and restoring the Great Lakes has been a top priority of mine throughout my political career,” Sen. Voinovich said. “As co-chair of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force, I am focused on working with the Great Lakes delegation to advance restoration efforts in this critical region. This bill will provide EPA with the tools and resources to remove contaminated sediment and clean up Areas of Concern and is a vital piece of a comprehensive strategy that is absolutely necessary to protect the Great Lakes for generations to come.”

The Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2008 focuses on Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes. Forty-three Areas of Concern have been identified in the Great Lakes, 13 of which are in Michigan and four in Ohio. These sites do not meet the water quality goals established by the United States and Canada in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, mainly because of contaminated sediments from historic industrial activity. This contamination

results in several detrimental consequences including fish advisories, degradation of fish and wildlife populations, taste and odor problems with drinking water, beach closures, and bird and animal deformities or reproductive problems.

The Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2008 would authorize \$150 million annually for clean up of the Areas of Concern within 10 years. The legislation gives the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) greater flexibility to manage funds by allowing the EPA to distribute funds directly to contractors and would provide relief to states from burdensome requirements. Under this bill, eligible projects would be expanded to include habitat restoration. Many Areas of Concern cannot be delisted until habitat restoration work is done. Also, the bill would give the EPA the discretion to provide Legacy Act monies to demonstration and pilot projects.

The Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2002 contributed significantly to the effort to clean up Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes. Almost 800,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments have been removed since the program was created in 2002. This material has been safely removed from riverbeds so that it no longer poses a threat to human health or the wildlife.

The cosponsors of the bill are Senators Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., Norm Coleman, R-Minn., Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., Barack Obama, D-Ill., and Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

Summary of Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2008:

- Gives EPA the Discretion to Provide Legacy Act Funds to Demonstration and Pilot Projects: This provision would amend the definition of “eligible project” to include demonstration and pilot projects using innovative approaches, technologies, and techniques for the remediation of sediment contamination. While demonstration and pilot projects are currently authorized in a separate section of the law, EPA has said that without a specific appropriation for such work, it will not fund these types of projects.
- Allows Legacy Money to Be Used for Habitat Restoration: This amendment would add aquatic habitat restoration projects to the definition of “Eligible Projects.” While contaminated sediments are the primary reason why sites are listed as Areas of Concerns, there are additional issues that need to be addressed in order to be delisted.
- Polluter Eligibility: This amendment would clarify that polluting parties may participate in future Legacy projects.
- Maintenance of Effort: Current law requires that state resources going to a site be maintained after Legacy funds are awarded. The current law has had unintended consequences because expenditures can widely fluctuate from year to year. Rather than waste non-federal money by requiring that it be spent at the previous year’s level, the amendment would strike the requirement.
- Funding Flexibility: Current law limits how the EPA may distribute Legacy funds to contractors. Unfortunately, that limitation has caused delay at various project sites when a contractor has begun work for the non-federal partner. This amendment would provide greater flexibility to the EPA by allowing them to use an existing contractor.

- Authorization of Appropriations: This amendment would increase the amount authorized to be appropriated from \$50 million to \$150 million per year for projects. The significant increase in the authorization of appropriations is a recommendation from the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy. In that Strategy, participants calculated that \$150 million per year would be needed to cleanup the contaminated sediments at the Areas of Concern within 10 years.

Meeting Reminder: May 15, Phosphorus TMDL Implementation Committee

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

The Lake Allegan/Kalamazoo River Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Committee will meet May 15 at 9:00 a.m. at the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant located at 1415 N. Harrison St. A draft meeting agenda is attached.

Phosphorus TMDL information is available at
<http://www.kalamazooriver.net/tmdl/overview.htm>

The TMDL Implementation Committee also has agreed to serve as a Steering Committee for a Kalamazoo River watershed-wide nonpoint source pollution planning project led by the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council. We will provide a project update at the meeting.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 335 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Meeting Reminder: May 15, Phosphorus TMDL Implementation Committee

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

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Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 335 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Michigan Lawn Fertilizer Phosphorus Legislation Sign On Letter

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

We are pleased to share the news that several Kalamazoo River Watershed Partners are helping to drop the hammer on phosphorus runoff from lawn fertilizers statewide.

On very short notice, several Kalamazoo Watershed Partners (I'll call them the phosphorus team, or "P" team) were able to sign the attached support letter for Michigan House Bills (HB) 6115 and HB 6116 in preparation for a public hearing in Lansing on May 21. Unfortunately, the public hearing was canceled, but the hearing has been rescheduled in the House Agriculture Subcommittee for Tuesday, May 27 at noon.

Because of the delay, I'm now circulating the sign-on letter to a wider Partner audience. If you would like to add your groups name to the list (attached), please e-mail me and cc Molly Polverento at Michigan Environmental Council at molly@environmentalcouncil.org.

Note: The Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Kalamazoo Environmental Council just recently agreed to add their names to the letter too.

Recall: Ottawa County, Allegan County, and the City of Battle Creek are already leading the charge on this issue with local phosphorus restrictions already in place. Through thousands of soil tests, local working groups, permittees (TMDL and subwatershed partners), and citizen volunteers have proven time and time again that local residential soils contain enough phosphorus and don't require lawn fertilizer additions.

Next steps: Michigan Environmental Council staff will be attending the hearing on the 27th. They will hand over the final version of the letter including any new signatories.

Background: Two bills were introduced last week to limit the use of phosphorus in lawn fertilizer statewide. Below is information on the bills. The attached letter has been arranged by the Michigan Environmental Council and Alliance for the Great Lakes to garner support from the legislature for the bills. Visit the links below to review the bills.

HB 6115 : Introduced by Representative Terry Brown in the Bay area. This bill bans the use of over .5% of phosphorus in lawn fertilizers.
[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(0pdmjzeczqjtet45iqo1qpml\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2008-HB-6115](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(0pdmjzeczqjtet45iqo1qpml))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2008-HB-6115)

HB 6116 : Introduced by Representative Mary Valentine in Muskegon. This bill restricts retailers from displaying lawn fertilizer with anything over .5% of phosphorus.
[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(0pdmjzeczqjtet45iqo1qpml\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2008-HB-6116](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(0pdmjzeczqjtet45iqo1qpml))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2008-HB-6116)

Let's help our state and watershed leaders put a dent in phosphorus in our surface water, groundwater, and Great Lakes.

Confused about the "watershed"? Want a clearer picture? Watch the movies linked on our homepage www.kalamazooriver.org.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 330 watershed stakeholders received this message

Other Phosphorus Legislation

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

A news article about other Great Lakes phosphorus reduction efforts.

Congress addressing phosphorus levels in household cleaners-
Thursday May 22, 2008

“Congress is taking on phosphorus, with bills to limit the nutrient in dishwashing detergents and household cleaning products.”

Link:

http://www.mlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2008/05/congress_addressing_phosphorus.html

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 330 watershed stakeholders received this message

Plainwell Area Kayak Race, July 19

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Yet another reason to clean up old pollution problems and prevent new ones....

The 3rd Annual Plainwell Kayak Race Needs You!

Come and enjoy this annual Kayak Race on the Kalamazoo River during the Plainwell Island City Festival, Saturday, July 19, 2008. Test your endurance or come to have a great time, or both. Kayaks will be provided.

See the attached flyer for more details.

For more information contact Cathy Green at 685-3161.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 330 watershed stakeholders received this message

Dam Removal and Superfund, related article

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Here in the Kalamazoo River watershed, on the mainstem of the Kalamazoo River near Plainwell, the Plainwell Dam and contaminated sediments are being removed at the same time. Here is another example of integrated dam removal and sediment cleanup in Montana.

Montana Dam Is Breached, Slowly, to Restore a Superfund Site

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/27/science/27dam.html?ex=1212552000&en=d22afec4cc80ebec&ei=5070&emc=eta1>

.....“The slow-motion breach at the end of March was intended to minimize the effects of releasing of sediment contaminated with heavy metals captured behind the dam.”.....

Hat tip to Gary Wager, Kalamazoo River Cleanup Coalition, for sharing this article.

Best Regards,

Jeff

Note: 332 watershed stakeholders received this message

Carp Derby, Lake Allegan, June 7th, 2008

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Spread the news! The annual Lake Allegan Carp Derby is scheduled for June 7th, 2008. The Derby is organized by the Lake Allegan/Kalamazoo River Watershed Phosphorus TMDL Implementation Committee. See the attached flyer for full details.

To see previous carp derby results and related TMDL events that raise awareness about excess phosphorus in local waterways see:
<http://www.kalamazooriver.net/tmdl/events.htm>

June 7th, 2008 Derby overview:

No pre-registration or registration fee is required. Come throw a line in the water or use any legal means to catch your carp. Eligible fish can be caught anywhere upstream of the Lake Allegan (Caulkins) Dam. Bring fish to the Public Access Site between the hours of 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM for measurement. Have fun and learn about the unique problems facing Lake Allegan and the efforts undertaken by a group of individuals, companies, organizations, and municipalities to correct those problems.

Prizes will be awarded to adults and children under 16.

June 7th and 8th is a Free Fishing Weekend –No License Required.

For more information concerning the Lake Allegan/Kalamazoo River Watershed Phosphorus TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) please log on to www.kalamazooriver.net.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 334 watershed stakeholders received this message

Kalamazoo River Art Hop Events, June 6

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

There are two river related events I want to highlight that are part of the larger Art Hop in downtown Kalamazoo on the evening of June 6. These events promise to demonstrate the linkages between cleaning up pollution, redeveloping urban brownfields, turning toward the river, and connecting the community. Many Kalamazoo River cities like Kalamazoo are in various stages of riverfront reuse planning and implementation and are celebrating the river.

Event 1****

The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council will host artists in our office from 5-8 p.m. We are located at 408 East Michigan Avenue, inside the Arcus Depot Building. We invite you to stop in, see the office, view the artwork, and chat with Council members.

Event 2****

River West Sculpture Dedication

In celebration of River West, a Kalamazoo brownfield project, Holly Fisher of Smartshop (<http://www.smartshopkalamazoo.com/home>) and six other blacksmith artists worked collectively to create six Riverfront Goddess sculptures.

When: 4:30 – 7:00 pm

Where: Jack Coombs Trailway
508 Harrison Street, Kalamazoo
(Across the street from MacKenzie's Bakery)

Who: Speakers
James McIntyre
Mayor Bobby Hopewell
Toni Thompson
Holly Fisher

Info:

Event - http://www.kalamazoocity.org/portal/kzoolife.php?event_id=4955

River West - http://www.kalamazoocity.org/portal/business.php?page_id=737

Map - Use this interactive map to explore event locations

http://blog.mlive.com/kalamazoo_gazette_extra/

Workshop, Areas of Concern, save the date, June 18, 2008

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

The following workshop will explore “Economic Benefits from Restoring Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern”.

Contaminated portions of the Kalamazoo River Watershed make it a ‘Great Lakes Area of Concern’ and a ‘Superfund site’. In time, cleanup processes associated with both the Area of Concern and Superfund cleanup programs will allow the watershed to shed its designations as an Area of Concern and Superfund site.

“Economic Benefits from Restoring Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern”

Wednesday, June 18, 2008
Radisson Hotel-Lansing
Lansing, MI

This workshop will review how cleanup efforts in Michigan's 14 Great Lakes Areas of Concern are generating economic benefits for local communities. The workshop will provide an overview of research, methodologies and strategies for assessing and communicating about economic benefits from river restoration efforts, as well as case studies of how local communities are benefiting from cleanup work in Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern.

The workshop is open to all interested parties. It is intended for members of local public advisory councils, elected officials, economic development and environmental organizations, and others interested in showcasing how progress in restoring Michigan's rivers is advancing economic development and providing other benefits to impacted communities.

A complete agenda and registration form will be available early next week.

Mark your calendar and reserve Wednesday, June 18 for this important workshop.

The workshop is sponsored by the Statewide Public Advisory Council for Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern Program (<http://glc.org/spac/>).

Details on the Kalamazoo River Area of Concern and Watershed Public Advisory Council <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc/kalriv.html>.

Details on the overlapping Kalamazoo River Superfund site
<http://www.epa.gov/Region5/sites/kalproject/>.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 334 watershed stakeholders received this message

Workshop Agenda Released, Areas of Concern, June 18, 2008

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Contaminated portions of the Kalamazoo River Watershed make it a 'Great Lakes Area of Concern' and a 'Superfund site'.

~ Workshop Announcement with Agenda~

“Economic Benefits from Restoring Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern”

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Radisson Hotel Lansing

111 N. Grand Ave.

Lansing, Michigan

~ see attached agenda

Workshop Overview

This workshop will review how cleanup efforts in Michigan's 14 Great Lakes Areas of Concern are generating economic benefits for local communities. The workshop will provide an overview of methodologies and strategies for assessing and communicating about economic benefits from river restoration efforts, as well as case studies of how local communities are benefiting from cleanup work.

The workshop is open to all interested parties. It is intended for members of local public advisory councils, elected officials, economic development and environmental organizations, and others interested in showcasing how progress in restoring Michigan's rivers is advancing economic development and providing other benefits to impacted communities.

There is no cost to attend but registration is required. To register, contact Matt Doss, Great Lakes Commission, 734-971-9135, mdoss@glc.org.

Workshop Sponsors

* Statewide Public Advisory Council for Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern Program (<http://glc.org/spac/>)

* Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

* U.S. EPA, Great Lakes National Program Office

* Great Lakes Commission

Details on the Kalamazoo River Area of Concern and Watershed Public Advisory Council <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc/kalriv.html>.

Details on the overlapping Kalamazoo River Superfund site <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/sites/kalproject/>.

Event: June 21, Safe Disposal/Collection of Prescriptions/Pharmaceuticals

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Protect water resources: safely rid your home of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter pharmaceuticals at this community collection event on Saturday, June 21, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Loy Norrix High School, 606 E. Kilgore (off Lovers Lane), Kalamazoo. Several of these products can sneak by typical wastewater treatment technology and wind up in surface waters downstream. Here is a chance to educate stakeholders on safe disposal practices.

The Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department is sponsoring this collection for the Southwest Michigan area. For full details, watch the movie at www.kalcounty.com/hcs.

For background on pharmaceutical and personal care products see www.epa.gov/ppcp.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 350 watershed stakeholders received this message

Watershed Restoration, news compilation

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Occasionally, so much relevant news comes in that I have to stall then group it all together. I hope you find some of this useful, even inspirational.

Kalamazoo River Watershed communities are forging ahead cleaning up, revitalizing, and protecting water and waterfront resources. Here are a few examples from the big picture to the local picture.

Big picture-

Investing in the Great Lakes pays back, and can help the region:

“The Broad Benefits of Restoring the Great Lakes”

http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2007/0904gleiecosystem_austin.aspx

Great Lakes communities are already investing:

“Federal funding for Great Lakes-St. Lawrence restoration lags far behind local investment, new report finds”

<http://www.glc.org/announce/08/02cities.html>

We have plans-

“The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration”

<http://www.glrc.us/>

“Michigan advocates seek Great Lakes action”

http://www.mlive.com/business/index.ssf/2008/06/michigan_advocates_seek_great.html

Kalamazoo River Watershed-

“We have plans!”

http://www.kalamazooriver.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=57&Itemid=46

Local picture-

Multi community:

“Wellhead Protection Grants Awarded”, including Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Charlotte, and Albion

<http://michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135--194427--,00.html>

Albion:

“Proposal to ease dam strain could benefit river users”

<http://www.mlive.com/news/citpat/index.ssf?/base/news-25/1211551511231641.xml&coll=3>

Kalamazoo:

“Residents of Kalamazoo's Edison neighborhood are glad to see old Performance Paper Inc. powerhouse go, but they wonder what comes next”

http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/06/kalamazoo_edison_neighborhood.html

“City turning attention to forgotten land”

http://blog.mlive.com/kzgazette/2008/06/city_turning_attention_to_forg.html

“Allied Paper Site”, public meeting (video link on page)

<http://fox17.trb.com/>

“Portage Creek Corridor Reuse Plan”

<http://www.portagecreekreuse.com/>

Parchment:

“Parchment City Commission purchases railroad property for paper-mill redevelopment”

<http://www.mlive.com/news/kzgazette/index.ssf?/base/news-29/1212605424107850.xml&coll=7>

Plainwell:

Plainwell Paper Mill

<http://www.plainwell.org/development/currentstatus.htm>

Plainwell Dam

<http://www.kzooriver.com/kalamazoo/index.cfm?module=Plainwell>

Multi-city:

“Grants to help clean up city brownfields”

<http://www.mlive.com/news/kzgazette/index.ssf?/base/news-28/120819001287500.xml&coll=7>

Trails, all around the watershed:

<http://www.kaltrailway.org/>

<http://www.swmpc.org/smart.asp>

http://www.wmich.edu/glcms/watertrails/kzotrails_1.htm

Saugatuck/Douglas:

Multiple issues

http://www.allegannews.com/articles/2008/05/15/cr_news/1.txt

How do you pay for it:

It may be a bit harder to find funding for some types of large scale projects and cleanups during the next few years as the state of Michigan will not push for a new environmental bond in the next few weeks

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080624/NEWS05/806240316/1007/news>. The last Clean Michigan Initiative Bond is essentially spent or committed.

Watershed partnering, damage settlements, and creative financing will be more important for finding funds and/or local match for the types of large scale implementation projects listed in this message. The outlook is good for the Great Lakes Legacy Act <http://levin.senate.gov/newsroom/release.cfm?id=297526>.

Additional benefits:

When you recapture lost uses in previously developed areas, you get a chance to flex your sustainable development muscles. Ask your subwatershed working group and steering committee leaders, municipal planning leaders, stormwater working group leaders, and sustainable business leaders how. Equally as important, you get a chance to preserve and expand what little connected greenspace you have left, typically along your waterways. You get to make your communities livable. You get to connect them together with nature.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 352 watershed stakeholders received this message

Watershed, Economics, Agriculture

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

About fifty percent of the land in the Kalamazoo River Watershed is classified as agricultural.

Here are two examples of rapidly evolving pressure that half our watershed lands are under. One change may result in more working lands remaining working lands. The other may result in significant conservation acreage being put back into production.

“USDA Rule Change May Lead To Crops on Conserved Land”

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/10/AR2008071002550.html?hpid=moreheadlines>

“High commodity prices, depressed housing market change farming economics”

http://blog.mlive.com/kzgazette/2008/07/high_commodity_prices_deprese.html

I would be interested in hearing from watershed partners about examples of these pressures in our region.

Best Regards,

Jeff

Note: 352 watershed stakeholders received this message

Meeting Reminder: August 21, Phosphorus TMDL Combined Meeting

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Mark your calendars, the Lake Allegan/Kalamazoo River Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Committee and Point Source Committee will meet jointly on August 21 at 9:00 a.m. at the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant located at 1415 N. Harrison St. TMDL leaders are preparing a draft agenda which will be sent in a few days.

Background information is available at
<http://www.kalamazooriver.net/tmdl/overview.htm>.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 352 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Watershed News

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Partners send us watershed news and information! Here are several items that should be of interest to the hundreds of you managing your land, surface water, and groundwater in and around the Kalamazoo River Watershed.

1) A good update and overview of recent and future pressures on conservation lands.

“Bill Berry-Opinion: USDA stands firm on conservation lands”

<http://www.madison.com/tct/opinion/column/299254>

2) More groups look at local phosphorus bans in lawn fertilizer.

“Van Buren considers ban on phosphorus-based on lawn fertilizer”

http://blog.mlive.com/kzgazette/2008/08/van_buren_considers_ban_on_pho.html

3) Bans seem to be smooth sailing so far for Ottawa County.

“Officials: Phosphorus ban met with positive response”

<http://www.hollandsentinel.com/news/x518451734/Officials-Phosphorus-ban-met-with-positive-response>

4) A statewide phosphorus conference. It’s not just a local issue.

View the presentations-

<http://www.hydra.iwr.msu.edu/registrations/PConference/index.html>

5) Permanent working lands protections aimed at improving water quality.

“Allegan County revises farmland ordinance”

<http://www.mlive.com/news/kzgazette/index.ssf?/base/news-30/1218639012197930.xml&coll=7>

6) Another take on actions aimed at working lands.

“Rachel Kuntzsch-Opinion: Ingham Co. made wise choice on farmland”

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080810/OPINION02/808100623/1087/OPINION02>

7) The future is local.

“The \$4.49-a-Gallon Vacation”

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/03/travel/03saugatuck.html?_r=2&8dpc&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

8) Poop. Manage it.

“Bloomington Township urged to adopt septic-tank rules”

<http://www.mlive.com/news/kzgazette/hometownwest/index.ssf?/base/news-2/1217256687311901.xml&coll=7>

9) Sometimes, nature tests our engineered systems, and reminds everyone to continue to invest in infrastructure for the sake of human and ecosystem health.

“Sewage spill still in dispute”

<http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080814/NEWS01/808140331/1002/NEWS01>

10) Rivers flood their banks. Acknowledging that and planning ahead is wise watershed management.

“Kalamazoo city commissioners plan for 100-year flood”

http://blog.mlive.com/kzgazette/2008/08/kalamazoo_plans_for_100year_fl.html

11) Why invest in “place” (that’s top notch natural resources, healthy green cities, sustainable food systems, rural character, and connected communities)?

“Making Michigan an attractive place for the young”

<http://www.mlive.com/news/grpress/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1216563911232650.xml&coll=6>

12) Out comes a dam, some legacy contaminants, and probably some phosphorus too?

From this website: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/KalamazooNRDA/> -

.....“We are making progress toward restoration of the Kalamazoo River! The River has begun returning to its historical channel at the Plainwell Dam site! The Service and our co-trustees negotiated with the paper companies and U.S. EPA to combine dam removal and river restoration with the PCB removal action that is underway in the former Plainwell Impoundment of the river. This photo shows the removal of the first stop log from the temporary water control structure that will allow a controlled drawdown into the remediated historical channel. The lowered water level will also make the rest of the PCB removal process easier. Cleaned banks are being revegetated with native grasses, shrubs and trees by JFNew and we expect fairly rapid colonization of the benthic communities from upstream gravel beds and riffle areas.”.....

13) Watershed management movies-

Five movies that sum up watershed management concepts very well can be viewed here:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/Watershed424>

A team of folks around Lake Macatawa put these movies together. The movies cover topics that are just as applicable in the Kalamazoo River Watershed.

Note: some website links listed above may be broken in half by your e-mail software. If they don’t work for you, copy and paste the two parts into your web browser.

Best Regards,

Jeff

Note: 353 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Meeting Reminder/Agendas: August 21, Phosphorus TMDL Combined Meeting

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

The Lake Allegan/Kalamazoo River Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Committee and Point Source Committee will meet jointly on August 21 at 9:00 a.m. at the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant located at 1415 N. Harrison St. Draft Agendas are attached.

Background information is available at
<http://www.kalamazooriver.net/tmdl/overview.htm>.

If you've never attended a TMDL meeting and are interested, feel free to call me to discuss details.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 352 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Watershed Moments

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Here are some interesting growth ideas, trends, and conflicts. Like watersheds and natural resources, these cross all kinds of traditional boundaries.

1) California.....

“Legislature takes aim at urban sprawl and global warming”

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-sprawl21-2008aug21,0,2160319.story>

2) California’s approach is referred to as a “watershed moment”

“A smart bill for smart growth in California is on the verge of passage in Legislature”

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-cap21-2008aug21,0,3345768,full.column>

3) This initiative links urban green roofs and urban green jobs.

“Cities cultivate 2 types of green”

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/environment/2007-12-12-green-jobs_N.htm

4) Low impact development can help immediately to minimize runoff pollution problems in new and redevelopment projects. Michigan will have a new statewide guidance document and workshops are scheduled in September, 2008. You should consider attending.

<http://www.semcog.org/LowImpactDevelopment.aspx>

The schedule and brochure: attached

5) Reducing pressure on the loss of Michigan farmland is important, perhaps just as important as implementing conservation practices to sustain soil and water resources.

“Forum: Michigan must protect farmland assets”

http://www.record-eagle.com/opinion/local_story_233095039.html

6) Community connections, efforts to watch:

Regional water trails - http://www.wmich.edu/glcms/watertrails/trails_links.htm

Regional land trails - <http://www.kaltrailway.org/default.htm> &

<http://www.vbco.org/government843900.asp>

Best Regards,

Jeff

Note: 352 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Kalamazoo River-PCB-Superfund, mark your calendars, Sept. 23

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Mark your calendars for the evening of September 23rd, 2008. The USEPA plans to host a meeting in Plainwell Michigan to update the public on the status of ongoing PCB contamination cleanup efforts along the Kalamazoo River mainstem and Portage Creek in Kalamazoo and Allegan Counties.

The Watershed Council expects to see an official public meeting announcement soon with complete details about the time and location of the meeting. We will share that information with you when it is released.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 354 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Watershed flooding

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

We are beginning to hear about the aftermath of extensive flooding caused by this weekend's incredibly wet weather across southern Michigan. Many stream gauges in the area are logging record high discharge readings. Certainly, this weather and flooding event will touch all watershed stakeholders and their homes, fields, businesses, and infrastructure.

Feel free to send us information as it comes in. We will compile it and share it with the watershed list periodically.

We hope this message finds you well.

Examples:

“An 'incredible' rain: severe flooding causes damage to Kalamazoo businesses, disrupts traffic”

http://www.mlive.com/kzgazette/news/index.ssf/2008/09/sundays_rain_bring_flooding_to.html

City of Kalamazoo, Berrien County report flooding

<http://www.mlive.com/newsflash/index.ssf?/base/news-57/1221496149322140.xml&storylist=newsmichigan>

Storms pound Michigan with 3-7 inches of rain over weekend

http://blog.mlive.com/bctimes/2008/09/storms_pound_michigan_with_37.html

Best Regards,

Jeff

Note: 354 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Watershed flooding - update

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

The following article gives recent overview of the flooding situation. These online news postings are updated often, so the web link may not be active for too long.

“Concern rises as several Southwest Michigan rivers reach flood stage, threaten dams”

<http://www.mlive.com/news/kzgazette/index.ssf?/base/news-30/1221576616242910.xml&coll=7>

I've seen regular online video segment updates at these television stations as well:

www.wvmt.com

www.wxmi.com

A watershed stakeholder also shared this update:

“I live in the Kalamazoo watershed in Calhoun County, the vicinity of Leroy Drain that crosses along Hoffman Rd. between 1/2 Mile and Two Mile Roads. It's the worst flooding that I've experienced in 11 years, even more than the winter flooding of a few years back when we had several inches of warm rain on a deep snow pack over frozen ground.”

Please heed the warnings and advisories of local leaders and emergency management officials. Please spread the word.

Some helpful links:

Flood stage:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/ahps/>

River gauges (scroll down the page for Kalamazoo):

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/mi/nwis/current/?type=flow>

Best Regards,

Jeff

Note: 354 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Meeting - Superfund/Kalamazoo, 6:30 pm, Sept. 23, in Plainwell Michigan

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

The USEPA has posted a new, September 2008, Kalamazoo River/Portage Creek Superfund meeting notice and Fact Sheet on their project website

<http://www.epa.gov/Region5/sites/kalproject/>.

Here is the direct link to the notice and Fact Sheet:

http://www.epa.gov/Region5/sites/kalproject/pdfs/EPA_Allied_FactSheet_webSep2008.pdf

Here are meeting details as provided in the notice:

“Informational meeting - EPA is holding a public meeting Tuesday, Sept. 23, so you can learn more about the latest developments in the Kalamazoo River cleanup. The meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Comfort Inn and Conference Center, 622 Allegan St., Plainwell, Michigan. EPA representatives and other officials will make a formal presentation and be available to discuss site activities with you individually. If you need special accommodations, contact EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Dave Novak (see below) by Sept. 18.

Contact EPA - For more information, or if you have comments about the Kalamazoo river cleanup, contact:

Dave Novak
Community Involvement
EPA Region 5 (P-19J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590
312-886-7478 or 800-621-8431,
Ext. 67478, weekdays 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
<mailto:novak.dave@epa.gov>”

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 354 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Watershed Commentary and Flooding Update

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Coordinator Commentary-

There are moments when nature respects no human made boundary or infrastructure. There are moments when water overwhelms or blasts right past our much needed and properly engineered conveyance systems, green roofs, rain barrels, rain gardens, lagoons, infiltration areas, swales, regional treatment systems, containment facilities, buffers, impoundments, etc., etc. And there are moments when our saturated soils slowly leak toward swelling rivers.

There are moments when we are reminded that surface and groundwater are connected, despite legal definitions, and that the presence of uncontrolled or legacy contaminants is not well understood, not healthy, and frankly scary. There are moments when flooding re-creates river valleys, threatens some dams, and blows out others.

There are moments when rivers miss half of their old friends, wetlands.

These are moments when people should look upstream and downstream and consider how we can better manage connected land and water.

When it comes to the things we can manage, let's stop creating new problems that increase soil loss, flash flooding, and contamination. Let's fix known problems faster. Let's get to work identifying the actions that are "cheap, easy, and now" and that may save money in the long run. Let's identify where minor, local investments help a great deal, or leverage state and federal funding. Let's ask our leaders for leadership.

Let's remember that watershed management, or adaptive watershed management, or integrated watershed management is about people working with other people to define, monitor, and seek balance between beneficial ecosystem services, the use of land and resources, and the health and safety of, well, you.

Looking ahead, scientific consensus is that the future will bring warmer temperatures and greater uncertainty in the Great Lakes Basin.

What do we do in the future?:

- involve the public, don't shut the door; daylight it, don't delay it
- educate, demonstrate, and change behavior
- strengthen and green our cities, strengthen and green our farm communities, connect them with natural corridors; plan regional connected open space

- lead your family into the wilderness, bring your kids, bike a new trail, paddle the river (it is just clean enough, but watch out for high water and dams)
- stop losing native species and gaining invasives
- there will be a wave of natural resource professionals retiring (if their 401k's hold up); we can't lose their knowledge
- there are amazing, dedicated, young professionals who are sacrificing and putting their arms around their watersheds and inviting citizens to make a difference; we can't let them wander off and lose their dedication
- there are new tools, free tools, remotely accessible tools, and collaborative tools that are incredibly powerful and yet to be tapped; they are a little scary and uncontrolled, but they are next; we are exploring them and sharing some draft examples here

<http://www.youtube.com/user/krwccordinator>

<http://maps.google.com/maps/user?uid=113099152803456153081&hl=en&gl=us&mid=1221582940>

<http://maps.live.com/?v=2&encType=1&cid=4EFC64CB57DA0E80!115>

No doubt, somebody, in the watershed/subwatershed where you live, work, innovate, create jobs, or recreate is working on these issues. The Watershed Council would like to help you find a way to help by connecting you with dedicated working groups of people in the watershed. Ask us, or walk along with us as we ramp it up in the coming months.

In the news:

Kalamazoo County may seek federal disaster declaration for flood damage

http://www.mlive.com/kzgazette/news/index.ssf/2008/09/kalamazoo_county_may_seek_fede.html

Weekend's heavy rain leaves farmers' fall crops to rot underwater

http://www.mlive.com/kzgazette/news/index.ssf/2008/09/weekends_heavy_rain_leaves_far.html

Kalamazoo city officials survey flood-affected areas

http://www.mlive.com/kzgazette/news/index.ssf/2008/09/kalamazoo_city_officials_survey.html

Recent floods rank with some of the highest water levels in the 20th Century

http://www.mlive.com/kzgazette/news/index.ssf/2008/09/historical_floods.html

Past floods in Kalamazoo

<http://photos.mlive.com/gallery/4472/Past%20floods%20in%20Kalamazoo/slideshow>

Gallery: Aerial view of the flooding 9-17-08

<http://photos.mlive.com/gallery/4472/Aerial%20view%20of%20the%20flooding%209-17-08>

Why do Southwest Michigan rivers continue to rise days after rain is over?

http://www.mlive.com/kzgazette/news/index.ssf/2008/09/why_do_southwest_michigan_river.html

Worried about the dam

http://www.wvmt.com/articles/rivers_1353419_article.html/newschannel_dam.html

One dam fails, others watched

http://www.wvmt.com/articles/west_1353545_article.html/michigan_one.html

Dam breaks as flooding hits southern Michigan

http://www.mlive.com/weather/index.ssf/2008/09/dam_breaks_as_flooding_hits_so.html

\$5B trust fund for Great Lakes

http://blog.mlive.com/watershedwatch/2008/09/obama_proposes_5b_trust_fund_f.html

House takes up bill to help clean up Great Lakes

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-wi-congress-greatlak,0,7793282.story>

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 354 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Watershed News – Prevention, Cleanup, and Collaboration

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Three items in the Watershed News:

1) Pollution Prevention – Bravo Van Buren County!

“Van Buren County to ban phosphorous lawn fertilizer.”

<http://www.mlive.com/news/kzgazette/index.ssf?/base/news-31/1224082212133170.xml&coll=7>

2) Pollution Cleanup

“Price tag for removal of 500 barrels in Texas Township grows to \$500,000”

http://www.mlive.com/kzgazette/news/index.ssf/2008/10/price_tag_for_removal_of_500_b.html

“\$800K spent on Texas Township barrel cleanup so far”

http://www.woodtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9212697&nav=menu44_2

“EPA meeting on Texas Township Superfund cleanup Oct. 21, 6:30 p.m.”

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/060017ac2f3d54f9852574e3006156bc?OpenDocument>

3) Large Scale Collaboration

“Restoring Great Lakes won't be cheap”

http://blog.mlive.com/chronicle/2008/10/for_monday_restoring_great_lak.html

“Michigan Great Lakes Protection and Restoration Initiative”

In the Kalamazoo area, November 19, 7:00 p.m., see the link for details.

http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3677_51091---,00.html

Best Regards,

Jeff

Note: 356 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Meeting Reminder: November 6, Phosphorus TMDL Implementation Committee Meeting

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Mark your calendars, the Lake Allegan/Kalamazoo River Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Committee will meet on November 6, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant located at 1415 N. Harrison St. TMDL leaders are preparing a draft agenda which will be sent in a few days.

Background information is available at
<http://www.kalamazooriver.net/tmdl/overview.htm>.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 356 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Watershed Flashback, 1978

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

There are a lot of good people in this watershed who are thinking big and linking land use, groundwater, and surface water. Many individuals and organizations have been at it a long time.

The following article is an enjoyable “Watershed Flashback” to 1978. Our friend Doug Carter sent it along last week. It is an interesting read and touches on the challenges and promises of ecosystem-based, watershed management.

From the April 1978 Michigan Natural Resources Magazine – “Saving the Kazoo: A citizen-based effort is moving to correct environmental ills in the Kalamazoo River watershed.” By Bob Novosad, photos by Gary Downer. Scanned with permission.

<http://www.kalamazooriver.org/images/stories/savingthekazoo1978.pdf>

Note: this file download is 1.2 Megs in size.

I was three years old when this was published.

New tools are coming, and we are working to pull together plans that honor long-running stakeholder goals for the region (example attached).

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 356 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Meeting Reminder/Agendas: November 6, Phosphorus TMDL Implementation Committee

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

The Lake Allegan/Kalamazoo River Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Committee will meet on November 6, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant located at 1415 N. Harrison St. A draft Agenda is attached.

Background information is available at
<http://www.kalamazooriver.net/tmdl/overview.htm>.

If you've never attended a TMDL meeting and are interested, feel free to call me to discuss details.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 356 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Be a Watershed and Great Lakes Champion, November 19, 2008 @ 7:00 pm

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

On November 19, 2008, the Kalamazoo Nature Center will host a meeting at 7:00 pm where you can lend your voice to help set regional priorities for Great Lakes protection and restoration. I encourage all watershed-minded stakeholders and partners to participate.

Wednesday, November 19 - 7 p.m.

Kalamazoo Nature Center

7000 North Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Contact: Sara Reding, Kalamazoo Nature Center - 269-381-1574 ext. 17

On behalf of the Watershed Council, I also want to thank the Kalamazoo Nature Center for hosting this important meeting and for working to inspire everyone to strive for social, environmental, and economic sustainability in the Great Lakes region.

Full details from the State of Michigan including downloadable DRAFT documents are available here:

http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3677_51091---,00.html

Details from the Nature Center are included below:

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The Kalamazoo Nature Center and Lt. Gov. John Cherry announced that a public input meeting will be held in Kalamazoo on November 19, 2008 to gather local and regional input for Michigan's Great Lakes Restoration and Protection Initiative. In June of this year, Lt. Governor Cherry joined the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes and Michigan United Conservation Clubs to announce the Initiative in Lansing which has since led watershed alliances, sportsmen's organizations, tribal entities and other non-governmental and governmental stakeholders to participate in developing a framework for a comprehensive restoration and protection plan for Michigan. Part of the framework involves gathering regional priorities for the plan.

Bill Rose, of the Kalamazoo Nature Center, said that the meeting is crucial for the region's involvement in the plan. "I'm really pleased that this critical planning process brought Lt. Governor Cherry to Southwest Michigan" said Rose. "For far too long we have seen how toxic pollution, aquatic invaders, and habitat degradation has impacted our community's sport fishery, economy, and quality of life. It's encouraging to take part in the process that will hopefully turn back these negative impacts on our community and make our lakes healthy again."

The Kalamazoo Nature Center has worked with MUCC and the Office of the Great Lakes to sponsor the event and ensure that a wide variety of local stakeholders voice their concerns and priorities for regional restoration and protection. “The Nature Center encourages all community members to come and share their thoughts,” said Rose. “Our jobs, recreational passions, and quality of life depends on the Great Lakes and they are in trouble – please come to make sure your story is heard so that governmental leaders and non-governmental organizations will work together in this process to develop a plan for the Great Lakes that will work to fix the issues that trouble our community.

The meeting will take place at The Kalamazoo Nature Center, 7000 N. Westnedge Ave at 7 p.m. For questions please contact Sarah Reding at (269) - 381-1574 ext.17, sreding@naturecenter.org.

--

Press from several recent meetings in other regions of the State:

“Plenty of ideas, no consensus on Lakes cleanup”

<http://www.mlive.com/news/chronicle/index.ssf?/base/news-15/1224688516322900.xml&coll=8>

“Area residents tell John Cherry about problems along Saginaw Bay”

http://blog.mlive.com/watershedwatch/2008/10/area_residents_tell_john_cherr.html

“Michigan aims to hit the ground running with Great Lakes Plan” - Viewpoint

http://blog.mlive.com/bcopinion/2008/11/michigan_aims_to_hit_the_groun.html

“Obama's record bodes well for Great Lakes; Chief of staff has shown solid support”

http://www.mlive.com/annarbornews/opinion/index.ssf/2008/11/obamas_record_bodes_well_for_g.html

Thoughts on the DRAFT plan:

I'm encouraged by several things I noted in my review of the DRAFT plan including but not limited to:

- climate change
- the recognition of ongoing efforts by collaborative watershed groups
- the need for “boots on the ground” (e.g., sustainable, baseline Conservation District support) to support the widespread adoption of conservation practices
- the undeniable linkages between land use, groundwater, surface water, and the Great Lakes
- the recognition that there are things to be done right away that don't require any additional dollars (particularly important considering economic woes)

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 356 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Blue Water Economy

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Michigan Lt. Gov. John Cherry gave a speech on November 10, 2008 titled “The Blue Water Economy - Great Lakes Protection and Michigan's Economic Transformation”

You can read it here:

<http://www.michigan.gov/lsgov/0,1607,7-169--203176--,00.html>

Many of the needs and opportunities outlined in the speech clearly overlap what Watershed Partners are already planning and doing to achieve sustainable waters, soils, cities, open spaces, and agricultural communities. What you are doing is good for the Great Lakes.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 356 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Gains and Losses – Watershed Visions

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Watershed stakeholders have a lot to gain and a lot to lose as the river and its watershed continue to change. Many changes are pending. We encourage you to get involved, or lend your voice.

With planning and partnerships, we can redirect and soften the invasion of new pavement that is capping connected open spaces, wetlands, and working lands. We can redirect it towards redevelopment at brownfields and places with existing infrastructure, preferably outside of floodplains. We can further efforts to better manage runoff quality and quantity.

With continued urging, we can accelerate actions to rid the river valley of toxic contaminants and dangerous dams.

This could leave us with compact, healthy communities and accessible ribbons of blue and green connecting them along our waterways, from the headwaters to Lake Michigan.

Let's walk the river from downstream to upstream.

Saugatuck/Douglas Tri-Community Area –

“Swan: Saugatuck dunes are in jeopardy”

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20081123/OPINION02/811230558/1087/OPINION02>

“Holland harbor will receive some dredging courtesy of the federal government next year. Saugatuck's harbor won't.”

<http://www.hollandsentinel.com/news/x1588595816/Holland-harbor-on-dredging-list>

Otsego –

“Auction set to sell Otsego Rock-Tenn Co. paper mill site”

http://www.mlive.com/kzgazette/news/index.ssf/2008/11/auction_set_to_sell_otsego_rock_tenn_co.html

Plainwell –

“Plainwell may use old dam to generate electricity”

http://www.mlive.com/kzgazette/news/index.ssf/2008/11/plainwell_may_use_old_dam_to_generate_electricity.html

River cleanup nearing completion

http://www.allegannews.com/articles/2008/10/23/ue_news/3.txt

Parchment –

“Parchment mill sold; buildings to start coming down next year”

http://www.mlive.com/kzgazette/news/index.ssf/2008/11/parchment_mill_sold_buildings.html

Kalamazoo County –

“Dams and flooding in Kalamazoo County”

http://www.wvmt.com/articles/county_1355489_article.html/dams_kalamazoo.html

“State, federal officials say Kalamazoo's flooding not severe enough for aid”

http://www.mlive.com/kzgazette/news/index.ssf/2008/11/state_federal_officials_say_ka.html

Multi County –

“Small Business Administration making low-interest loans available to flood victims”

http://www.mlive.com/kzgazette/news/index.ssf/2008/11/small_business_administration.html

Battle Creek –

“BCU envisions food safety, research center”

<http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20081125/BUSINESS/811250320>

Infrastructure Gut Check –

“Infrastructure meltdown coming?”

http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/couriernews/news/1295792,3_1_EL24_A1PLAN_S1.article

The Old Vision –

To this day the lower Kalamazoo River is still a national example people use to describe how bad things once were. Hey, it never caught on fire!

“Does environmental protection work?”

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/FeatureColumns/1102EcoViews> - scroll down this webpage

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 358 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Un-Dam-It! Celebrate!

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Cleaning up old pollution, or discovering the treasure under the contaminated sediment-

Many eyes are on the Plainwell area and will be for the next few years as it should serve as a template for additional work along the 80-mile stretch of contaminated Kalamazoo River and Portage Creek. Significant legacy contamination (PCB) has been removed. A dangerous dam was removed at the same time. Nearby brownfield redevelopment opportunities have been enhanced. Public access and connections by land and water trail are on the radar screen. Nearby natural areas will likely become a recreation attraction.

Preventing new pollution-

Plainwell could flex its sustainability muscles and look to watershed partners for support for redevelopment that capitalizes on existing infrastructure, respects the floodplain, considers LEED-certified construction practices, and uses Low Impact Development to make stormwater a resource, not a pollutant carrying things to the river like phosphorus and sediment.

“River cleanup 'a big success': PCB removal nearly complete for 1.5-mile section of Kalamazoo River”

http://www.mlive.com/kzgazette/news/index.ssf/2008/11/river_cleanup_a_big_success_p_c.html

“Officials weigh options following cleanup of Kalamazoo River near Plainwell”

http://www.mlive.com/kzgazette/news/index.ssf/2008/11/officials_weigh_options_follow.html

The Gazette Editorial Board nails it, and they may not realize that their insight goes beyond legacy contaminants into the realm of other watershed problems, like polluted runoff -

“It's cheaper to prevent pollution in the first place”

http://www.mlive.com/kzgazette/opinion/index.ssf/2008/12/its_cheaper_to_prevent_polluti.html

Kalamazoo County continues to move forward with its effort to reexamine the floodplain-

“FEMA to unveil new flood-plain maps of Kalamazoo County”

This is part of a five-year plan by FEMA to have the whole country mapped out. The plan is now in its third year.

http://www.mlive.com/kzgazette/news/index.ssf/2008/11/fema_to_unveil_new_floodplain.html

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 358 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Excess Nutrients and Sediment - Priceless

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Cleaning up excess sediment still flowing to the river - thousands of dollars.

Locking in nutrients already in the lake bottom - hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Preventing erosion, flashy flows, and nutrient losses through wise land use in all land use categories - priceless.

“Study: Algae blooms do billions in damage”

http://www.mlive.com/chronicle/news/index.ssf/2008/12/study_algae_blooms_do_billions.html

“Test results show dramatic drop in Spring Lake phosphorus”

<http://www.grandhaventribune.com/paid/333091499969569.bsp>

“Sediment catcher planned for White River”

<http://www.mlive.com/news/chronicle/index.ssf?/base/news-15/1229098509162200.xml&coll=8>

“Study says cuts in pollution needed to shrink dead zone”

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081212/BUSINESS01/812120351&s=d&page=2#pluckcomments>

“Proponents gushing over 'no net runoff' site designs”

<http://www.bayjournal.com/article.cfm?article=3464>

“ - A huge amount of the watershed, and the nation, is expected to be built or redeveloped in the next two decades. A 2004 paper from the Brookings Institute predicted that by 2030, about half of the buildings in which Americans live, work and shop will have been built, or rebuilt since 2000 - ”

I am not saying that reactive fixes to excess nutrients and sediment are not needed, I am saying - please continue to push prevention. Research, teach, incentivize, and choose the best management practices you can.

Best Regards,

Jeff

Note: 358 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Phosphorus in Detergents – Michigan about to drop the hammer

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Good news! State leaders are about to drop the hammer on a source of phosphorus in the Great Lakes. It is now up to the governor.

“Laundry and dishwasher detergents in Michigan to be nearly phosphorus free by 2010”
http://www.michiganpolicy.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=7&Itemid=261

see also

“Mayes fights against Saginaw Bay muck”
http://www.connectmidmichigan.com/news/news_story.aspx?id=240370

“SB 152 and SB 362 were introduced in February 2007 and March 2007 respectively. The primary sponsor of SB 152 was Sen. Liz Brater; the primary sponsor of SB 362 was Sen. Patricia Birkholz. Both bills were passed on December 18, 2008. Michigan’s lakes and streams will eventually be getting cleaner one load of clothes or dishes at a time. A duo of bills that recently passed the Michigan Legislature will require that household cleaning agents sold in Michigan intended for use in dish washing or clothes washing machines contain less than 0.5% phosphorus by weight. The previous limit was 8.7% phosphorus by weight. The bills will take effect beginning on July 1, 2010.”

I think that watershed organizations, lake associations, river friends and septic system watchers should recognize this positive move. And let’s have another look at lawn fertilizer phosphorus in 2009. These Great Lake scale actions should help take another small bite out of recognized water quality impairments and prevent new ones.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 359 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Phosphorus, water resources, and teachable moments

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Here are three updates that most anyone putting their arms around their watershed should love:

1) "Legislation to protect Great Lakes"

http://www.connectmidmichigan.com/news/news_story.aspx?id=243086

"Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has signed legislation that will help protect Michigan's vast water resources, including the Great Lakes, by significantly reducing the amount of phosphorus contained in household dish and laundry detergents sold in Michigan."

2) "Law requires septic inspection before sale"

http://www.record-eagle.com/local/local_story_346095149.html

"TRAVERSE CITY -- Buyer's remorse won't include raw sewage leaking from failed septic tanks, if Long Lake Township's new inspection ordinance works as planned. Long Lake Township's board recently voted to require septic system inspections whenever a property is sold. The move came about because of concern over damage that failing systems pose to groundwater, personal health and the community's namesake lake. Long Lake joins just a handful of townships and 11 counties in Michigan that require inspections. "It's part of our watershed protection plan and for the environment and health of the lake and our community we thought this was an important first step," said township Supervisor Karen Rosa."

3) "State Street lot open for parking" – Battle Creek

<http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20081212/NEWS01/812120305/1002/NEWS01>

"In its former condition, storm water ran directly into the river without treatment. Christine Kosmowski, city environmental programs coordinator, said the rain gardens filter the run-off before reaching the river. The basins use plants native to Michigan with deeper root systems to collect more of the water and help clean it, Kosmowski said, but it will take a couple years for the plants to be fully established. "They'll be showing already next year, they just won't be filled all the way in," she said. Kosmowski said sediments, phosphorus and nitrogen are three main pollutants that will be filtered out of the run-off, as will oils, fuels and grease from the parking lot. "I estimate that both rain gardens will remove about 1.48 tons of sediment, 34 pounds of nitrogen and six pounds of phosphorus," she said. "Too much phosphorus is critical in water. Just one pound of phosphorus can support the growth of 500 pounds of algae."

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 365 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Troubling News

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

“Bankruptcy may threaten river work: Firm funding Kalamazoo River cleanup files for Chapter 11”

<http://www.mlive.com/news/kzgazette/index.ssf?/base/news-32/1231516206112570.xml&coll=7>

The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council will make regular requests of the USEPA to formally update the public on the potential implications of this bankruptcy filing. We will periodically compile and share any information we receive.

We have many questions and serious concerns.

Please continue accelerating your grassroots work setting the vision for your healthy community, preventing new pollution, and cleaning up old pollution in your watershed, large or small.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 365 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Van Buren restricts use of phosphorus lawn fertilizer

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

“Van Buren bans use of phosphorus fertilizer”

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2009/01/van_buren_bans_use_of_phosphor.html

The ordinance text is available at:

<http://www.vbco.org/>

Three of ten Kalamazoo River Watershed Counties have now taken similar action (Ottawa, Allegan, Van Buren). The City of Battle Creek has also taken action. Stakeholders in several other watershed areas are monitoring, researching, and debating the topic.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 366 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

The Future of Online Watershed Collaboration?

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

The Watershed Council is serving as an Umbrella organization for numerous Watershed Partners. Part of that charge involves exploring new technology and collaboration tools and pointing out the opportunity for innovation. We are particularly interested in tools that are online, collaborative, and free.

We have had an opportunity to brainstorm ways that a local school could link into Partner efforts in community-driven, integrated watershed management. We are writing and mapping together.

An early brainstorm map is evolving rapidly and is available here:

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&gl=us&ie=UTF8&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=116703832960118302669.00045702f2a903ff045d1>

I encourage you to view this map, zoom in to the school, find your own house or property, click the links, switch views from maps to aerial photos, and just imagine the possibilities for educating students and watershed residents.

More importantly, send us feedback. Tell us what you like and what you don't. Tell us what we missed. Help us think of ways to use this tool, and try it out for yourself in your own area.

Make your own map and put it on your website. We are trying that too:

<http://www.kalamazooriver.org//content/view/60/53/>

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 366 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Climate Change & Stormwater in Michigan: Friday, February 6 at 9 am at the Henry Center

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

The seminar below has a free webcast at 9:00 am, Friday morning, February 6. Two related white papers are also available. See the link below.

“Climate Change & Stormwater in Michigan: Friday, February 6 at 9 am at the Henry Center

The Center for Water Sciences is pleased to announce the third installment of its Water Fellows workshop series, Stormy Weather and Stormwater Impacts: Keeping Michigan Clean and Green. The first talk in this series will be this Friday, February 6.

Climate Change & Stormwater in Michigan

Speakers:

Dr. Alan Steinman, Grand Valley State University

Dr. David Easterling, National Climatic Data Center

Friday, February 6, 2009

9:00-10:20 am

MSU Henry Center, Room A169

For more information about the CWS Stormwater Workshop Series, please visit our website: <http://www.cws.msu.edu/stormwater.htm>”

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 367 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

More Troubling News

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

We were met with this news last week:

“Allied owner says no to river cleanup”

<http://www.mlive.com/news/kzgazette/index.ssf?/base/news-32/1233984041217000.xml&coll=7>

In the article, Gary Wager is right, “Federal and state agencies, and the public, need to continue to be diligent as we act as champions of our river.”

I’ve been asked by several partners what this means for the lower river. We are seeking answers to that question.

However, two thoughts are ringing in my head:

- 1) We are entitled to our own opinions, but not our own facts; and,
- 2) The river and floodplain do not have a public relations firm.

The Allied Site was likely the largest source of contaminants to the lower river valley.

From: Kalamazoo River Environment Natural Resource Damage Assessment: Stage I Report

http://www.fws.gov/midwest/KalamazooNRDA/documents/IChap_2.pdf

See page 2-6, section 2.2.2: “The Bryant Mill and the King Mill deinked carbonless copy paper from the mid-1950s through at least 1971, the period when the paper contained PCBs. The combined deinking capacity of the Allied mills was listed at 100 tons of paper per day in 1960 and 1962, and at 350 tons of paper per day in 1965. As the largest paper manufacturer of the four PRP facilities, it is likely that Allied discharged the most waste. It has been estimated that Allied released between 895,000 and 1,790,000 lbs of PCBs in its waste stream from 1960 to 1979 (Rockwell Int’l Corp., 107 F. Supp. 2d 817).”

See also the maps on pages 2-28 to 2-30 of the same document. See what it means when waste is carried from source areas like the Allied Site and then deposited broadly in the floodplain and in hotspots behind old dams downstream.

Ask yourself what it means when the lower river floods, maybe up to three times in the last few months:

“Thaw could break record”

<http://www.mlive.com/news/kzgazette/index.ssf?/base/news-32/1234281025114460.xml&coll=7>

Ask yourself how long the remaining dams can hold. Five years ago the governor tried to tell the president that she was concerned about three of our dams:

http://www.damsafetycoalition.org/files/pdf/mi_letter.pdf

Superfund parties, including State and Federal agencies, figured out how to work together over the last couple of years to remove the Plainwell Dam (1 of the 3 the governor flagged in her letter) and PCBs at the same time. That monumental effort should be applauded. That pattern needs to be continued downstream, not derailed.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 367 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Meeting Reminder and Agenda: February 19, Phosphorus TMDL Implementation Committee

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

The Lake Allegan/Kalamazoo River Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Committee will meet on February 19 at 9:00 a.m. at the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant located at 1415 N. Harrison St. A draft Agenda is attached.

NOTICE: The meeting will not be held in the usual building/room. Instead, the group will meet in Building 24 near the back of the plant. Please park along the road that runs along the tracks.

Background information about the TMDL is available at <http://www.kalamazooriver.net/tmdl/overview.htm>.

If you've never attended a TMDL meeting and are interested, feel free to call me to discuss details.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 367 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

River Cleanup/Superfund Meeting, Feb. 26, at 6:30 p.m., in Plainwell

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

The EPA has released a new fact sheet about the status of the Allied Paper/Kalamazoo River/Portage Creek Superfund Cleanup. In the fact sheet, they announced an upcoming meeting, partially quoted here:

“EPA is holding a public meeting Thursday, Feb. 26, so you can learn more about the latest developments in the Kalamazoo River cleanup. The meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Comfort Inn and Conference Center, 622 Allegan St., Plainwell, Mich. EPA representatives and other officials will make a formal presentation and be available to discuss site activities with you individually.”

See the whole fact sheet here:

http://www.epa.gov/Region5/sites/kalproject/pdfs/Allied_Paper_Kalamazoo_MI_Feb09_web.pdf

The Watershed Council is particularly concerned with two topics you can read about in the fact sheet:

- 1) status of the Millennium Holdings LLC Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing; and,
- 2) implications of the “Peer Review” final report, located here: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/sites/kalproject/pdfs/peer-review-final-report-20081201.pdf>, and titled, “Final Report - Peer Review of Michigan State University’s PCB Exposure and Effects Studies in the Floodplain of the Kalamazoo River - December 1, 2008.

We will listen and we will have questions on these and other topics. We hope you will bring your questions too.

Meanwhile, stakeholders are doing what they can to inspire, revitalize, connect, preserve, protect, and repair:

The movie, coming soon, while the story of the river continues to unfold:

<http://www.kalamazooriverus.com/>

“Portage Creek corridor likely to be redeveloped soon”

<http://www.mlive.com/news/kzgazette/index.ssf?/base/news-32/1234070408253200.xml&coll=7>

“Kalamazoo DDA sets downtown development priorities”

http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2009/01/kalamazoo_dda_sets_downtown_de.html

“Construction begins on Kalamazoo Valley River Trailway extension”

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2009/01/kalamazoo_valley_river_trailwa.html

“Parchment residents to get glimpse of city renewal plan”

<http://www.mlive.com/news/kzgazette/index.ssf?/base/news-32/1234675219270310.xml&coll=7>

“DNR proposal to remove Hamilton dam stirs defenders of historic Rabbit River structure”

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2009/02/rabbit_river_story.html

“Harbor group may launch at last”

http://www.allegannews.com/articles/2009/02/05/cr_news/2.txt

“Time running out for duneland”

<http://www.hollandsentinel.com/news/x1452245528/Time-running-out-for-duneland>

“Great Lakes cleanups hampered by economic woes, bureaucratic hurdles”

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/great-lakes-legacies>

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 367 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Leaders, Local Experts, and Best Practices

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Shaping the future of river valley communities takes leaders, local experts, and the implementation of better practices. Much of pollution prevention hinges on maintaining and increasing wilderness, greenspace, vegetative buffers, and wetlands. This puts the spotlight on floodplains. Here are related examples in the news.

Leaders:

“A mayoral meeting of the minds”

http://www.wvmt.com/articles/kalamazoo_1359259_article.html/meeting_minds.html

"This was about thinking bigger. This was about the sense of place and the quality of place," said Mayor Hopewell. "This was about how you place projects in your community, looking at all the quality issues regarding the public realm." Mayor Hopewell says the conference helped him come up with new ideas for development along the Kalamazoo River.”

Local Experts:

“All communities need to plan and prepare for possibility of major flooding”

<http://mlive.live.advance.net/news/kzgazette/index.ssf?base/columns-5/1220539821179630.xml&coll=7>

“Is flooding increasing? Yes! There are a number of reasons for this. First, you do not have to believe in global warming, El Nino, La Nina, woolly-bear caterpillars or even the normal 35-year weather cycle of the Great Lakes. The reality is that while our average rainfall remains fairly constant, rain is occurring less frequently, but storms are increasing in intensity.”

Best Practices:

“Parchment paper plant redevelopment progresses”

http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2009/02/parchment_paper_plant_redevelo.html

“The commercial buildings will be LEED certified, and the homes likely will be Energy-Star certified. "Everything we do, from how we manage storm water to how we deal with wetlands to how we lay out the community, will all be in a green and sustainable fashion," Williams said.”

“New Low Impact Development Manual Available”

<http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135--207334--,00.html>

“A new manual describing Low Impact Development (LID) techniques that uses basic principles modeled after nature to protect the environment and manage storm water runoff for land development in Michigan is now available.”

Best Regards,

Jeff

Note: 367 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Love the Sturgeon, Help the Sturgeon, Free the Sturgeon

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

One of our oldest river valley residents is poised for a comeback.

Love the sturgeon-

“Today's treasure: sturgeon habitat in the Kalamazoo River”

http://www.mlive.com/special-sections/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2009/04/todays_treasure_sturgeon_habit.html

Keep up the watershed improvement work, because-

“Spring: The mean season for surface waters”

http://blog.mlive.com/ecologic/2009/03/spring_the_mean_season_for_sur.html

Save the sturgeon – help these people help these creatures-

“OPEN HOUSE EVENT!

Saturday April 25 - 2 to 5 PM New Richmond House

Kazoo Sturgeon membership buffet and informational meeting Open House

Come and meet these amazing prehistoric fish found in our own Kalamazoo River!”

Info at: <http://www.newrichmondhouse.com/kazoosturgeon/index.html>

Free the sturgeon - get an acronym and help these creatures!-

MDNR Fisheries Biologists know which mainstem river dams need to be removed and which need fish passage programs to open up historic sturgeon habitat upstream of Lake Allegan. They know the physical habitat. They know the genetics. They know about the complicating factors, like other invasive species. “2005. Special Report #35. Michigan Department of Natural Resources.”

http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10364_52259_10951_19056-46270--00.html

The NRD Trustees want a free flowing river wherever possible and ample, clean habitat for fish and wildlife in the river valley.

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/KalamazooNRDA/>

The USEPA is in charge.

The KRWC is ready to assist in assembling the people and resources to open up more, clean sturgeon habitat upstream.

Superfund parties figured out how to remove the Plainwell Dam, and the river is open again, though future cleanups are complicated by a responsible party (RP) bankruptcy filing.

“Portion of Kalamazoo River Reopened to Public Use”

http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10371_10402-210723--,00.html

“K’zoo River cleanup slowed by chemical company’s bankruptcy protection”

<http://michiganmessenger.com/15564/kzoo-river-cleanup-slowed-by-chemical-companys-bankruptcy-protection>

It has been a rough Spring, but I am ready to come storming back too.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 368 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Great Lakes Keepers

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Our watershed community has many nontraditional partnerships built up over decades of community water resource protection efforts. Here at the Watershed Council, I've been tasked with figuring out how to build on work by current Partners and by those who came before us in order to give wings to: 1) improved watershed communication, planning, and project implementation; 2) our distributed network of watershed implementers; 3) the watershed umbrella concept and partnership agreement; and, 4) ultimately, a clean river valley. Apparently, somebody reads my e-mails! I got an award!

Watershed Partners, let's use this moment to make a case for improving our watershed resources and the Great Lakes. In the months to come, the Watershed Council will roll out some new products and invite greater Watershed Partner involvement. Stay tuned.

Congratulations to all of Michigan's Great Lakes Keepers (see below).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 9, 2009

Kalamazoo Nature Center
Lisa Panich – Communications Coordinator
lpanich@NatureCenter.org

For more information on this program:
Sarah Reding, (269) 381-1574 ext. 18, sreding@NatureCenter.org

Community Leaders Recognized with Great Lakes Keeper Awards

Three area community members dedicated to protecting and restoring our Great Lakes have been recognized with the Great Lakes Keeper Award at a recent planning meeting for Michigan's Great Lakes Restoration and Protection Initiative held at the Kalamazoo Nature Center.

Jeff Spoelstra of the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council (KRWC), community volunteer Eric VerHey, and Dave Lemberg of Western Michigan University, received the awards at the meeting on November 19, 2008. Lt. Governor John Cherry and the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes, along with the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, initiated the award to recognize individuals dedicated to social, environmental and economic sustainability in the Great Lakes region.

Spoelstra, coordinator of the KRWC since 2006, was nominated for the Great Lakes Keeper Award for his extensive work in building a solid foundation of support for the KRWC's mission of protecting and enhancing the river and its watershed. He has also

taken on a leadership role in the Allied Site Task Force, a self-organized group of community and municipal stakeholders dedicated to the cleanup and restoration of a PCB-contaminated industrial site along a tributary of the Kalamazoo River.

VerHey was nominated for the award for his volunteer leadership in addressing an issue that could have a huge impact on the water quality of the Great Lakes Watershed. He began a grassroots campaign in his home community of Leonidas to address threats to the immediate water resources of the Nottawa Creek watershed, as well as the larger Saint Joseph River watershed, and formally formed the environmental group Society for Protecting Environmental Assets.

Lemberg, an Associate Professor of Geography at WMU, was nominated for the Great Lakes Keeper Award for his work on the Heritage Water Trail System for the State of Michigan. Heritage water trails are routes on rivers, lakes, and canals designed and set up to create an interactive historical education experience, as well as to promote tourism, economic benefits and recreational opportunities.

In June of 2008, Lt. Governor Cherry joined with the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes and Michigan United Conservation Clubs, (MUCC) to announce the Initiative in Lansing. It has since led watershed alliances, sportsmen's organizations, tribal entities and other non-governmental and governmental stakeholders to participate in developing a framework for a comprehensive restoration and protection plan for Michigan. Part of the framework involves gathering regional priorities for the plan.

The Great Lakes Keeper Awards were given out in conjunction with other regional outreach meetings around the State to gather input for the Initiative. The Kalamazoo Nature Center worked with MUCC and the Office of the Great Lakes to sponsor the event and to ensure that a wide variety of local stakeholders would voice their concerns and priorities for regional restoration and protection.

For more information regarding the Great Lakes Restoration and Protection Initiative, visit www.michigan.gov/deqgreatlakes and click on Protection and Restoration.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 368 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Water Resource Huggers in Lansing

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

We went to Lansing this week with the Statewide Public Advisory Council for Great Lakes Areas of Concern and helped co-host a Legislative Briefing (attached).

We explained why it is important to invest in the Great Lakes, and that it pays off, and we offered our thoughts on how to go about doing it-

<http://www.glc.org/spac/pdf/Legislative%20Statement%202009.pdf>

We talked to elected officials, thanked several for their Great Lakes leadership, and asked others to become Great Lakes leaders for Michigan.

We shared the news-

http://www.glc.org/spac/pdf/PR-LegAgenda-and-Briefing_April09.pdf

We were reminded that diverse stakeholders already recognize the importance of our water resources-

“Business, environmental groups urge funding to clean up Great Lakes”

<http://www.craigslist.com/article/20090429/FREE/904299984>

We learned that these may be the best of times for Great Lakes water resource investments at the federal level, but the worst of times at the state level -

“Environmentalists eager to hear President Barack Obama's Great Lakes plan”

<http://www.cleveland.com/news/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/news/1241166823230340.xml&coll=2>

“Granolm says Chrysler bankruptcy is 'very, very difficult' period for Michigan, but puts state on 'path to success”

http://www.mlive.com/auto/index.ssf/2009/04/granolm_says_chrysler_bankrup.html

The Great Lakes State needs water resource huggers and innovators in sustainable business, climate, air, land, energy, infrastructure, and water resources. Please keep at it.

Best Regards,

Jeff

Note: 368 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Meeting Reminder: May 21, Phosphorus TMDL Implementation Committee Meeting

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Mark your calendars, the Lake Allegan/Kalamazoo River Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Committee will meet on May 21, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant located at 1415 N. Harrison St. TMDL leaders are preparing a draft agenda which will be sent early next week.

Background information is available at
<http://www.kalamazooriver.net/tmdl/overview.htm>.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 366 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Press Release - Kalamazoo River Watershed Heritage Water Trail

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kevin Ricco, Allegan County Parks, Tourism & Economic Development
Phone: 269-673-0378
E-Mail: kricco@allegancounty.org

Contact: Tina Clemons, Allegan Conservation District
Phone: 269-673-8965, ext. 3
E-Mail: tina.clemons@mi.nacdnet.net

KALAMAZOO RIVER WATERSHED HERITAGE WATER TRAIL COMMITTEE
ANNOUNCES GRAND OPENING OF FIRST TRAIL SEGMENT

Allegan County Parks and the Allegan Conservation District, along with several other partners, are pleased to announce the grand opening of the first segment of the Kalamazoo River Watershed Heritage Water Trail. An official opening ceremony will take place at 9:00am on May 30, 2009 at the City of Douglas Park, which is located in downtown Douglas. Speakers for the event will be Dr. Dave Lemberg, Associate Department Chair, Department of Geography, Western Michigan University; Mr. Jeff Spoelstra, Executive Director, Kalamazoo River Watershed Council; and Kevin Ricco, Director, Allegan County Parks, Tourism & Economic Development.

For the past two years this partnership group, which also includes the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, the Kalamazoo Nature Center, the Potawatomi RC & D, Calhoun Conservation District, Michigan State University Extension, Kalamazoo County and Calhoun County, has been working on turning the entire Kalamazoo River watershed into a State of Michigan designated Heritage Water Trail. Dr. Dave Lemberg from Western Michigan University, appointed by the Michigan Department of History, Arts, and Libraries as the heritage water trail coordinator for the State of Michigan, has been working with us to help move this incredible project forward.

This first completed segment, which will run from New Richmond in Allegan County to Saugatuck, will include 18 historically and/or ecologically significant sites, including information on the New Richmond Bridge, lumbering, the fruit industry and Singapore, just to name a few. Each site will be represented by individual signs posted along the river near their general location. There will also be more detailed information about each site, along with photos and detailed river maps, on line at www.kazoowatertrails.org.

"The Kalamazoo River and its tributaries represent a significant part of our region's heritage", states Kevin Ricco, Director of Parks and Tourism for Allegan County. "This project will not only educate visitors about this heritage but will also serve as an

economic driver by bringing more visitors to the area to experience this wonderful natural resource."

When complete, the project will include water trail maps and guidebooks that will cover the entire Kalamazoo River main stream and its major tributaries. There will also be signs posted along the river pinpointing the heritage sites that will be included in the guidebooks. In Allegan County, the Heritage Water Trail will include the Kalamazoo River main stream from Plainwell to Saugatuck, as well as the Gun River and the Rabbit River. This project will continue to enhance the tremendous natural resource that is the Kalamazoo River Watershed and will help to develop tourism and tourism-related businesses along the river.

This project also represents a great opportunity for businesses and organizations that have an interest in the Kalamazoo River watershed to advertise in a new and exciting way. Each site included in the Kalamazoo River Watershed Heritage Water Trail project is available for site sponsorship. Site sponsorships are available at a cost of \$500 for a three year sponsorship. A sponsorship will include advertising space on the selected site sign as well as in the completed guidebooks. At this time we are encouraging any business or organization interested in sponsoring one or more sites on the Heritage Water Trail to contact Jeff Spoelstra, Executive Director of the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, at 269-978-4606.

Kevin Ricco
Allegan County Parks, Recreation & Tourism
Economic Development
3255 122nd Avenue, Suite 102
Allegan, MI 49010
Phone: (269) 673-0378
Fax: (269) 673-0454
www.allegancounty.org/parks
www.visitallegancounty.com

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 366 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Reminder & Agenda: May 21, Phosphorus TMDL Implementation Committee Meeting

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Reminder: the Lake Allegan/Kalamazoo River Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Committee will meet on May 21, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant located at 1415 N. Harrison St. The draft agenda is attached.

Best Regards,

Jeff

Note: 366 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Press Release - Kanoë the Kazoo 2009, Allegan County

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kevin Ricco, Allegan County Parks, Tourism & Economic Development
Phone: 269-673-0378
E-Mail: kricco@allegancounty.org

Contact: Tina Clemons, Allegan Conservation District
Phone: 269-673-8965, ext. 3
E-Mail: tina.clemons@mi.nacdnet.net

Since 2003, the highly successful Kanoë the Kazoo float trips down the Kalamazoo River and its tributaries have introduced hundreds of citizens and officials to the beauty of the river and to the recreational and economic opportunities it presents.

Kanoë the Kazoo continues in 2009 with a series of canoe trips beginning in May and continuing throughout the summer. On Saturday, May 30, 2009 the public is invited to canoe/kayak the lower Kalamazoo River from New Richmond to Douglas. The trip will take approximately two and a half hours and will travel one of the most beautiful stretches of the river.

Paddlers are instructed to meet at the public access site located at New Richmond. The easiest way to get there is to take Old Allegan Road east off of 58th Street just north of Fennville. Old Allegan Road dead ends at the launch site. Vehicles will be staged at the city park near the Center Street launch in downtown Douglas and transportation will be leaving Douglas at approximately 9:30am to take paddlers back to New Richmond. Participants should arrive at New Richmond by 8:00am to drop off gear and register for the trip.

This particular Kanoë the Kazoo event also marks the grand opening of the first segment of the Kalamazoo River Watershed Heritage Water Trail. To commemorate this event there will be a 30 minute presentation at the city park in Douglas starting at approximately 9:00am. There will be light snacks and refreshments served at this event and all paddlers are encouraged to attend. The bus back to New Richmond will leave Douglas when the ceremony is complete. For more information on the Heritage Water Trail project please visit this Web site: www.kazoowatertrails.org.

The Kingman Museum has agreed to handle advanced registrations for all Kanoë the Kazoo events in 2009. Registration for the New Richmond to Douglas trip is \$5 per boat (not including canoe/kayak rental) and can be made on line by visiting the Kingman Museum Web site: www.kingmanmuseum.org/kanoethkazoo. Reservations can also be made by calling the museum directly at (269) 965-5117. Registration for this trip will

also be taken on site the day of the event. Participants in need of canoe or kayak rental are instructed to call Old Allegan Canoe Livery at (269) 561-5481 or Running Rivers Kayak Rental at (269) 673-3698. Information regarding all of this year's Kanoe the Kazoo trips can be found at the Kingman Museum's Web site.

The New Richmond to Douglas trip is being hosted by the Allegan County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Department and the Allegan Conservation District. If you would like further information about this trip, please contact Kevin Ricco at the Allegan County Parks and Tourism Office at (269) 673-0378 or Tina Clemons at the Allegan Conservation District at (269) 673-8965 ext. 3.

Kevin Ricco
Allegan County Parks, Recreation & Tourism
Economic Development
3255 122nd Avenue, Suite 102
Allegan, MI 49010
Phone: (269) 673-0378
Fax: (269) 673-0454
www.allegancounty.org/parks
www.visitallegancounty.com

And don't miss Kanoe the Kazoo '03, the movie:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fE8pRuRwis8>

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 367 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Press Release - Kanoe the Kazoo 2009, Allegan County

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kevin Ricco, Allegan County Parks, Tourism & Economic Development
Phone: 269-673-0378
E-Mail: kricco@allegancounty.org

Contact: Tina Clemons, Allegan Conservation District
Phone: 269-673-8965, ext. 3
E-Mail: tina.clemons@mi.nacdnet.net

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The New Richmond to Douglas trip is being hosted by the Allegan County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Department and the Allegan Conservation District. If you would like further information about this trip, please contact Kevin Ricco at the Allegan County Parks and Tourism Office at (269) 673-0378 or Tina Clemons at the Allegan Conservation District at (269) 673-8965 ext. 3.

Kevin Ricco
Allegan County Parks, Recreation & Tourism
Economic Development
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Phone: (269) 673-0378
Fax: (269) 673-0454
www.allegancounty.org/parks
www.visitallegancounty.com

And don't miss Kanoe the Kazoo '03, the movie:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fE8pRuRwis8>

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 367 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Kanoe the Kazoo tomorrow, June 12th, or July 9th, 11th, or 25th

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Don't forget, you can Kanoe the Kazoo tomorrow or later this summer. See, download, and share the event poster at www.kalamazooriver.org and follow the link to www.kingmanmuseum.org/kanoethekazoo for dates, hosts, float details, and registration information. Keep checking the site because additional trips could still be added.

Tomorrow's event received these early nods on WXMI Fox 17 morning news:

<http://www.wxmi.com/video/?autoStart=true&topVideoCatNo=default&clipId=3788860>

<http://www.wxmi.com/video/?autoStart=true&topVideoCatNo=default&clipId=3788849>

<http://www.wxmi.com/video/?autoStart=true&topVideoCatNo=default&clipId=3788867>

Water resource champions already know what everyone else will realize - our Great Lakes water resources shaped our past and will shape our future.

And tomorrow's float will introduce the developing Kalamazoo River Heritage Water Trail System. See maps, sign locations, and sign text in the "Plainwell to Douglas" and "Douglas to Lake Michigan" maps at www.kazoowatertrails.org. Water trail volunteers will be there talk about the Trails.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 366 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Carp Derby, Lake Allegan, June 13, 2009

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

It is 2009 Carp Derby time. Come out and try your luck.

No pre-registration or registration fee required. Come throw a line in the water or use any means to catch your carp (bow, line or spear!). Eligible fish can be caught anywhere upstream of the Lake Allegan Dam (a.k.a. Calkins Dam). Bring fish to the public access site between the hours of 10am and 5pm for measurement. Food and refreshments will be available. Have fun and learn about the unique problems facing Lake Allegan and the efforts stakeholders are undertaking to educate the public and remedy these problems. For more information, contact Larry Delong at (269) 966-3513.

These overabundant, contaminated carp will “sleep with the fishes” in a landfill after the event.

Please help the Lake Allegan/Kalamazoo River Watershed Phosphorus TMDL Implementation Committee promote this event (announcement attached). Organizers are still accepting prize donations.

Carp Derby 2003 at:

http://www.kalamazooriver.net/tmdl/carp_derby.htm

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 366 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

River Cleanup Milestone, Media Release, and Update

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kalamazoo River Watershed Council

Jeff Spoelstra, (269) 978-4606, Email: krwc@kalamazooriver.org

Kalamazoo River Watershed Council applauds successful river restoration at the Plainwell Dam site

KALAMAZOO, Michigan, June 8, 2009 – The recent removal of the Plainwell Dam and PCB-contaminated sediments upstream of it is a major step forward toward the cleanup and restoration of a free-flowing Kalamazoo River. The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council acknowledges and appreciates the tremendous effort by all parties involved in the process, particularly the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Agencies, as well as the financial contributions of the companies that made this work possible. The success of this dam removal demonstrates the feasibility of remediation of PCB contamination within the river channel, and paves the way for removing several other remnant dams downstream of the Plainwell Dam site. Removal of these dams and the contaminated sediments behind them is a long-term investment that will produce recreational, aesthetic, and economic benefits for local communities.

The Council will continue to monitor ongoing risk evaluations, negotiations, settlements, technical reports, and cleanup actions at this and other river valley locations. Critical decisions are yet to be made about the fate of the majority of river channel and floodplain contaminants between Kalamazoo and Lake Michigan. Large scale cleanups like Plainwell can cleanse the food chain of PCBs from local sources and reduce the risk of PCB exposure through fish consumption.

The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to work collaboratively with the community, government agencies, local officials and businesses to improve and protect the health of the Kalamazoo River, its tributaries, and its watershed. More information is available at www.kalamazooriver.org.

RELATED NEWS

At Plainwell:

“Kalamazoo River clean-up to celebrate milestone”

<http://www.wvmt.com/articles/river-1363348-clean-milestone.html>

At Willow/A-Site:

“Feds, Georgia-Pacific agree on Kalamazoo River PCB landfill containment plan”

<http://michiganmessenger.com/20197/feds-georgia-pacific-agree-on-kalamazoo-river-pcb-landfill-containment-plan>

30-day public comment open on Willow/A-Site landfill settlement/agreement, read the Consent Decree:

“Case: U.S. v. GEORGIA-PACIFIC”

<http://www.usdoj.gov/enrd/1261.htm>

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 366 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

River PCB Cleanups - More Actions Announced

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Yesterday, we witnessed the Kalamazoo River flowing freely past what used to be the Plainwell Dam just west of the US-131 bridge. See pictures at:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/KRWCCoord>

Today, we are learning more details about the next 2-year phase of river cleanup about 3.5 miles upstream near the "Plainwell #2 Dam". Here are some links to detailed agency statements, media, and technical documents.

"EPA: Georgia-Pacific to fund new cleanup work at MICHIGAN'S Kalamazoo River Superfund Site"
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/fb927073aeb465f3852575d0005f6895?OpenDocument>

Read the legal agreement for the new work under "Legal Agreements", "AOC, Agreement and Order on Consent, Plainwell Dam #2" at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/kalproject/>

And remember, you have until July 6 to submit public comments on the Willow/A-Site Landfill settlement, recently described here:

"Comstock landfill to be capped as part of Superfund site settlement"
<http://www.mlive.com/news/kzgazette/index.ssf?/base/news-34/1242831024304490.xml&coll=7>

Read the legal settlement here and follow US Department of Justice guidelines to submit your comments:
<http://www.usdoj.gov/enrd/1261.htm>

If you want a visual for floating past the current Willow/A-Site riverside landfill, watch the canoeing narrator in the trailer for this, Fall 2009 movie:
"Kalamazoo, River: US"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWJTF-iwSrE&>

If you want a visual for floating through the restored river channel, past the former Plainwell Dam, join us on our short float trip, July 25th, 2009. See Kanoethe Kazoo details at:
www.kingmanmuseum.org/kanoethekazoo

Keep checking back to the site as we finalize and share details on the put in, take out, and parking for the float trip.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 366 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Water Everywhere, Climate Change and Reference Updates

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

Flooding and high local groundwater tables are on many minds. Climate change will continue to change temperature, rainfall, runoff/erosion, river/floodplain hazards (dangerous dams, PCBs), evaporation, ice, and groundwater storage dynamics in our watershed.

Here are some up to date local resources and timely scientific reviews on climate change. Learn what climate change has already done in the region and what is predicted.

“Climate Change, Stormwater, and Michigan” 2009-

Webcast at: <http://wmsu.org/program.php?id=274>

White papers and presentations by GVSU and NOAA under the February 6th section:

<http://www.cws.msu.edu/stormwater.htm>

Climate Change-

- in the Midwest and Great Lakes - 2009:

<http://globalchange.gov/publications/reports/scientific-assessments/us-impacts/regional-climate-change-impacts/midwest>

- in the United States - 2009:

<http://globalchange.gov/publications/reports/scientific-assessments/us-impacts>

Local Hydrologic Analysis-

Kalamazoo River Watershed Nonpoint Hydrologic Analysis – 2008, and

Dickinson Creek – 2009 at:

http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3682_3714-57034--,00.html

see map and links to the reports at the bottom of page

Reminder-

Sign up for the Water Withdrawal Workshop in Kalamazoo on July 8th:

<http://www.michigantu.org/index.php/component/content/article/28-council/75-wwat-workshops>

We need to plan well and conservatively.

Here is a crazy idea as everybody gets downsized – partnering watershed management districts - MDEQ/MDNR/MDA/CDs/MSUE/NRCS/RPOs/MPOs/RC&Ds/NGOs

Best Regards,

Jeff

Note: 366 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Watershed Commentary and Flooding Update

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

I sent an e-mail yesterday about current impacts of global warming in the Midwest/Great Lakes Region. One that stands out in my mind is: “Average temperatures in the Midwest have risen in recent decades, with the largest increases in winter. Heavy downpours are now twice as frequent as they were a century ago.”

<http://globalchange.gov/publications/reports/scientific-assessments/us-impacts/regional-climate-change-impacts/midwest>

You can't put your finger on one storm, one heat wave, or one cold spell.....but certain trends are unequivocal. And we can ask, how are you designing your green and grey infrastructure? Are your standards up to date? Are anybody's standards up to date? Are political leaders and planners listening to their local resource and infrastructure managers and technicians?

I wrote the commentary below last year, but thought I would revisit it today with minor updates. News from 2009 AND 2008 follows the Commentary. I keep telling my wife that nerdy scientists will get there due. Nerdy scientists (I am a proud one) need to stand up, use reason, and point to the evidence, despite the typical “chicken little, sky is falling” nonsense casually thrown out by some parties.

Coordinator Commentary (updated since 2008 original)-

There are moments when nature respects no human made boundary or infrastructure. There are moments when water overwhelms or blasts right past our much needed and properly engineered conveyance systems, green roofs, rain barrels, rain gardens, lagoons, infiltration areas, swales, regional treatment systems, containment facilities, buffers, impoundments, etc., etc. And there are moments when our saturated soils slowly leak toward swelling rivers and rising aquifers.

There are moments when we are reminded that surface and groundwater are connected, despite legal definitions, and that the presence of uncontrolled or legacy contaminants is not well understood, not healthy, and frankly scary. There are moments when flooding re-creates river valleys, fills basements, threatens some dams, and blows out others.

There are moments when rivers miss half of their old friends, wetlands.

These are moments when people should look upstream and downstream and consider how we can better manage connected land and water.

When it comes to the things we can manage, let's stop creating new problems that increase soil loss, flash flooding, and contamination. Let's fix known problems faster. Let's get to work identifying the actions that are "cheap, easy, and now" and that may save money in the long run. Let's identify where minor, local investments help a great deal, or leverage state and federal funding. Let's ask our leaders for leadership. Let's implement our plans:

<http://www.kalamazooriver.org//content/view/57/46/>

Let's remember that watershed management, or adaptive watershed management, or integrated watershed management is about people working with other people to define, monitor, and seek balance between beneficial ecosystem services, the use of land and resources, limited finances, and the health and safety of, well, you. No single person has all the answers. The key is that people need to talk across sectors, political boundaries, scientific disciplines, offices, departments, and cubicles.

Looking ahead, scientific consensus is that the future will bring warmer temperatures and greater uncertainty in the Great Lakes Basin among other troubling predictions.

What do we do in the future?

- respect the floodplain; gain wetlands
- involve the public, don't shut the door; daylight it, don't delay it
- educate, demonstrate, and change behavior
- recognize global pollutant hotspots; recognize global pollution; act on both
- strengthen and green our cities, strengthen and green our farm communities, connect them with natural corridors; plan regional connected open space
- lead your family into the wilderness, bring your kids, bike a new trail, paddle the river (it is just clean enough, but watch out for high water and dams)
- stop losing native species and gaining invasives
- demand edible fish
- there will be a wave of natural resource professionals retiring (if their 401k's hold up) or being "downsized"; we can't lose their knowledge
- there are dedicated, young professionals who are sacrificing and putting their arms around their watersheds and inviting citizens to make a difference; we can't let them wander off and lose their dedication
- there are new tools, free tools, remotely accessible tools, and collaborative tools that are incredibly powerful and only now being tapped; they are a little scary and uncontrolled, but they are next; we are exploring them and sharing some draft examples here:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/krwccordinator>

<http://maps.google.com/maps/user?uid=113099152803456153081&hl=en&gl=us&mid=1221582940>

<http://picasaweb.google.com/KRWCCoord>

Every watershed has a unique history of people working together, here is part of ours:

<http://www.kalamazooriver.org//content/view/59/49/>

No doubt, somebody, in the watershed/subwatershed where you live, work, innovate, create jobs, or recreate is working on these issues. The Watershed Council would like to help you find a way to help by connecting you with dedicated working groups of people in your area.

In the news in June 2009:

“Allegan County declares emergency, cites \$2.6 million in damages and counting”

<http://www.hollandsentinel.com/breaking/x998783314/Allegan-County-declares-emergency-cites-2-6-million-in-damages-and-counting>

“Disaster cleanup money isn't likely to come quickly for Holland after weekend flooding”

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2009/06/disaster_cleanup_money_isnt_li.html

“100 year rainstorm' floods Michigan's Lakeshore for second year in a row”

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2009/06/100_year_rainstorm_floods_mich.html

“Michigan scientists implore Senate to protect the planet”

<http://www.westernherald.com/?p=6281>
<http://www.freep.com/article/20090602/BLOG2506/90602055/1068/opinion>

“Legislature moves to combine DNR, DEQ, but Cherry’s streamlining agenda remains unclear”

<http://michiganmessenger.com/21479/legislature-moves-to-combine-dnr-deq-but-cherrys-streamlining-agenda-remains-unclear>

“The health department also is looking at ways to expand countywide a recent ban on phosphorus in lawn fertilizers in Battle Creek, he said. Phosphorus runoff encourages unwanted plant growth in the Kalamazoo River and other bodies of water.”

<http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20090617/NEWS01/906170308/1002/NEWS01/In-the-Neighborhood>

“Editorial: Governments benefit through collaboration”

http://www.mlive.com/opinion/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2009/06/editorial_governments_benefit.html

Take Action on any of these items by calling your leaders:

“Help Pass the American Clean Energy and Security Act”

<https://online.nwf.org/site/Advocacy?JServSessionIdr011=ma19mgmpz2.app17b&cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=919>

“Senate moves to restore the Clean Water Act protections for nation's lakes, streams”
http://www.wmicentral.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20334807&BRD=2264&PAG=461&dept_id=505965&rfi=6

“Panel OKs more federal funding for lakes' cleanup”
http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/newssun/news/1636245,5_1_WA24_KIRKLAKE_S1-090624.article

“Great Lakes Legacy Act passes”
<http://www.petoskeynews.com/articles/2009/06/23/news/doc4a40c9b44eded789695337.txt>

In the news September 2008:

Kalamazoo County may seek federal disaster declaration for flood damage

Weekend's heavy rain leaves farmers' fall crops to rot underwater

Kalamazoo city officials survey flood-affected areas

Recent floods rank with some of the highest water levels in the 20th Century

Gallery: Aerial view of the flooding 9-17-08
<http://photos.mlive.com/gallery/4472/Aerial%20view%20of%20the%20flooding%209-17-08>

Why do Southwest Michigan rivers continue to rise days after rain is over?
http://www.mlive.com/kzgazette/news/index.ssf/2008/09/why_do_southwest_michigan_rive.html

Dam breaks as flooding hits southern Michigan

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 366 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Seminars: Water Withdrawal, Planning, and Watershed Management

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

You are invited to participate in one of several workshops intended for anyone interested in learning about Michigan's new water withdrawal laws and how those involved with stewardship of our water resources can play a part in the water withdrawal decision making process. These workshops are designed for three audiences: 1) local water-resource advocates (watershed groups, lake associations, environmental groups, etc.); 2) local governmental planning and zoning practitioners; and 3) community/economic development officers in local governments.

The July 8th workshop will occur in Kalamazoo. The Watershed Council helped the co-sponsors arrange the Kalamazoo event.

An overview, schedule, and agenda are attached. See this website to register:
<http://www.michigantu.org/index.php/component/content/article/28-council/75-wwat-workshops>

A brief review of water law in Michigan will be followed by a tutorial on some key hydrologic terms and concepts. The Water Withdrawal Assessment Process, the use of state-of-the-art online tools, and how to avoid adverse resource impacts will all be covered. An overview of the regional groundwater and surface water resources will be presented specifically for each workshop location. Lastly, we will review several example uses of the Assessment Tool for sustainable community planning and development. Dr. David Lusch (MSU Geography and Institute of Water Research) will be the primary presenter.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Kalamazoo River Superfund PCB Cleanup Public Update Meeting July 14th

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

The USEPA will host a public meeting on the evening of July 14th in Plainwell Michigan. EPA provided me with the following details:

“EPA is holding a public meeting Tuesday, July 14, at 6:30 p.m. at the Comfort Inn and Conference Center, 622 Allegan St., Plainwell, Mich. The meeting will be a routine update meeting and include discussions on the Plainwell #2 Dam removal action which will begin in August, an update on the disposal areas (Allied Site, 12th Street Landfill, Willow/A-site Landfill), as well as the Mill properties. A fact sheet has been mailed with more detailed information and will be available at the meeting as well.”

I was provided this information on July 1, but was delayed in forwarding it along. I'm sorry for my delay.

Come interact with parties involved in PCB cleanup in the lower half of the river valley.

The EPA project website <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/sites/kalproject/> has the most recent cleanup project documents and fact sheets.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 360 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Kanoe and Kayak Update, July 25th

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

On July 25th you have three options for paddling and exploring river valley communities. Please spread the word.

1) Kanoe the Kazoo with the Watershed Council – Floating Plainwell to Otsego in the morning:

www.kalamazooriver.org &
www.kingmanmuseum.org/kanoethekazoo

2) Kanoe the Kazoo with Binder Park Zoo – Floating from Battle Creek:

www.kingmanmuseum.org/kanoethekazoo

3) Kayak Race in Plainwell – Racing around the Island City in the afternoon:

www.plainwell.org
http://www.plainwell.org/islandcitylife/kayakrace_2009.pdf, registration form

The Council conducted a test float last weekend from Plainwell to Otsego and we found the short trip to be enjoyable and interesting. On this float trip you can see results of the Plainwell Dam removal and Superfund/PCB-related river corridor cleanup that occurred from 2007-2009. See photos:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/KRWCCoord/TestFloatJuly11thPlainwellToOtsego#>

Abundant, clean, and healthy waterways and groundwater in the watershed will play an important role in the future of your river valley communities. Let's keep investing in our "bathtub" by preventing pollution, reducing stormwater and sedimentation problems, reducing excess phosphorus, removing toxic contamination, removing useless and dangerous dams, mapping water trails, placing land trails, respecting the floodplain, coming to grips with climate driven runoff changes, improving land use practices, and protecting sensitive areas.

Do it for the paddlers, anglers, fish, furred, and feathered:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/KRWCCoord/WhoBenefits#>

Do it for your kids and grandchildren:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/KRWCCoord/WatershedFieldTrip#>

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 360 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Great Lakes Restoration Meeting (Aug 3) and Areas of Concern Workshop (Aug 4) in Lansing

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

A Great Lakes Restoration Initiative meeting and a targeted Great Lakes Areas of Concern Workshop will occur August 3 and 4 in Lansing.

I'll be speaking to introduce the workshop on behalf of the Statewide Public Advisory Council. We will invite specific Watershed Partners but we encourage all to consider attending both meetings.

We've all been planning for years! Let's get on with implementing high priority projects that line up with numerous funding opportunities likely to emerge from the Initiative (likely \$400-\$475 million in the first year). See several water resource plans and links to plans under "Plans" at www.kalamazooriver.org.

Information on the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (August 3rd)

Background on the GLRI is available online at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/glri/index.html>. U.S. EPA's public meeting on the Initiative will be held on Monday, Aug. 3 from 5:00-7:00 pm at the Kellogg Center on the MSU campus. For details, see <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/glri/publicmeetings.html>.

Related press:

"EPA Seeks Public's Input On Great Lakes Cleanup"

<http://wcco.com/wireapnews/EPA.seeks.public.2.1087424.html>

Workshop Announcement (August 4th)

Building Capacity and Partnerships to Restore
Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern Under the
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Tuesday, August 4, 2009

Michigan State University Union

East Lansing, Michigan

Sponsored by the Statewide Public Advisory Council for
Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern Program

Details, agenda, and registration form now online at <http://glc.org/spac/workshop-aug09.html>

Workshop Background

President Obama has proposed \$475 million for a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. A substantial portion of this funding is proposed for cleaning up designated Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes, and U.S. EPA is expected to release a large request for proposals as early as this summer.

This is a critical time to identify restoration projects for Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern, and to develop partnerships and other arrangements to prepare proposals and seek funding for those projects. The workshop will be directed toward this end.

Workshop Agenda

Staff from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will present key restoration needs in Michigan's 14 Great Lakes Areas of Concern, and representatives from U.S. EPA and other federal agencies will discuss funding opportunities under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Local leaders from Michigan's 14 Great Lakes Areas of Concern will be on hand to discuss restoration needs, identify potential project partners, and consider next steps for preparing funding proposals. Partners interested in collaborating on implementation projects are invited to set up displays and network with Area of Concern leaders to market their services.

Who Should Attend the Workshop?

The workshop is intended for all parties working to clean up Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern, as well as partners who can help develop and implement proposals for cleanup projects. This includes public agencies, environmental and conservation organizations, foundations, colleges and universities, consulting firms and other interested parties.

Workshop Contact

For more information on the workshop, contact Matt Doss, administrator for the Statewide Public Advisory Council, at the Great Lakes Commission at 734-971-9135, mdoss@glc.org.

For background on the Statewide Public Advisory Council and Michigan's Great Lakes Areas of Concern program, visit the Council website at <http://glc.org/spac/>.

For the latest compilation of projects that the Watershed Council intends to pursue or encourage in order someday to remove the Kalamazoo River from the list of Great Lakes Area of Concern "toxic hotspots" see our recent habitat impairment delisting targets:

<http://www.kalamazooriver.org/images/stories//final%20kzoo%20fish%20&%20wildlife%20bui.pdf>

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 360 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

July 28 Meeting: Allied Site/Landfill (Superfund) on Portage Creek in Kalamazoo

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

From the USEPA:

Public Meeting for Allied Landfill Operable Unit of the Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site – Tuesday, July 28, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Radisson Plaza Hotel, Glens Room, 100 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will hold a meeting to update the community on the Allied Landfill operating unit of the larger river valley Superfund site. Topics for discussion are the ground water study, preliminary work for the feasibility study, and next steps. Representatives from the federal and state agencies will be present to answer questions. For background information see – www.epa.gov/region5/sites/kalproject

Watershed Council thoughts:

Parties working on the fate of the Allied Site and Portage Creek Corridor are approaching a key moment when options for permanent cleanup are explored then selected. The Watershed Council will continue to work to ensure that human and ecosystem health is protected and communication channels are open. An effective cleanup must come first and will set the stage for:

Safer neighborhoods nearby and downstream:

<http://kalrivercleanup.org/>

Protected drinking water:

http://www.kalamazoocity.org/portal/pubserve.php?page_id=546

Reduced threats to fish and wildlife downstream:

“Michigan's do-not-eat fish list online doesn't reach enough anglers”

http://www.mlive.com/outdoors/index.ssf/2009/07/michigans_donoteat_fish_list_o.html

Reuse - Portage Creek corridor restoration:

www.portagecreekreuse.com

“City of Kalamazoo OKs Portage Creek corridor plan”

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2009/04/city_of_kalamazoo_oks_portage.html

A safer, cleaner Portage Creek subwatershed:

<http://www.kalamazooringiver.net/pa319new/index.htm>

Connectivity, a missing link in recreational land trails:

<http://www.kaltrailway.org/>, see the map

Access and connectivity, a missing link in a future water trail:

www.kazoowatertrails.org, see Portage Creek map

Read about it: "Prospects and limitations for ecocultural tourism in the city : developing an urban heritage water trail on the Portage Creek / by Eric Mark Kerney. 2008" Waldo Library (WMU), General Stacks Call Number: HT 9999 .K476

An urban landscape with fewer scars and more reused brownfields, fly over it on

YouTube to start to visualize the corridor:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X2oYDie4wl8>

When we clean up, green up, and reuse the brownfields, we don't have to brown up as many green fields.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 360 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.

Local Watershed Grants Awarded

Kalamazoo River Watershed Communication Center

Watershed Partners,

We expect two new watershed projects to lead to site specific action plans and on the ground projects that reduce erosion, restore wetlands, reduce excess phosphorus, respect the floodplain, and inspire local adoption of conservation practices.

“14 Grants Awarded Across Michigan to Restore and Protect Water Quality”-MDEQ

<http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135--218565--,00.html>

“- The Calhoun Conservation District in Calhoun County - \$185,905 for the Crooked Creek Watershed Planning Project.

- The Calhoun Conservation District in Calhoun County - \$247,803 for the Rice Creek Floodplain Reconnection Project.”

On behalf of watershed stakeholders, the downstream Kalamazoo River mainstem furred and feathered, and the Lake Michigan basin, bravo!

And bravo neighbors!

- The Van Buren Conservation District in Van Buren County - \$806,551 for the Black and Paw Paw Rivers Wetland Protection/Restoration Project.

Best Regards,
Jeff

Note: 358 Bcc: e-mail recipients on this message.