

**Ecorse Creek and Combined Downriver Watersheds
Public Information Meeting #1 Summary
January 20, 2005 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

1) Welcome and Introductions

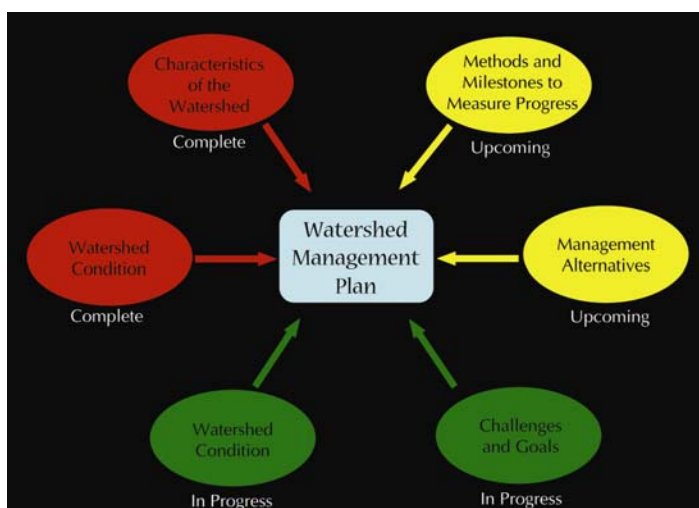
- Approximately 40 people were in attendance (see attached sign-in sheet)
- As they signed in, attendees were asked to identify with a push pin, which watershed they lived in. Ten of the meeting participants did so. Of those, five people indicated they live near the north branch of the Ecorse Creek, two people live closer to the Sexton-Kilfoil Drain, two people live near the Frank & Poet Drain in Taylor, and one person in Gibraltar, near the Detroit River.
- Jim Katona, ECIC Chair, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Jim gave a brief overview of the watershed management plan projects and indicated the committees' desire to gain input on the plan and to keep everyone involved in the process.
- Greg Weeks, WTA, gave a brief introduction of the agenda and purpose of the public workshop, as well as the overall purpose of the Watershed Management Plans (WMPs) for both the Ecorse Creek and Combined Downriver watersheds. Greg indicated that the communities are working together to develop the federally-mandated watershed management plans and that the communities developed and adopted a Memorandum of Agreement forming the Ecorse Creek Watershed Inter-Municipality Committee (ECIC) and the Combined Downriver Watershed Inter-Municipality Committee (CDWIC). Greg also reviewed what a watershed is, the location of the two watersheds that were being discussed tonight, and indicated that these two projects were different from the North Branch Ecorse Creek Study that is being done by Wayne County.

2) Profiles of Watersheds

- Leah Groya, WTA, gave an overview of existing conditions of the two watersheds and preliminary findings and issues for each. The overview included discussion regarding the percent of population within the watersheds by community, population density, land area within the watershed by community, the primary water courses, topography, pre-settlement vegetation, existing land use, future land use, wetlands, flood prone areas, and general issues and concerns. The slide presentation will be placed on the respective project websites.

3) Next Steps and How to Stay Involved

- Vicki Putala, OHM, reviewed the various steps/content of a Watershed Management Plan and what work the committees have already completed, what is in progress, and what steps are upcoming. The following image was utilized to convey this information:



- Vicki Putala, OHM, then reviewed the committees' desire to ensure open communication and continued participation throughout the development of the Watershed Management Plan. Vicki indicated that each committee has set up project web sites that include information on upcoming meetings, contacts, drafts of the plan, press releases, meeting materials, etc. The web site addresses are:
 - www.ecorsecreek.com
 - www.combineddownriver.com
- It was also noted that the project staff from Wade-Trim or OHM can be called or emailed with questions or input, as can either of the chairs for the two committees, and that the contact information is on the project web site, and also was included on the bottom of meeting agenda.
- Vicki indicated that interested people and parties can be added to the existing email distribution lists for the two projects, and invited people to please let us know on your evaluation form, or otherwise.
- Two more public information meetings are scheduled during the development of the Watershed Management Plan projects. They are tentatively scheduled for the week of May 9th and the week of August 8th. Specific dates and locations have yet to be determined, but will be posted on the project web sites, emailed, etc. in the coming months.
- As a reminder, information regarding the North Branch Ecorse Creek Project that is being done by Wayne County can be found at www.nbecorsecreek.com.

4) Public Input and Question and Answer Session

- Vicki, Greg and Jim then opened it up for general questions regarding what was presented and/or general comments regarding the watersheds. Questions, answers, and general comments were exchanged regarding the condition of the watersheds, testing and data available, process and intent of the projects, etc. Comments from attendees included the following:
 - Water quality testing is needed to understand the problems.
 - Partnerships with schools and volunteers to monitor macroinvertebrates can be utilized for data collection.
 - Ensure partnerships occur and communication exists.
 - Attend local community watershed commission meetings to discuss the project.
 - Better interaction and involvement is needed.
 - In the late 1990's, there were fecal coliform issues in the LeBlanc Drain, even though it is supposed to carry only storm water.
 - Educate the youth.
 - Utilize volunteer programs to monitor and test water conditions.
 - Need to balance flow issues versus habitat needs.
 - Protect and enhance existing buffers.

- As long as development keeps occurring as it is, it will be difficult to turn the problem around.
- Need to develop and enforce tree ordinances throughout the watershed to protect the existing vegetation.....not only along riparian corridors, but throughout the watershed.
- Interested in knowing how the project was being paid for. (This question was also raised during the Q&A period. The answer was given that each of the communities within both watersheds - with the exception of Trenton who has a jurisdictional permit - approved a Memorandum of Agreement to develop the plans and the MOA included the financial commitment for each community based on population and land area within the watershed boundaries. Each community is sharing their resources and has paid a portion of the cost of completing the work.)
- Three stations were set up around the room. Attendees were asked to visit each of the stations to provide additional input to the committees and discuss issues and concerns in more detail. The stations included the following:
 - Identify areas of concern in the watersheds
 - One attendee lives adjacent to the North Branch of the Ecorse Creek, in Allen Park, near the Southfield freeway. They indicated flooding with major debris is continuing to be a problem and is getting worse. Trees are falling into the creek drain and the smell is unbearable.
 - Prioritize example goals for the watersheds
 - Example goals for the watersheds were listed and participants were asked to identify their top three priority goals. Following are the number of responses received for each of the example goals listed:

Example Goals	Priorities	
	Ecorse Creek	Combined Downriver
Reduce stream flow variability	2	1
Reduce flooding	4	1
Protect, enhance, and restore riparian and instream habitat	2	1
Improve water quality	1	0
Increase public education, understanding, and participation regarding watershed issues	2	2
Preserve, increase, and enhance recreational opportunities	2	0
Protect groundwater	0	0
Preserve and protect agricultural lands	1	0
Sustainable watershed management	2	1
Protect public health	2	0

- Seven Simple Steps to Clean Water (SEMCOG)
SEMCOG attended the meeting with their watershed booth and public education handouts and discussed the seven simple steps that people can do to improve water quality.

Notes prepared by Leah Groya (Wade-Trim)

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Sign In Sheet

Name	Entity / Community
DONALD A TITUS	DEARBORN HEIGHTS - WATER SHED
BILL SHEVCHIK	DEARBORN HEIGHTS - WATER SHED
STEVEN H ROBERTS	DEARBORN Hgts
CRAG LYON	TAYLOR
BRODERY RYAN	DEARBORN Hgts
SWAN SIEFANSKI	DEARBORN HEIGHTS
MICHELLE LaROSE	SEMCOG
ELIZABETH THACKER	Huron Township (OHM)
AMANDA D'ANGELO	Romulus (OHM)
BYRON LASS	SEN. RE Basham ofc
	GIBKALTAN - FRANK + POET DRAIN

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Name	Entity / Community
ERIC W. WITTS	CITY OF MELVINDALE
Barb Goryca	City of Dearborn Heights
Michael J. Szwed	City of St. Clair Shores
Verdell Bracy	City of Lincoln Park
Wendy A. Gyetan	Grosse Ile Township Public Works
Robert Burns	Detroit Riverkeeper
Donna Petry	Wayne County Conservation - Taylor
Tom Berry	DON HETS WATERSHED
Robert Summons	Allen Park 48101
Raymond Summons	Allen Park 48101

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Name	Entity / Community
NANCY SIMMONDS	ALLEN PARK
Vyto Kaurialis	OHM
ERIC HARRIS	WADE-TURN
MARTIN LADD	TAYLOR
JOHN NASARZEWski	BOISE stream team
Bruce Szczechowski	American H.S. / Southgate
STEVE RAY	CITY OF DEARBORN HRS WATERBOD STWARDS COMMISSION
KELLEN Conley	Wayne County
May + Phyllis Green	Taylor
JANE MACEY	CONGRESSMAN CONYERS AND FRIENDS OF THE DETROIT RIVER

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Name

Entity / Community

JOHN MITCHELL

AURORA TOWNSHIP

Kay Beard

Wayne County Commissioner

JAMES R. KATONA

City of Taylor

KELLY CHANG

WAYNE CO DOE

Amy Stickney

OHM

Bob Constan

Dearborn High School Council Watershed Stewards

Leah Gray

Wade Trim

Greg Wells

Wade Trim