

**Dearborn County Water Quality Management Plan Update  
Advisory Committee  
September 13, 2010  
Meeting Summary**

**ATTENDED BY:**

Committee Members:

Jim Deaton, Chair  
Rita Cutter  
Mel Davis  
Paul Grimsley

Jennifer Hughes  
Steve Lampert  
Mark McCormack  
Margaret Minzner

Bill Neyer  
Steve Renihan  
Randy Turner

Guest:

Steve Canter, John Grace, Bob Hrezo

OKI Staff:

Travis Miller, Bruce Koehler, Robert Lakeberg

Chairman Jim Deaton convened the meeting, welcomed the group and reviewed the meeting agenda objectives.

Bruce Koehler presented information Soil Suitability data and reviewed the map of Home Sewage Problem Clusters as revised with input from the Committee at the previous meeting. Questions about the soil suitability information regarding suitable soils within floodways were raised. After discussing this, it was agreed that existing floodway areas should be included on the Soil Suitability map as an overlay and a reference in the WQMP regarding soils that may be suitable for septic leach fields based upon their percolation qualities may be in areas where septic systems are not feasible, such as floodway.

The group offered some potential reasons for the high e. coli levels in Logan Creek may be due to septic system clusters near Pinhook Road and also questioned whether the gravel quarry in this vicinity could have an impact on the attainment levels of this Creek.

It was suggested that the 'hot spots' map be overlaid upon the stream attainment map in order to inform and begin prioritizing the un-sewered areas. Other additional 'hot spots' were suggested by the group including the Pinhook Road vicinity and an area near Laughery Creek.

It was pointed out that the current County codes on septic systems were enacted in 1990 and suggested that many systems installed prior to this year may be suspect and could be a starting point for mapping areas of potential septic system issues. The data necessary for this mapping will exist in the parcel data, but is not currently available.

Robert Lakeberg presented a slide show which explained the various water quality monitoring techniques used by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Procedures for chemical monitoring, fish tissue monitoring, fish Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) scores, macroinvertebrate IBI (mIBI) scores, and Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI) scores were all overviewed. Results from IDEM monitoring sites in Dearborn County were also

presented.

While most sites in Dearborn County have excellent habitat scores, there seem to be some problems areas for aquatic community quality, bacteria levels, low dissolved oxygen levels, and game fish containing elevated levels of pollutants in their tissue. All of these issues will eventually require further investigation, as this data mostly serves as a preliminary identifier of problem areas. On the positive side, it does seem that the county's surface water resources are of generally good quality, and are not experiencing some of the harsher conditions of other streams in the tri-state region.

Travis Miller updated the Committee on population projection data and shared some preliminary data on projected wastewater flows for each wastewater treatment provider within the County. The population projections for treatment provider areas have been estimated using OKI Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) data. Some TAZ areas are served by more than one wastewater treatment provider, therefore sub-area estimates have been prepared based upon the portion of TAZ area currently served and the proportion of address points within those portions of the TAZ. Miller also shared a working map depicting the current wastewater service areas based upon existing sewer line locations and assuming areas within 300 feet of these lines are servable. Miller explained that OKI would be preparing preliminary FPA area maps for the Committee's review and input at the December meeting and the population and wastewater flow projections would be critical in informing this part of the WQM plan update.

Miller summarized the highlights and findings from the individual treatment provider consultations occurring between the wastewater treatment providers and OKI staff in August and September. Each Committee member/Guest representing the treatment providers provided brief commentary on the issues, concerns and future plans of the WWTP with the Committee. The brief commentaries were as follows:

South Dearborn Regional Sewer District is exploring expansion of the wastewater treatment plant. A definite plan has yet to be formulated. The 3.6 million gallons of average daily flow can be a deceiving figure in relation to the 6.0 million gallons per day (MGD) capacity because South Dearborn Regional Sewer District receives sewage with high biological oxygen demand.

Aurora's difficulties with infiltration and inflow (I&I) are largely attributable to the sewage system's age and its proximity to the Ohio River. The city's most recent grant application was rejected.

Greendale is working with Pri-Pak to reduce the amount of sewage grease resulting from the substance that the company uses to keep its bottle conveyers moving. Greendale would benefit from a prioritization of home sewage problem clusters. The failing septic tanks on Green Road, Oberting Road and State Route 1 are especially problematic because many discharge untreated sewage directly to streams.

Valley Rural Utility Company has earned the U.S. Department of Agriculture's approval of an \$11 million loan. The utility awaits closing of the loan.

St. Leon anticipates that it will provide sewage service to the West Harrison Tax Increment Financing (TIF) area, east of their existing service area and the St Leon TIF area, south of the existing St. Leon Town corporation limit.