11:15-12:15

Water Quality Protection and Improvement
Water Quality Protection Plans

CASS RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN
RIFLE RIVER WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT
Water Quality...

- Areas of Concern
- Federal Authority
- How, Why, and for Whom do we plan to:
  - Meet Federal Requirements
  - Achieve water quality goals
  - Achieve community goals
  - Maintain enthusiasm
  - Create great projects
  - Qualify for funding
PEOPLE + PLACE = POSSIBILITIES
People + Place = Possibilities

“If you want to know how the shoe fits, ask the one who is wearing it, not the one who made it.”
Community Empowerment

Connect People with Land

Connect Urban and Rural
More Deeply with the Land

Develop Programs to Serve
as Organizing Mechanisms

Engage in Urban Issues that Impact Conservation

Work with Communities to Identify Benefits that Serve Their Agendas
Collaboration and Partnerships

Increased Organizational Capacity and Reach

Greater Learning and Networking Opportunities

Increased Coordination of Efforts and Programming

Creation of a Regional Voice and Community Identity

Ability to Work on a Larger Geographic Scale

Access Additional Funding

“Go into partnership with nature; she does more than half the work and asks none of the fee.” – Martin H. Fischer
Saginaw Bay Watershed

Cass River identified as contributing major sources of sedimentation to the Saginaw River and Bay

Why Cass is Important

- Cass River identified as contributing major sources of sedimentation to the Saginaw River and Bay
Cass River Watershed – Location
Cass River Champions

- Riparian Landowners
- Conservation Districts
- Growers
- Local municipalities
- Saginaw Bay RC&D
- Health Departments
- State of Michigan – Department of Environmental Quality
- Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge
- University of Michigan-Flint
Accomplishments

- Cass River Greenway Committee
- Rapid Watershed Assessment
- Cleanups
- Grants, grants, and more grants
- Improved access
- Promotion – brochures, etc
- Natural Lands Inventory
- Road/stream crossing inventory
- Streambank erosion inventory
Key parts of a watershed plan

Inventory

Build Local Network

Raise Awareness

Develop Action Plan
What is a Watershed Plan?

A watershed plan brings together members of the community to manage land activities that affect water.
What is a Watershed Plan?

It recommends ways to protect and improve water resources as land use changes. Because water runs over land, land use has the potential to add pollutants to our water resources.
Why a Watershed Plan?

- manage activities related to water quality
- address water quality concerns cost effectively
- receive government funding to aid in implementation
- gets the community aware and involved
So what are we doing?

- Established a working group that meets monthly to oversee project progress, includes representatives from local government, residents, and contractors
- Inventoried drains and tributaries this past summer, identified where major sources and causes of water pollution are occurring
- Created a map series showcasing trends in water quality, land use, and population
- Potential Wetland Restoration Areas and Conservation Areas
- Urban Stormwater Analysis
Why are we doing this?

- Known impairments to water quality (7)
  - E.coli
  - Other Indigenous Aquatic Life & Wildlife
  - Warm Water Fishery
What are we working on now?

- Creating an action plan to pay for education and installation costs for improving water quality and current land management practices

- CRG: River Signs
- CRG: Monitoring Grants
Who Implements the Plan?

- The final watershed management plan will be completed December, 2012
- It belongs to everyone
  - Any non-profit, educational institution, or government agency can apply for funding to implement the plan
  - Typically, Conservation Districts take the lead on implementation in partnership with other community agencies and volunteers.
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