



**Macatawa Area  
Coordinating Council**  
*A Cooperative Effort Among Units of Government*



## Macatawa Watershed Project

### **WATERSHED PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, July 16, 2009**

**1:00 PM**

**MACC Office**

**301 Douglas Avenue, Holland**

#### **Policy Board**

▸ Blaine Koops, Chair  
▸ Rosemary Ervine  
▸ Hannes Meyers, Jr.  
▸ Pankaj Rajadhyaksha  
▸ William Vanderbilt  
▸ Howard Baumann, Jr.  
▸ Terry M. Burns  
▸ Terry Hofmeyer  
▸ Lester Hoogland  
▸ John Kleinheksel  
▸ Dal McBurrows  
▸ Albert McGeehan  
▸ Al Myaard  
▸ Terry Nienhuis  
▸ Keith Potter  
▸ Amanda Price  
▸ Gord Schrottenboer  
▸ Russ Te Slaa  
▸ Dave Vander Kooi  
▸ Todd Wolters

▸ Executive Committee

### **Agenda**

#### **I. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE-Mary Fales**

*Since the overall goal of this committee is to assist/advise MACC staff on the revision of the watershed management plan, Mary will provide an update of where we are at in that process, what projects are upcoming and how each committee member can play a helpful role in the process as we move forward.*

#### **II. REPORT ON STORM DAMAGE - Joel Evenhouse, MACC Intern**

*In October 2008, approximately 120 road stream crossing locations throughout the watershed were surveyed for potential erosion risk. After the recent 100 year storm event, many of the high and moderate risk sites were revisited to assess storm damage. We will examine before and after pictures and discuss impacts a recently installed demonstration site at Paw Paw Bridge Park.*

#### **III. THE MACATAWA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION-Russell Radford, President**

#### **IV. GENERAL WATERSHED UPDATES-Mary Fales**

- a. *Status of conservation priority mapping project*
- b. *Harmful algal bloom monitoring program underway*
- c. *GVSU Masters Student: Wetland Inventory and Restoration Strategy*

#### **V. OPEN FORUM: OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBER UPDATES**

#### **VI. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER**

## Watershed Management Plan Revisions: Status for July 2009

**Background:** *Our current watershed management plan, the Nonpoint Source Phosphorus Reduction Plan, was written in 1999 and was updated in 2005. Since then, DEQ and EPA have increased requirements of watershed management plans and have issued criteria that must be met before a watershed management plan is approved. Our watershed management plan must be updated to meet these requirements and be approved by DEQ before we can again be eligible for any state grant funding.*

### **Major Steps in the planning process:**

1. Build Partnerships
  - Identify key stakeholders
  - Identify issues of concern
  - Set preliminary goals
  - Develop indicators
  - Conduct public outreach
2. Characterize the Watershed
  - Gather existing data and create a watershed inventory
  - Identify data gaps and collect additional data
  - Identify causes and sources of pollutants that need to be controlled
  - Estimate pollutant loads
3. Set Goals and Identify Solutions
4. Design an Implementation Plan
5. Implement the Plan
6. Measure Progress, Make Adjustments

### **Build Partnerships**

We have reorganized the Watershed Technical Committee, encouraged a variety of stakeholder groups to participate, and refocused our efforts. This will be our fourth meeting since January 2009. Up until this point we have focused our time learning about the conservation priority mapping project and we have worked together to set some criteria for that mapping project. We have learned about the widespread loss of wetlands and wetland function in our watershed and talked extensively about the septic tank priority inventory and mapping septic system risk areas.

### **Characterize the Watershed**

MACC maintains an extensive library of historical documentation, books and report on the watershed. In developing our new plan, we will be utilizing the following:

- Bank Erosion Hazard Index Survey (currently finalizing per DEQ comments)
- Updated Land Use Layer (2005), MDEQ (complete)
- New Hydrology Report, MDEQ (anticipated August 2009)
- 2008 Monitoring Report, MDEQ (anticipated August/September 2009)
- Survey of Agricultural Landowners, scheduled for early December 2009
- Conservation Priority Map, (anticipated in late fall 2009)
- Farmland Preservation Map, (anticipated Feb, March 2010)
- Geomorphology Analysis, upcoming (to be completed by a consultant)