

***June 30, 2005
Public Meeting***

Press Release

Elkhart County Commissioners Puterbaugh Creek - Heaton Lake
Watershed Management Plan

Elkhart County Commissioners have received a \$60,000 Federal Fiscal Year 2002 205(j) Water Quality Planning Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency for the development of a Watershed Management Plan for the Puterbaugh Creek - Heaton Lake Watershed. The Puterbaugh Creek - Heaton Lake Watershed encompasses an area of approximately 17 square miles. Its northern boundary extends into the State of Michigan and south to include the Heaton Lake and Puterbaugh Creek. This watershed study area encompasses nearly all of Osolo Township and the western portion of Washington Township.

A Joint Stakeholder Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM on Thursday, June 30, 2005 at the Osolo Township Emergency Medical Services (EMS) building located at 25600 CR 4, Elkhart, Indiana. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the public about the Watershed Management Plan Project and invite participation in the Watershed Planning process.

Questions concerning this meeting should be directed to Mr. Christopher J. Jeter at Lawson-Fisher Associates (574) 234-3167 or Ms. Kristine Krueger at the Elkhart County Commissioners Office (574) 535-6746.



LAWSON-FISHER ASSOCIATES P.C.
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JOHN A. MIDDLETON, P.E.
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THOMAS S. SHARP, P.E.
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JON E. RIEMKE, P.E.
JEFFREY L. MCKEAN, P.E.
RANDOLPH J. LINDLEY, P.E.
SKY K. MEDORS, P.E.
CHRISTOPHER J. JETER, P.E.
DENNIS A. ZEBELL, P.E.
BENJAMIN P. HOLDEN, P.E.
DAN G. DELGADO, P.E.
MARK H. FOSTER, P.E.
CHARLES F. FARRELL, P.E.
MICHAEL J. GUZIK, P.E.
MICHAEL F. JOHNSTON, P.E.

June 15, 2005

Ms. Nancy Brown, Program Manager
Elkhart County SWCD
17746-B C.R. 34
Goshen, IN 46528

RE: Elkhart County Commissioners
Section 205(j) Watershed Management Plan Grant
Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake Watershed
Watershed Steering Committee Meeting

Dear Ms. Brown:

This letter is to inform you that a Watershed Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for the above referenced project. The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, June 30, 2005, at the Osolo Township Emergency Medical Services (EMS) building located at 25600 County Road 4, Elkhart, Indiana. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the public about the Watershed Management Plan Project and invite participation in the Watershed Planning process.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or comments.

Very truly yours,

LAWSON-FISHER ASSOCIATES P.C.

Christopher J. Jeter, P.E.
Civil Engineer

CJJ/bsa

c: Kristine Krueger
John E. Fisher, P.E., F.ASCE
Piper C. Tittle, P.E.

**Elkhart County Commissioners
Section 205(j) Watershed Management Plan Grant
Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake
Watershed Steering Committee Meeting
June 30, 2005**

Ms. Nancy Brown, Program Manager
Elkhart County SWCD
17746-B C.R. 34
Goshen, IN 46528

Ms. Kristine Krueger
Elkhart County Government
117 North Second Street
Goshen, IN 46526

Mr. Jeff Burbrink
Purdue University Co-op Extension Service
Elkhart County Office
Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds
17746-E C.R. 34
Goshen, IN 46528-6898

Mr. Eric Kurtz
Elkhart County SWCD
17746-B C.R. 34
Goshen, IN 46528

Mr. and Ms. Tom Davis
52860 County Road 15
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. Everett Lienhart
22541 Lakeshore Drive
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. Blake Doriot
Elkhart County Surveyor's Office
4230 Elkhart Road
Goshen, IN 46526

Mr. Denny Lyon, Drainage Technician
Elkhart County Surveyor's Office
4230 Elkhart Road
Goshen, IN 46526

Mr. Maynard Good
23257 County Road 18
Goshen, IN 46528

Mr. and Ms. Ty Miller
29893 Olin Court
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. Kyle Hannon
5 Kim Court
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. and Mrs. Shawn Nicodemus
2600 Broadmoor Drive
Elkhart, Indiana 46514

Mr. John Hardy
54507 David Drive
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. Donald Parker
2101 Grant Street
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. John Hulewicz
Elkhart County Health Department
4230 Elkhart Road
Goshen, IN 46526

Mr. Nathan Rice, Grant Project Manager
Indiana Dept. of Environ. Mgmt.
Watershed Management Section
100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Mr. Kelly Kielce
22874 Lake Shore Drive
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. James Riley
22886 Lakeshore Drive
Elkhart, IN 46514

**Elkhart County Commissioners
Section 205(j) Watershed Management Plan Grant
Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake
Watershed Steering Committee Meeting
June 30, 2005**

Mr. Scott Robinia
22880 Lakeshore Drive
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. Bill West
51023 C.R. 25
Bristol, IN 46507

Mr. Ben Russo
25600 County Road 4
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. Steve Schweisberger
Elkhart County Surveyor's Office
4230 Elkhart Road
Goshen, IN 46526

Ms. Bonnie Shanholt
23197 Heaton Vista
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. Dave Simmons
22892 Lakeshore Drive
Elkhart, IN 46514

Ms. Mary Sproull
23173 Heaton Vista
Elkhart, IN 46514

Ms. Bev Stevenson
Elkhart County SWCD
17746-B C.R. 34
Goshen, IN 46528

Mr. Bob Stone
23019 Lakeshore Drive
Elkhart, IN 46514

Mr. Robert Watkins
Elkhart County Health Department
4230 Elkhart Road
Goshen, IN 46526

Mr. Don West
52352 C.R. 13
Elkhart, IN 46514



MEMORANDUM

July 7, 2005

TO: LFA Project File 200406.00

FROM: Christopher J. Jeter, P.E. 

RE: Elkhart County Commissioners
Section 205(j) Watershed Planning Grant
Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake Watershed Management Plan
Stakeholder Meeting No. 5
Public Meeting No. 6

The fifth Stakeholder Meeting for the above referenced project was conducted at the Osolo Township Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Building on June 30, 2005. This meeting was the sixth in a series of eight (8) public meetings being conducted for the project. Copies of the agenda, sign-in sheet and handouts are included with this memorandum.

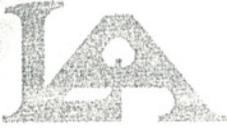
The meeting began with an introduction and a brief overview of the watershed planning project by Mr. Chris Jeter, Lawson-Fisher Associates P.C. Mr. Jeter provided an overview of the following two (2) previous stakeholder meeting items:

- Septic Permit Locations
- Project Brochure and Outreach Materials

The overview of the previous meeting's issues consisted of distributing a figure showing the Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake Watershed with an updated location of the septic permits that were issued between 1990 and 2004 and discussing some of the revisions that were made to the project brochure.

After completing the overview and project updates, Mr. Jeter presented the proposed Goals and Decisions for the project. Throughout this presentation, the stakeholders were given an opportunity to ask questions and/or provide comments on the Goals and Decisions along with the 205(j) Project. The following items were discussed:

- A few of the attendees indicated that two subdivisions are being constructed within the watershed that are going to be serviced by wells and septic systems. These subdivisions are located near County Road 11 and the Indiana/Michigan state line and near Eastside School.
- A representative from the Elkhart County Surveyor's Office indicated that a brush clearing project is scheduled along the west side of Bishop Ditch.
- Mr. Jeter indicated that he would be contacting the Elkhart County Health Department to schedule a sanitary survey for a portion of a few select streams in the watershed.



LFA Project File 200406.00

July 7, 2005

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- One of the attendees provided some history of the watershed with respect to the lake and stream normal water surface elevations. He indicated that the legal lake level of Simonton Lake (located directly west of the Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake Watershed) is approximately 5-feet higher than Simonton Lake. In addition, he indicated that the normal stream level of Mather Ditch is approximately 1-foot higher than the legal lake level of Simonton Lake.
- One of the goals for the project will be to remove the surfactants that were detected in Mather Ditch on the north side of County Road 4. One of the attendees noted that he has never seen any grey water in Mather Ditch. This has led him to speculate that the homeowners adjacent to Mather Ditch may be connecting the outlet of their washer directly to their floor drain and then discharging into the ditch.
- One of the attendees noted that a Heaton Lake resident has been collecting samples in Heaton Lake as part of the Hoosier Riverwatch Program.
- A representative from the Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District noted that training for the Hoosier Riverwatch Program will be offered on September 23, 2005 in Elkhart County.
- A few of the attendees asked Mr. Jeter to investigate a bog located north of County Road 4 and west of County Road 15 as a potential pollutant source.
- Some of the stakeholders indicated that the list of Goals that Mr. Jeter outlined for the project may be somewhat aggressive. The stakeholders felt that two to three goals should be identified and those goals would then be focused upon. A representative from IDEM indicated that a number of goals could be listed in the final report along with a goal prioritization.
- The next Stakeholder Meeting will be conducted in September, 2005. Lawson-Fisher Associates personnel will be discussing the timetable for the project goals in preparation of the draft submittal of the Watershed Management Plan.



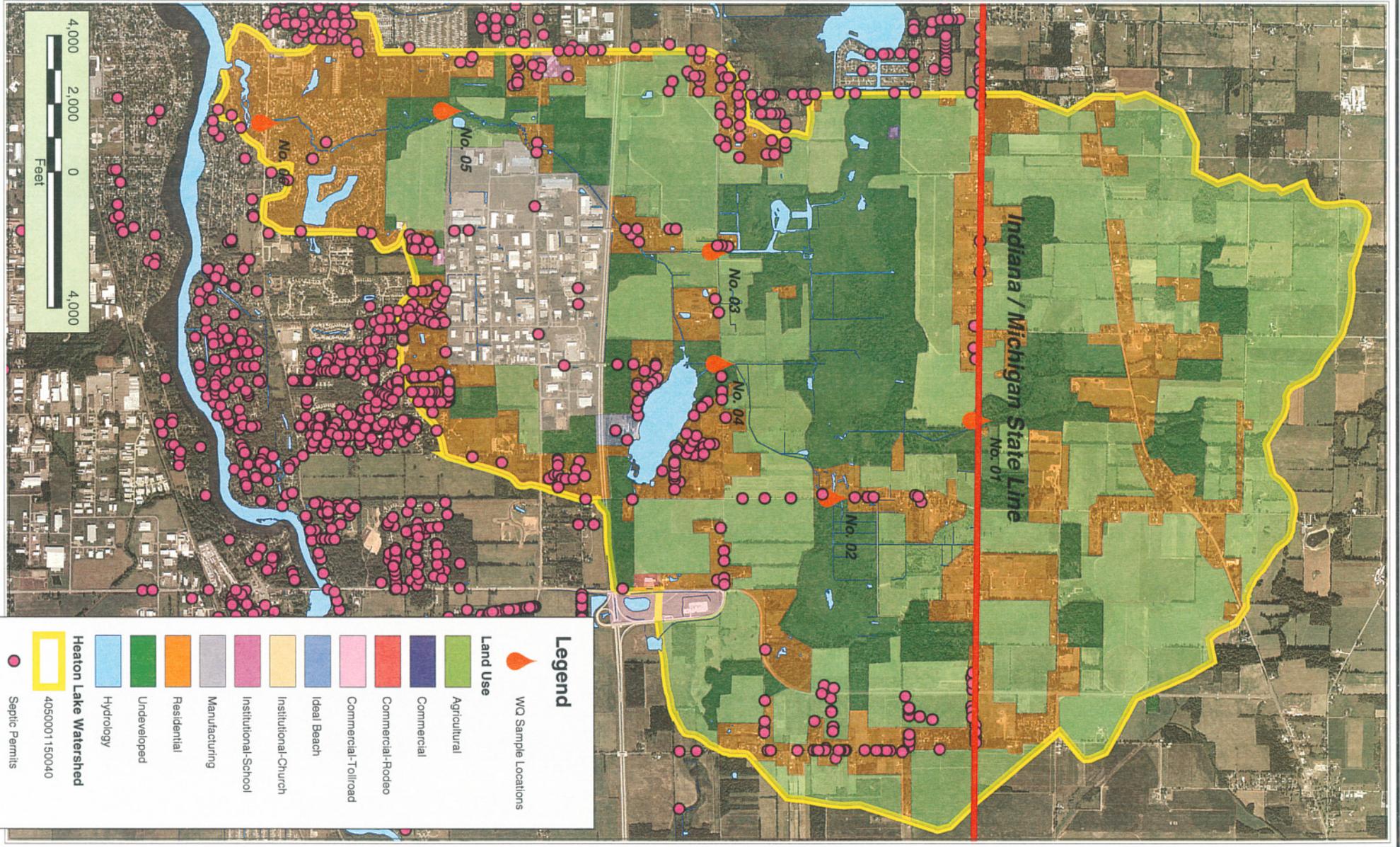
**Elkhart County Commissioners
205(j) Watershed Planning Grant
Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake Watershed Management Plan**

Joint Stakeholder Committee Meeting

June 30, 2005 at 6:30 P.M.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Previous Stakeholder Meeting Issues
 - *Septic Permit Locations*
 - *Project Brochure and Outreach Materials*
3. Puterbaugh Creek – Heaton Lake Watershed Management Plan Project
 - *Planning Tasks*
 - *Schedule*
4. Conclusion
5. Discussion
6. Future Meetings



Legend

● WQ Sample Locations
● Septic Permits
 Heaton Lake Watershed
 4050001150040

Land Use

- Agricultural
- Hydrology
- Undeveloped
- Residential
- Manufacturing
- Institutional-School
- Institutional-Church
- Ideal Beach
- Commercial-Tollroad
- Commercial-Rodeo
- Commercial

Elkhart County 205(j) Grant
 Puterbaugh Creek - Heaton Lake
 Watershed Management Plan

Water Quality Sampling
 and Septic Permit Locations



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200406.00

June 2005

Puterbaugh Creek - Heaton Lake Watershed Management Plan

6/28/2005 June 2005 Quarterly Meeting 1

Introduction

- ♦ Christopher J. Jeter, P.E.
Lawson-Fisher Associates P.C.
525 West Washington Avenue
South Bend, IN 46601
phone: 574-236-1320 x 144
email: cjeter@lawson-fisher.com

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Meeting Agenda Items

- ♦ Review past meeting issues
 - Pollutant sources and stressors
 - Identification of critical areas
- ♦ Goals and action items

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Pollutant Sources and Stressors

- ◆ Failing on-site septic systems
 - High levels of E. Coli
 - Indicator of human or animal wastes
 - Elevated levels of surfactants
 - Indicates potential presence of domestic waste (soaps, detergents)

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Pollutant Sources and Stressors (Cont'd):

- ◆ Direct discharge of septic tank effluent
 - Poor soils – potential direct discharge
 - Sanitary survey

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Pollutant Sources and Stressors (Cont'd):

- ◆ Increased development
 - Residential
 - Construction practices
 - Increased traffic
- ◆ Agricultural practices
 - Significant portion of watershed

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Identification of Critical Areas

- ◆ Rhineheart Lateral
 - Near State Line Road
 - Highest levels of E. Coli during 4 sampling events
 - Highest levels of Nitrates and Total Suspended Solids (TSS)

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Identification of Critical Areas (Cont'd):

- ◆ Kindig/Kellog (C.R. 15) and Bishop Ditch (C.R. 4)
 - Low dissolved oxygen (DO) levels
 - Kindig/Kellog drains directly to Bishop Ditch

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Identification of Critical Areas (Cont'd):

- ◆ Mather Ditch
 - Sampled at C.R. 4
 - High surfactant levels
 - Residences located upstream

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Goals and Action Items

- ◆ Goal #1: Reduce E. Coli, nitrates, and TSS in Rhineheart Lateral
 - Cooperation between Elkhart County and Cass County, MI
 - Sanitary survey
 - Dye testing (residential)
 - Agricultural field tiles
 - Eliminate source (ECHD)

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Goals and Action Items (Cont'd):

- ◆ Goal #2: Reduce surfactant levels in Mather Ditch
 - Sanitary survey – LFA and ECHD – July 2005
 - Photograph and GPS locations of potential pollutant sources
 - Eliminate source (ECHD)

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Goals and Action Items (Cont'd):

- ◆ Goal #3: Explore methods to plan, construct, operate, maintain, and finance public wastewater system
 - Funding sources (SRF funding; USDA Rural Community Assistance Program)
 - Lower portion of watershed (adjacent to the City of Elkhart)

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**Goals and Action Items
(Cont'd):**

- ◆ Goal #4: Eliminate direct discharges of septic effluent
 - Watershed wide sanitary survey
 - Continue water quality monitoring
 - Funding sources

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**Goals and Action Items
(Cont'd):**

- ◆ Goal #5: Discourage high density development requiring on-site wastewater treatment
 - Limiting soils

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**Goals and Action Items
(Cont'd):**

- ◆ Goal #6: Continue distribution of education material
 - Distribute material at various events
 - Failing septic system investigation
 - Various sources of education material
 - Website
 - Hoosier River Watch Program

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**Goals and Action Items
(Cont'd):**

- ◆ Goal #7: Identify a Watershed Coordinator
 - Implementation of watershed plan
 - Continue public education
 - Point of contact for watershed specific issues

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**Goals and Action Items
(Cont'd):**

- ◆ Goal #8: Work with other watershed groups
 - St. Joseph River Basin Steering Committee Meetings

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Questions or Comments?

- ◆ Additional goals

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