

Monitoring Effectiveness

7.1: Water Quality Monitoring

Water quality monitoring will be conducted after 5 years of implementation to track the effectiveness of the measures. Sampling will be conducted over one year taking 3 storm event and 3 baseflow samples during spring, summer, and fall (two samples each season). Turbidity, nitrate, *E. coli*, and flow will be tested. Total phosphorous, total nitrogen, and total suspended solids may also be measured but cannot be related directly to 2007-2008 water monitoring. Testing will be coordinated by the Posey, Vanderburgh, and Gibson County Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Monitoring equipment similar to what was used during the 2007-2008 monitoring phase is preferable, but other monitoring methods may be used if the cost is too high.

7.2: Tracking BMP Adoption and Landowner Participation

BMP adoption and landowner participation will be tracked in a number of ways. Landowners using cost-share through the Farm Bill program will be tracked by NRCS staff and incorporated into a Big Creek watershed database by a coordinator or other SWCD staff. Landowners using other cost-share programs will be tracked by the appropriate authorities and a coordinator or other SWCD staff. A coordinator or other SWCD staff will also track participation at field days and other outreach events. Where appropriate site-specific load reduction estimates will be compared to the estimates calculated during 2007-2008 as part of the watershed management plan process. Tillage inventories will be conducted every other year to identify locations where conservation practices are adopted without participation in an established cost-share or outreach program. Sites where practices are installed or adopted will be tracked in a GIS database and progress towards the numeric water quality goals will be tracked using the estimated percent contribution of each field or source. A coordinator or SWCD staff will maintain the GIS database. Progress towards the goals will be celebrated in SWCD newsletters and media releases.

7.3: Evaluating the Watershed Plan

Posey, Vanderburgh, and Gibson County SWCDs will spearhead the re-evaluation of the watershed plan as well as any necessary revisions or adaptations. A formal public meeting will occur after 2-3 years implementation and again after 5 years of implementation. Progress towards the water quality goals will be presented and public comment will be requested to identify any needed changes.