

Section V: Development of Problem Statements and Goals

Draft problem statements centered on the concerns presented by the steering committee were drafted and given to the committee. Input from the meeting participants suggested that Problem Statement No.2 be broken apart into a problem statement for each of the pollutants addressed by this plan. The presented problem statement was “Several non-point source pollutants such as sediment and nutrients are elevated to levels that can impact biological communities and overall river health.” The revised problem statements are shown below the concerns identified by the Steering Committee and the public that they correlate to.

Not all of the concerns mentioned by the public and the steering committee participants are addressed by the problem statements and goals presented in this plan. Table 5.1 presents a list of invalid concerns and the reason for not addressing the concerns as part of this watershed management plan.

Invalid Concerns for this Plan	Reasoning
CSOs (discharge & impacts on use)	CSOs are covered by Long Term Control Plans in each community and will be eliminated under those plans. The pollutant loadings from these events cannot be managed by the practices proposed under this plan.
Increase in large rain events	Climatic changes are outside the scope of this plan.
Fishery condition – fish health	Fishery conditions are not singled out in this plan because the health of the fisheries in these watersheds will be improved as the overall water quality is improved.
Flooding concerns	Flooding concerns are outside the scope of this plan and are being addressed by the ACOE Flood Control Project.
Brownfield impacts	This concern, while not addressed specifically, is part of the land use information and pollutant modeling.

Table 5.1: Invalid concerns listed by public and steering committee participants

1. **Water Quality Concerns**

- Low flow water quality
- Flood control impacts on water quality
- *E.coli* sources
- Sediment loads (TSS) & upstream erosion problems
- Quantity & quality from east reach
- Impact on Lake Michigan

Problem 1: The Little Calumet River and its tributaries regularly exceed the Indiana single sample daily maximum of 235 colonies per 100 milliliters for *Escherichia coli* (*E.coli*) bacteria, thus limiting recreation, impacting downstream waters, and raising health concerns among the public.

Problem 2: Total Suspended Solids levels during high flow conditions are elevated to levels that can impact biological communities.

Problem 3: Nutrient levels that can impact biological communities and overall river health are present during both high and low flow conditions.

2. "Other" Natural Resource Concerns

- Downstream impacts (Lake Michigan)
- Impact of altered hydrology
- Impacts on recreational uses
- Impacts on neighborhood's – aesthetic & habitat
- Preservation of waterways and riparian areas
- Restoration of natural areas/habitat
- Erosion concerns
- Change in Impervious Areas
- Diked Areas in Watershed

Problem 4: Severe hydrologic manipulations have impacted the natural topography of the river and riparian areas resulting in disconnection from historic floodplains and wetlands, as well as the creation of extreme low-flow conditions in the river at certain locations.

3. Public Involvement/Education Needs or Concerns

- Risk communication to community
- *E.coli* communication/education w/ public
- Getting local buy-in or participation
- Watershed Education for the Public
- The public does not understand who is in charge of what
- Connecting People to their Watershed
- Need for Public Workshops
- Educating the Public on Whom to Call with Concerns or for Information
- Interpretation Opportunities

Problem 5: The residents and local leaders in the Little Calumet River Watershed need more information and education on their role in maintaining the overall quality of the watershed.

4. Local Coordination Needs or Concerns

- Coordination w/other watershed projects (DNR 6217 coordination)
- Coordination w/ flood control project
- TMDL coordination
- Septic systems and social issues
- Coordination with planning & zoning
- Communication w/ ACOE
- Development awareness
- Community cooperation and improved uniformity
- Holistic Conservation Planning
- Coordination with other studies and projects
- Map Parks, Land Trusts, and Natural Areas
- Planning tools to assess downstream impacts

Problem 6: A single point of contact is not in place to coordinate resources across political boundaries in the Little Calumet River Watershed.

5. Resource Needs or Concerns (data, financial, people)

- Public access
- Increasing Recreational Uses

Problem 7: Public access to the river is challenging due to the highly developed state of the watershed.