

WHITEWATER RIVER WATERSHED NEWSLETTER

Whitewater River Watershed Project Update

We been collecting information and developing a watershed management plan for the Whitewater River Watershed during the past 2 years. IDEM approved the watershed management plan in April and now the plan has reached its final stage of approval at EPA. We hope to hear back from EPA by the end of this month or first part of June. After EPA approves the plan, copies may be found on the watershed website www.dearborncountywatersheds.org under Whitewater River Publications or on IDEM's website www.in.gov/idem/nps/3180.htm There is a lot of good information in the plan and it would be worth your time checking it out this summer.

Last summer we submitted a grant application to IDEM's 319 program in hopes to receive funding to implement the watershed management plan for the Whitewater River Watershed. We just received word from IDEM that funds for our grant application will be awarded. Once EPA grants final approval for the watershed plan, the signature process for the new grant may begin. We are looking at an approximate start time of early winter this year for the new implementation grant. The grant funds will help us continue with our education and outreach efforts and will provide funding for a cost-share program. The cost-share program will assist landowners who are willing to install best management practices to improve water quality. All cost-share applicants will go through a ranking process and land located in high priority areas identified in the watershed management plan will be funded first. Both cropping and grazing practices will be available. If you think you may be interested in applying for the cost-share program, please contact your local SWCD or Heather Wirth at heather.wirth@in.nacdnet.net or 812-926-2406 ext 107.



Interesting Facts about the Whitewater River Watershed



Said to be the swiftest river in the state of Indiana as it falls an average of six feet per mile

There are roughly 486.9 miles of streams in the watershed

Roughly 49% of the watershed is classified as highly erodible and is at a severe risk for erosion

94.8% of the watershed has soils with very limited septic capabilities

Deciduous forest, cultivated crops, and pasture/hay are the top 3 landuses and account for 88% of the watershed

Aquifers underground supply drinking water to many local communities and some in other counties

Home to several endangered plant and animal species on both the state and federal level

23 stream segments are listed on the 2016 303(d) list for impairments - E. coli (205 stream miles), biological communities(31 stream miles), dissolved oxygen (70 stream miles), PCBs (38 stream miles), and mercury (34 stream miles)



Whitewater River Watershed Project

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<http://www.dearborncountywatersheds.org>

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2016 River Sweep Clean-up



Friday, June 17th, 2016

**Clean-up - 6 pm to 8 pm with
a FREE cookout afterwards**



**28483 Barber Road, West Harrison, IN
(Off of Hwy 46 near the Hwy 52 intersection)**

Come join us and help pick up trash during the annual River Sweep which is a clean-up effort that stretches from Pennsylvania to Illinois. Trash bags, gloves, and water will be provided. All participants will receive a FREE 2016 River Sweep T-shirt and are welcomed to stay for the FREE cookout after the clean-up. Registration forms are available on the website at www.dearborncountywatersheds.org under Upcoming Events, at Dearborn County Soil & Water Conservation Office - 10729 Randall Ave, Aurora, IN, or at the Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation Office at 10165 Oxford Pike, Brookville, IN. Please send in your registration forms in early to secure your t-shirt, supplies, and to RSVP for the cookout. To register or for more information please email heather.wirth@in.nacdnet.net or call 812-926-2406 x107 or drop the forms off at the local SWCD office. Come join us and help clean up the wonderful Whitewater River. RSVPs are appreciated by Wednesday, June 15th.