

**WHITE
RIVER
WATERSHED
PROJECT**

Working Together for Clean Water!

Steering Committee:

Barry Banks
Phil Tevis
Richard Huyck
Kay Whitehead
Bill Harris
Micah Lester
Bob Wilson
Richard Thornburg
Tim Kelty
Christian Volk
Joe Russell
Tom Smith
Amy Sheaffer
Kyle Johnson
Don Black
Nicki Johnson
Art Hall

Inside this issue:

GIS—More Than Just Pretty Maps!	1
Getting The Word Out.	2
Community Driven = Community Involvement	2
Bringing Local Groups Together!	3
Project Partners—Getting Youth	4
Terms, Trivia and Things To Know.	5
What YOU Can Do?	6

Volume 1, Issue 2

October 2002—Quarterly Newsletter

GIS - More Than Just Pretty Maps!

GIS, Geographic Information Systems, is the technology that brought you those great maps featured in our last newsletter. However, the technology, and the people behind it, do SO much more than make these pretty maps. Let's see what GIS is doing for YOUR White River Watershed Project.

Data Analysis and Decision Making

The maps that you have seen used throughout this project are really layers upon layers of data shown to us in a visual format. The data included ranges from land use and water quality monitoring results to economic and demographic information. All of this information was generated using a wide variety of methods by an innumerable number of people gathered, in some cases, from decades worth of work.

GIS takes all of that information and puts it into a format that allows us to analyze it. It is a powerful tool that enables us to make good decisions throughout this project.

Already GIS has helped us choose the sub-watersheds we are studying,, understand current land use information and determine what additional information is needed, and give a collective voice to the opinions and needs of the community. Look for further GIS usage as the project moves along, including more of those pretty maps!

Geniuses Behind The Scenes

Who are these masked men who make all this technology possible? They are **Kyle Johnson** and **Jeff Reese**. Kyle, with the Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Planning Commission, and Jeff, with Delaware County GIS Department, are the ones responsible for all of the incredible GIS applications used on the White River Watershed Project. Without their support and expertise, the White River Watershed Project would be only a shadow of what it is today. We take our hats off to you both. Thank you so much for all your help! You know we couldn't do it without you.



Getting The Word Out.

Recent events have taken place to get the word out about the White River Watershed Project:

Tia Agnew, project coordinator, the Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Planning Commission's Kyle Johnson, and Delaware County GIS Department Head Jeff Reese took part in **UniverCity 2002** on Ball State University campus at the end of September. Several classrooms full of students and faculty learned about the project during presentations and from displays.

Local community festivals and events are other settings for communicating about the project. The **Royerton Pork Roast** provided a field day event for interacting with residents from the Killbuck/Mud Creek subwatershed area. The **Cowan Fish Fry** gave us an opportunity to tell the residents from the Buck Creek Sub-Watershed area about us. We even gained three new Buck Creek Committee Members from that event.

On October 6th, seniors and graduate students from Ball State University helped to coordinate an **Environmental Organization Picnic**, inviting leaders of environmental organizations to gather and brainstorm on initiatives that relate to watershed planning. Food was donated by Carol Blakney and Able Alves, with Minnetrista Cultural Center and Oakhurst Gardens hosting

“Community Driven” = Community Involvement

People Making a Difference

There are three **Sub-Watershed Committees** working as a vital part of the White River Watershed Project. The Committees are made up of local people who live in or near either Buck/Macedonia Creek, Prairie Creek, or Killbuck/Mud Creek sub-watersheds. They are people just like you, living in the local community and wanting input into future land management decisions. They are working together to find local solutions for the future. You too can make a difference by joining a committee or taking part in a public meeting. The sub-watershed committees do the following:

1. Bring local concerns to the planning process.
2. Work with the project coordinator to develop and write land management plans.
3. Organize public meetings in their watershed areas.

If you want to get involved, call the following people for the meeting dates and locations:

Buck Creek Committee:

Kilbuck/Mud Creek Committee:

Prairie Creek Committee:

Nicki Johnson @ 765-282-2177

Art Hall @ 765-717-0132

Tia Agnew @ 765-747-5531, ext. 3

Bringing Local Groups Together!

With the help of BSU's NREM 405/505 class, the White River Watershed Project held an Environmental Group Picnic on Sunday, October 6th. This event, at Minnetrista Cultural Center, was the result of the desire to bring local groups together that work on various environmentally related issues in the community.

By bringing these groups together, we hoped to 1) inform them of the White River Watershed Project and 2) discover how we might be able to partner with one another in the future. One of the overall goals of the WRWP is to bring the community together to work on cleaning up and preventing non-point source water pollution.

The event, while light on attendance, was strong on enthusiasm and interest. There were eleven different groups that were represented that day, all of which actively participated in both the festivities and the one-on-one interviews conducted by the BSU students. These interviews were meant to formally gather the ideas and interests of each group representative so as to have a concrete method for establishing future partnerships. The results of these interviews, and a video documenting the day, will be compiled by the NREM 405/505 students and given to the WRWP. We will use this information to contact these groups about future endeavors based on their partnership interests.



Several BSU students are at work interviewing a few of the environmental group representatives. A good deal of networking and brainstorming took place that day, with future partnerships sure to come.



While the "picnic" was held inside, the group took to the gardens for their interviews. After all, creativity blossoms when nurtured by beautiful surroundings.

A special thank you goes out to some of the people who made this day a successful one:

Danesa Stolz, for vitally assisting in the organization,

Owen Glendening for providing the beautiful grounds of Minnetrista Cultural Center for this event,

Carol Blakney and **Abel Alves** for graciously providing us with a lovely luncheon, and

Dr. James Eflin and his students for their organization, creativity and excellent interviewing skills.

Project Partners — Getting Youth Involved

Youth Environmental Council of Delaware County



The Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), in cooperation with the Muncie Sanitary District and Muncie Children's Museum, is organizing the Youth Environmental Council of Delaware County. The Youth Environmental Council of Delaware County (YEC) is an organization that is looking to recruit youth between ages 13-18. We are seeking individuals who are interested in learning more about environmental issues and playing an active role in the issues we face in our communities.

Our mission is to expose young people to current and potential environmental concerns we face today, both locally and globally. Through awareness of issues will come about the initiative to take action. Students will be given opportunities to design and implement special studies, education and outreach programs. They will also participate in various team building and leadership activities to help mold them as our leaders of tomorrow. Through this, youth will build a closer relationship with their community to foster an attitude of environmental stewardship within.

One of the initial projects and issues the YEC will be exposed to will be that of the White River Watershed Project (WRWP). Students may participate in various river clean up and water monitoring efforts. Through exposing youth to such issues we will encourage them to care of and take an active role in their community and environment.

The YEC Kick-off pizza party will be held on November 9th from 12 noon to 1 p.m. at the Muncie Children's Museum. If you know of someone that might be interested in this organization, please contact us. You may contact Shareen Goldman, SWCD by phone (747-5531, ext. 3) or by email at shareen-goldman@iaswcd.org. You may also contact Kevin Rhodes, YEC youth advisor, by e-mail at krrhodes2@bsu.edu.

We are very excited about the YEC and hope you will be to!

Written By: Kevin Rhodes

Terms, Trivia and Things to Know.

What's Impervious Surface?

On these surfaces fall much of the rain and snow that enters our watershed. An impervious surface is anything on the ground that does not allow rain and snowmelt to filter through the soil (i.e., asphalt, concrete, and rooftops) . When this rain and snowmelt hits an impervious surface, it washes all the pollutants left on that surface directly into our rivers and streams.

Remember, impervious surfaces do not allow water to reach the soil. This prevents pollutants from naturally breaking down as they pass through the soil. Impervious surfaces also increase the velocity of rain and snowmelt as it travels over the land, thus picking up more non-point source water pollution and increasing the rate of flow in our waterways.

Remember:

***Impervious Surfaces
Contribute to
Non-Point Source
Water Pollution.***

***When water can't filter
though the soil, the
pollution found in that
water can't break
down before it reaches
our streams and rivers.***

Know your Math!



How much water is there in a 1-inch rainfall on a 40-acre field?

See if you can convert inches of water on acres of land to a **gallon estimate!** Look for the answer in our next newsletter.

Community Connections - BSU Students Get Involved.

Students at Ball State University doing outreach projects

Ball State University students enrolled in NREM 405, Integrated Resource Management, have taken personal initiative to do projects in support of the White River Watershed Project. Their first project was to organize the environmental organization picnic (read more about it on page 3), and we commend them for their efforts. Now, students are continuing to develop semester projects for the WRWP. These projects range from brochure development to teaching youth about watersheds and non-point source pollution. We thank Dr. James Eflin's class for their enthusiasm and willingness to work with the White River Watershed Project. Good luck with your projects!

WHITE RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT

Delaware County Soil and
Water Conservation District
2908 North Granville Avenue
Muncie, IN 47303-2121

Phone: 765-747-5531, ext. 3
Fax: 765-747-5511
Email: watercons@comcast.net

**We're On The
WEB!!!!**

**www.co.
delaware.in.us/
watershed/**

**Check us out
&
Tell us what you
think!**

Board of Supervisors:

Wayne Bothel, Chairman
Tim Spangler, Vice-Chairman
Doug Scholer
Don Black
Tim Herd

Associate Supervisors:

Joe Russell
Dennis Nixon
Dan Keesling
Craig Gillis

**Do YOU have ideas for
our newsletter?**

**If so, email us at
watercons@comcast.net!**

**We want to hear from
YOU!!!**

The White River Watershed Project is a community-driven project to clean-up and prevent non-point source water pollution for a better quality of life in Delaware County.

***Working Together for Clean Water!* is the motto for this project. If you care about clean water and want to make your community a better place to live, join us in making it happen!**



White River Watershed Project

Delaware County Soil and Water
Conservation District
2908 North Granville Avenue
Muncie, IN 47303-2121

What YOU Can Do?

Where can I get my water tested in Indiana?

The following information was taken from Purdue University Extension.

Everyone should have their water tested for bacteria, nitrate, and lead when they move to a house with a private well, and at least every few years after that . . .

The **Indiana State Department of Health Laboratory** will test private well water samples for \$8. Sterile sample bottles for the collection of a water sample for a microbiological examination must be obtained from the ISDH. For a copy of the form (required for submitting a sample) contact your County Health Department or the State Health Department Water Testing Laboratory at 317.233.8078.

Source – <http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/SafeWater/drinkinfo/testwater.html>