

What you hope to get out of session

Share experiences.

See what others are doing.

Forming conservancy district. Want to see what others have done.

See where we line up with other organizations.

Interested in cross-pollinating w/ other groups.

Use watershed approach for MS4.

Working w/, energizing, mobilizing volunteers.

Changing Mindsets “Lake to Watershed”, Bill Schmidt, Steuben Co Lakes Council

- Lakes Council is water quality focused.
- Traditionally reactive testing.
- Raised dues in order to fund program.
- Question about relationship of individual lake associations to Lakes Council. People belong to their individual lake association and to the lakes council.

Working with the Amish Kent Tracey, IDNR

- Little Elkhart Amish farmers in Elkhart Co are working with Lagrange Co SWCD- 12 passenger van to transport Amish to pasture walks, etc.
- They have supervisors that are neighbors to the Amish community. Lagrange has built personal relationships with the Amish.
- Bottom line is better animal health, not just getting cost-share dollars.

Septic System Issues Jennifer Nebe, Save the Dunes

- Focussed on area that is incorporated, but not on sewer; area where septic systems would not function properly.
- Door-to-door survey with health departments. Door hangers on newspaper boxes to let them know they were going to come out. Drive home cost of pumping, replacing septic, why keeping bacteria out of lake is important. Some areas were low income.
- Partnerships with city, National Lakeshore, and county jurisdictions.
- TWIST database of all septic systems is being developed for Lake Michigan Coastal Area.
- Elkhart Co cost-share program through MS4 and County income-based for septic system replacement.
- Allen Co Solid Waste District- Working to alleviate failed septic system areas. Worked with City of Ft. Wayne to put area on N side of town on sewer. Challenge is in the rural areas where properties are widely spaced.
- DVD available from St. Joseph Watershed Initiative: [www.sjrwi.org](http://www.sjrwi.org)
- \*Do detergents on the shelf have phosphate in them? Website that provides information on phosphate in household products: [householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov](http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov)
- SJRWI thought that septic systems were a big problem in their ‘shed, but with bacterial source tracking, found that *E. coli* were from horses and Canada geese.

Energizing the Audience, Matt Meersman, Friends of the St. Joe River

- Chapters started with local river cleanups. Created a focus and awareness to the mainstem. Got a 319 grant for bistate WMP. Created great plan, but staff was not supported after grant.

FotSJR original founders were phased out when 319 was used. People that did the cleanups/hog roasts were disenfranchised. Infrastructure was maintained because of the 319 grant. Now need to be sustainable and use 319 for projects, not group infrastructure. Group wants to be a resource, communication center for other partners.

- Established watershed council. Want to get two representatives from each of 15 counties in Indiana and Michigan. Want to provide a service to MS4s for canned education and outreach. Try to incorporate LID and planning to local planning and zoning. Educate agricultural community at watershed level. Could work with Amish community, not be a government agency.
- Focus effort in watershed where there is interest. People who realize that they have the problem and want to work on it are the ones to work with.

#### Cost-Share Programs

##### Kayleen Hart, Steuben Co SWCD

- Really takes a community working together to identify and address watershed problems. Success with LARE program. Worked with small watershed first. Complement LARE with Farm Bill programs. USF&W partnered for tree planting. Once funding was announced, it was allocated within two years.
- Windshield survey after seven years of funding. Sent letters; land had changed hands, and got more participants. Key to success: Be flexible and offer landowner all options for conservation on land.

##### Urban Cost-share, Eric Kurtz, Elkhart Co SWCD

- Identified critical areas and practices to cost-share.
- Rain Garden Manual, U. of Wisconsin. How to put in a rain garden for homeowners. Available online at [http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/pdf/home\\_rgmanual.pdf](http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/pdf/home_rgmanual.pdf) (3MB)
- Big benefit of 319 is demonstration of practices on the ground. Allows people who are willing to take the risk to install project.
- Municipalities still require known benefit, like from structure or device with test results. Therefore, not willing to do sign off on some more progressive, but less well documented practices.
- Outreach geared toward developers, county planners. Install sign; get the press out there. Have a half day workshop; hold workshop onsite so drainage board can come and take a look at it. County drainage board active on watershed planning; they have been supportive.
- Problem: BMPs sometimes not maintained. Pervious paving in park parking lot was paved over the next year. Plantings were mowed the next week.

#### Mobilizing Volunteers, General discussion

- Mitigating volunteer or other person that misrepresents your message. Make clear in meetings with other organizations that they may not use your name.
- Master Naturalist- Run by IDNR through Elkhart Co SWCD. Have empathy for the environment. Required to put in volunteer hours; many continue to volunteer.
- Trying to work with schools, private and parochial, who require service hours.
- Lowes will match employee volunteer with donation based on time and pay rate.