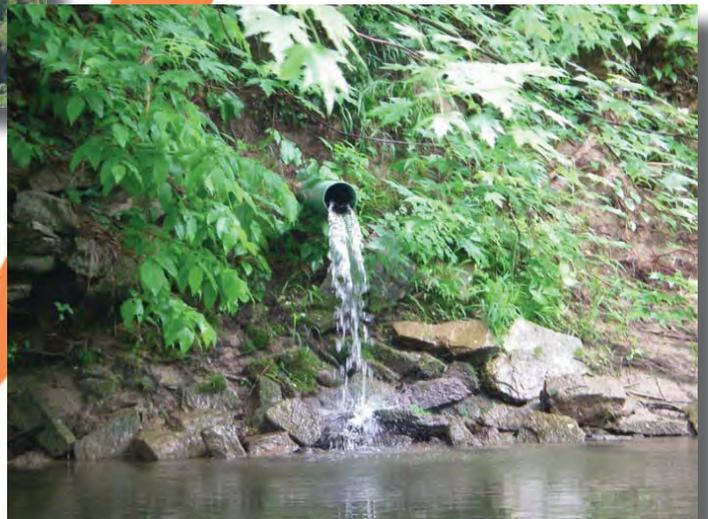


Big Walnut Creek Watershed Management Plan



Putnam County SWCD
Empower Results, LLC

January 19, 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
2.0	INTRODUCTION.....	2
2.1	Local Leadership.....	2
2.2	Mission Statement.....	2
2.3	Watershed Location.....	3
2.4	Brief History of the Big Walnut Watershed.....	3
3.0	WATERSHED DESCRIPTION.....	3
3.1	Physical Setting.....	3
3.1.1	Topography	3
3.1.2	Hydrology.....	8
3.1.3	Soils.....	11
3.1.4	Climate.....	11
3.1.5	Natural History	14
3.1.6	Endangered Species and Significant Natural Areas.....	14
3.2	Built Environment	17
3.2.1	Cities and Towns	17
3.2.2	Population.....	17
3.2.3	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s)	20
3.2.4	Recreational Areas	24
3.2.5	Historic Structures.....	24
4.0	EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS	24
4.1	State – 303d List.....	24
4.2	Research Conducted by Dr. James Gammon.....	24
4.3	Regulated Environmental Issues.....	27
4.4	Additional Regulated Entity Information.....	27
5.0	WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENTS – EXISTING AND CURRENT.....	36
5.1	IDEM Data	36
5.2	Hoosier Riverwatch Data.....	36
5.3	Current Data	36
5.3.1	Flow Measurements	43
5.3.2	Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	43
5.3.3	Nitrate (NO ₃)	45
5.3.4	Total Phosphorus (TP)	46
5.3.5	Total Suspended Solids (TSS).....	47
5.3.6	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD).....	48
5.3.7	E. coli	49
5.3.8	Other Parameters.....	51
5.3.9	Biological Data – Aquatic Macroinvertebrates	52

6.0	LAND USE.....	53
6.1	Land Use Composition by Subwatersheds.....	53
6.1.1	Agricultural.....	53
6.1.2	Forested.....	53
6.1.3	Residential/Urban.....	58
6.2	Riparian Habitat, Floodplains, and Wetland Soils	58
6.3	Agricultural Practices	58
6.4	Septic Areas & Sewer Utilities	59
6.5	Future Land Use.....	61
7.0	FIELD EVALUATIONS.....	61
7.1	Indiana Smallmouth Conservation Float Survey.....	61
7.2	Windshield Survey	62
7.2.1	Buffers	63
7.2.2	Livestock Access to Streams.....	66
8.0	SELECTION OF CRITICAL AREAS (PRIORITY SUBWATERSHEDS).....	66
8.1	Comparison with Dr. Gammon's Data.....	70
8.2	Additional Priority Subwatersheds.....	70
8.3	New HUC Boundaries for Priority Subwatersheds.....	73
8.4	Supplemental Hydraulics and Hydrology Assessment.....	73
9.0	PUBLIC INPUT AND LOCAL CONCERNS	74
9.1	Stakeholders.....	74
9.2	Problems and Causes	78
9.3	Sources of Pollution	78
10.0	GOALS	79
10.1	Broad Project Goals Based on Public Concern	79
10.2	Specific Goals and Water Quality Targets	80
11.0	STRATEGIES	82
12.0	BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE SELECTION BY SUBWATERSHED	93
12.1	Load Reduction Targets – BMP Options.....	93
12.2	Cost Estimates.....	98
12.3	Technical Assistance.....	98
12.4	Financial Assistance.....	99
13.0	SUCCESS MEASURES.....	99
13.1	Goal 1	103
13.2	Goal 2	103
13.3	Goal 3	103
13.4	Goal 4.....	104
13.5	Goal 5.....	104

14.0 MONITORING EFFECTIVENESS 86

 14.1 Leadership Structure and Public Involvement 86

 14.2 Implementation Progress 86

 14.3 Water Quality Monitoring 86

15.0 INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES 87

 15.1 Local County Government Offices 87

 15.1.1 Soil & Water Conservation Districts 87

 15.1.2 Surveyors & Drainage Boards 89

 15.1.3 Planning and Zoning Authorities 90

 15.1.4 Health Departments 91

 15.2 State & Federal Government Offices 93

 15.2.1 IDNR & IDEM 93

 15.2.2 Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) 94

 15.2.3 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 94

 15.2.4 United States Geological Survey (USGS) 95

 15.3 Local Non-Profit Organizations 95

 15.3.1 Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) 95

 15.3.2 Central Indiana Land Trust, Inc. (CILTI) 96

 15.3.3 The Nature Conservancy (TNC) 97

TABLES

1. NWI Wetland Acreages
2. Hydric Soils, NWI, & Floodplains
3. Natural Areas
4. Historic Places
5. NPDES Dischargers
6. Significant Water Withdrawal Facilities
7. Hoosier Riverwatch Data
8. USGS Flow Data
9. Dissolved Oxygen
10. Percent Saturation
11. Nitrate
12. Total Phosphorus
13. Total Suspended Solids
14. Biochemical Oxygen Demand
15. *E. coli*
16. *E. coli* - IDEM
17. Land Use
18. Watershed Priority Ranking
19. Strategies and Actions
20. BMP Selection Criteria
21. BMP Selections

22. BMP Installation Recommendation for Load Reduction
23. BMP Installation Recommendation Costs
24. Other BMP Costs

FIGURES

- A State Location Map
- B Big Walnut Creek Watershed (B2-B6, Appendix A)
- C Major Towns
- D Topography
- E Lakes and Streams (E2-E6, Appendix A)
- F Soils, Floodplains, and Wetlands (Appendix A)
- G Soils (Appendix A)
- H Highly Erodible Land (Appendix A)
- I Ecoregions
- J Parks and Natural Areas (Appendix A)
- K IDNR High Priority Protection Areas
- L Towns
- M Greencastle/DePauw University MS4
- N Impaired Streams
- O Dr. Gammon's Priority Subs
- P Environmental Issues (Appendix A)
- Q NPDES Dischargers
- R Significant Water Withdrawal Facilities
- S IDEM Past Monitoring Sites
- T Project Monitoring Sites
- U Land Use (Appendix A)
- V Tillage Transects
- W Aerials (Appendix A)
- X Windshield Waypoints
- Y Buffers
- Z Livestock Access to Streams
- AA Priority Subwatersheds
- BB Side-by-Side Priority Subwatershed Comparison
- CC High Quality Subwatersheds
- DD New HUC Boundaries (DD2-DD6, Appendix A)

APPENDICIES

- A Environmental Figures
- B Historical Climate Data
- C Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Species
- D Big Walnut Watershed Listed 303d Streams
- E Raw Concentration Data
- F Benthic Macroinvertebrate Report
- G ISC Float Trips
- H Photos
- I Floodplain Assessment Report by V3