

## 10 Sustainability

Throughout the watershed management planning process numerous organizations and citizens have been involved (includes social indicator survey participants, see Chapter 8). This involvement is crucial for the success of watershed management implementation and achieving WQS.

### 10.1 Identified Partners

#### 10.1.1 Regulatory Role

As part of the watershed management planning and implementation both the U.S. EPA and MDEQ provide regulatory oversight. Watershed management plans are reviewed and approved against U.S. EPA and MDEQ criteria. The review criteria supports the premise that watershed management plans should aid in reducing nonpoint source pollution and achieving WQS set forth by U.S. EPA and MDEQ. Both agencies manage and provide a source of funding for the creation and implementation of watershed management plans.

Drain Commissioners are public officials typically elected to a county office. They are tasked with administering Michigan laws related to flood protection, stormwater management and soil erosion. For the purpose of this WMP, the cooperation and involvement of county drain offices will result in infrastructure and land management improvements leading to a positive change in water quality.

Planning commissions and township officials have a significant impact on zoning and ordinances. A significant proportion of the Watershed land use is rural residential and agriculture. Reviewing zoning, ordinances and master plans for policies that support water quality improvement is crucial for the long term health of the Watershed. Michigan State University-Land Policy Institute has created a planning and zoning guidebook for local officials and is specifically targeted at rural water quality protection. This guide includes: essential elements to include in master plans and zoning ordinances, best management practices for protecting water quality, resource protection methods for protecting water quality and public education. What makes this guide especially useful and practical for implementation is the inclusion of sample language and examples of good, better and best. This guide will allow communities to self-assess where they are at in terms of policies that support water quality protection and improvement.

It is the recommendation of this WMP that planning commissions, township officials and municipalities work together to review their zoning and ordinances. If applicable, updates should be made based on resources such as, the guidebook created by Michigan State University-Land Policy Institute. Ideally, a watershed level assessment would take place to review zoning and ordinances on a comprehensive and collaborative level. This could be done in partnership with organizations like conservation districts, and non-profits (e.g. Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council, Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds, etc.).

Health departments are tasked with protecting the public health. One of the ways a health department does this is through the oversight for wells and septic. Health departments are typically located and operate on a county basis.

## **10.1.2 Existing Infrastructure**

### ***10.1.2.1 Internal***

The planning effort was led and facilitated by ECD. Coordination of meetings, data collection and inventory process, and communications with partners was accomplished through the leadership of ECD. As a result, ECD is the primary author of the plan. In the future, ECD will continue to drive the watershed management implementation process and help connect partners with funding sources and projects.

### ***10.1.2.2 Planning Network***

This WMP has benefited from a very active and involved steering committee. The organizations involved make-up the watershed planning network. Organizations involved include: Municipalities, County Drain Offices, Health Departments and Conservation Districts, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Michigan State University, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, etc. For a complete list of steering committee members see Appendix 15. The public was invited to participate in the steering committee through email newsletters, press releases, and presentations at the Land Use Lunch events coordinated by Mid-MEAC. Steering committee agendas, presentations, and information discussed were all posted online for public access. The public also provided input and comments through their participation in the social indicator survey (a full discussion of public feedback begins on page 144).

The participation of the steering committee helped inform the watershed management planning process of existing educational efforts, data collection, community knowledge, potential land use issues and landowner practices. Steering committee meetings were held regularly to maintain involvement as well as individual meetings to discuss specific implementation projects. Steering committee members were invited to participate in subcommittees that included: Information and Education, Watershed Management Plan Review and Technical.

Opportunity for review and input of the WMP was made available through the subcommittees and steering committee meetings. Individual chapters were developed through the subcommittees and the WMP review committee reviewed the full document in its entirety.

## **10.2 Technical Assistance**

Technical assistance resources to aid in the implementation of the WMP have been gathered. This list is intended to serve as a guide with the knowledge that new resources may arise and those listed below may change organizational priorities over time.

Table 59. Organizations Specializing in Technical

Organization	Technical Assistance Expertise Area									
	Agriculture	Public Health	Zoning/Planning	Outreach	Residential Management	Land Management	Cost Share and/or Funding			
NRCS	X					X	X			
MIDARD-MAEAP	X			X		X				
Health Departments		X		X	X					
Drain Offices	X		X		X					
MSUE	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Conservation Districts	X			X	X	X				
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission			X	X	X					
Habitat Groups				X		X				
MDNR				X		X	X			
Recycling Programs				X	X					
MID-MEAC			X	X	X					
MSU (IWR, departments and student initiatives)	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Townships and Municipalities			X	X	X					
Land Conservancies			X			X				
Farm Land Preservation Program			X			X	X			
County and City Parks				X		X				
MGROW				X						
West Michigan Regional Planning Commission			X	X	X					

### 10.3 Potential Sources of Funding

Funding resources to implement the WMP have been gathered. This list is intended to serve as a guide with the knowledge that new sources may arise and those listed below may change funding priorities over time.

Table 60. Funding Resources for Watershed Implementation

Funder	Type of Funding	Cycle	Project Areas	Amount	Match	Website
EPA and USFS-Urban Waters	Grant	RFP-November, Application Due-February	Education and training, Stormwater management, Communities and water quality data, Promote access to urban waterways	\$20,000-\$50,000, Average award \$25,000	1 to 1	<a href="http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Pages/home.aspx">http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Pages/home.aspx</a>
EPA and USFS-Five Star	Grant	RFP-November, Application Due-February	Wetland, riparian and in-stream habitat restoration, Education and training	\$20,000-\$50,000, Average award \$25,000	1 to 1	<a href="http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Pages/home.aspx">http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Pages/home.aspx</a>
Joyce Foundation	Grant	April, July and December (letter of inquiry and proposal)	Non-point source runoff (agricultural and cities), Green infrastructure, Regional work to advance policies to protect and restore Great Lakes	\$10,000-\$1.5 million, Average award \$200,000	Contact program office	<a href="http://www.joycefdn.org/">http://www.joycefdn.org/</a>
SARE-Research and Education	Grant	RFP-August, Preposals-October, April-Full Proposals	Broad range of sustainable agricultural interests	Average award \$173,000	Contact program office	<a href="http://www.northcentralsare.org/">http://www.northcentralsare.org/</a>
SARE-Farmer Rancher	Grant	RFP-August, Proposals-November	Broad range of sustainable agricultural interests. This grant is awarded to a farmer who wants to investigate and learn more about a certain topic of interest.	Individual \$7,500, Partner \$15,000 and Group \$22,500	Contact program office	<a href="http://www.northcentralsare.org/">http://www.northcentralsare.org/</a>
USFS	Grant	Application Due-March or July	Wetland restoration	\$40 million available	1 to 1	<a href="http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/Standard/US/index.shtm">http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/Standard/US/index.shtm</a>
MDEQ	Grant	RFP-July, Letter of Intent-August, Proposals-October	Implementing physical, vegetative and managerial best management practices and information and education activities as identified in an approved watershed management plan	Minimum request \$25,000, No maximum	25%, Except conservation easement requires 50%	<a href="http://www.michigan.gov/deq">www.michigan.gov/deq</a>
MDEQ	Grant	RFP-February, Application Due-March	Water quality monitoring	\$250,000 available	25%	<a href="http://www.michigan.gov/deq">www.michigan.gov/deq</a>

Table 60. Funding Resources for Watershed Implementation

Funder	Type of Funding	Cycle	Project Areas	Amount	Match	Website
Capital Region Community Foundation	Grant	RFP- January/February, Application Due- March/April	Environmental projects that reach broad segment of the community, foster organizational capacity building and sustainability, assist citizens whose needs are not being met by existing services, meet emerging needs, innovative and have high probability of leading to new solutions and are collaborative	\$5,000-\$20,000	1 to 1	<a href="http://www.crcfoundation.org/">http://www.crcfoundation.org/</a>
NRCS	Cost Share	Contact local office	Conservation initiatives for farmers as defined by the Farm Bill	Contact local office	Contact local office	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home/">http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home/</a>
Great Lakes Basin-Soil Erosion and Sediment Control	Grant	Application Due- September	Installing conservation practices to reduce sedimentation to improve water quality, harbor maintenance, fish and wildlife habitat, recreational facilities and experiences and the public-works systems	Watershed projects \$1-\$250,000, Small projects \$1-\$30,000	Not required but encouraged	<a href="http://www.glc.org/basin/index.html">http://www.glc.org/basin/index.html</a>
NRCS-Conservation Innovation Grants	Grant	RFP- February, Preproposal Due- March, Full Proposal Due- May	Development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. Projects are expected to lead to the transfer of conservation technologies, management systems, and innovative approaches into NRCS policy, technical manuals, guides and references, or to the private sector.	Maximum award amount not to exceed 1 million. Single and multi-year projects.	1 to 1 from non-Federal sources	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/">http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/</a>
DNR-Aquatic Habitat Program	Grant	RFP- February, Application Due- March	Improve fish and other aquatic organism populations by protecting intact and rehabilitating degraded aquatic habitat.	\$25,000- \$1 million (or yearly maximum available)	10%	<a href="http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-58225_67220---,00.html">http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-58225_67220---,00.html</a>
DNR-Wildlife Habitat Program	Grant	RFP- February, Application Due- March	Enhance the quality of existing game species habitat or create new high quality game species habitat.	\$15,000- yearly maximum available	10%	<a href="http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-58225_67395---,00.html">http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-58225_67395---,00.html</a>
Great Lakes Protection Fund	Grant	Preproposals Due- February, Reviewed by Board in June	Project areas vary from year to year. Fund projects that are regional and larger in scale.	Average Award \$460,000, Funding Range \$20,000-\$1.5 million	Not required	<a href="http://glpf.org/working-with-us/projects-wanted">http://glpf.org/working-with-us/projects-wanted</a>
Sustain our Great Lakes	Grant	Preproposals Due- February	Sustain, restore and protect fish, wildlife and habitat in the Great Lakes basin. Projects awarded for on-the-ground habitat restoration and enhancement.	\$25,000-\$1.5 million	1 to 1	<a href="http://www.nfwf.org/easy-grants">www.nfwf.org/easy-grants</a>

## 10.4 Tracking Progress: Updating the WMP

The intent of the WMP is to serve as a living document. To achieve this, the WMP will require updating and ECD will serve as the leading organization for this task.

The following components should be incorporated into the WMP in the future:

- Dissolved Oxygen TMDL once approved by U.S. EPA
- Incorporation of critical zones once future *E.coli* monitoring is completed
- Removal of critical zones once implementation projects have been completed and improved water quality is demonstrated
- Adjustment of subwatershed priorities over time

Lastly, the sustainability of the WMP should be evaluated and tracked over time. This can be achieved through the following parameters:

- Are there enough resources to accomplish the implementation plan, I/E strategy and monitoring strategy?
- Are stakeholders continually involved in the implementation and updating of the WMP?
- Is the WMP achieving regional collaboration?

## 10.5 Sustainability Summary

The WMP has laid a foundation to achieve sustainability over time. Numerous partners and networks have been identified to aid in regulation, technical assistance, organizational infrastructure and funding. Whether not sustainability is achieved can largely be measured by the extent of continued steering committee involvement and the implementation of on the ground projects.

Table 62. Implementation task and responsible contribution partner

<b>Implementation Task</b>	<b>Lead Contributing Partner (Steering Committee Member)</b>
Facilitate committees and meetings; coordinate with other counties	ECD; TCRPC-GLRC; MGROW
Collect additional data and update the WMP when new data are available	ECD; TCRPC-GLRC; MGROW
Coordinate and implement BMP strategies	All stakeholders
Implement information and education strategy	ECD; TCRPC-GLRC; MGROW
Implement future monitoring plan	ECD; TCRPC-GLRC; MGROW
Communicate with MDEQ in regards to the TMDLs and implementation progress and water quality impacts	ECD