

Appendix D

Public Participation and Involvement

Public Participation Activities

As an important component of the development of the Clinton Main Subwatershed Management Plan, the Clinton River Subwatershed Group initiated and participated in a number of public participation and educational stewardship efforts to engage the public in watershed planning activities. The Clinton Main Public Participation Process included the following activities as methods with which to involve the public through the watershed planning activities:

- Activity 1. Website
- Activity 2. Newsletter
- Activity 3. Focus Group
- Activity 4. Annual Events
- Activity 5. Cable Television and/or Cable Bulletin Board
- Activity 6. Media/Press Releases
- Activity 7. Presentation to Specific Groups
- Activity 8. Public Survey
- Activity 9. Email Distribution List
- Activity 10. Public Comment Period for WMP

Summary of Subwatershed Activities

Activity 1. Website: The Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) has a very active ongoing website (www.crwc.org) on which ongoing watershed and subwatershed events are posted. The website was further tailored to include specific information about ongoing watershed planning activities for each of the seven Clinton River subwatersheds. Furthermore, the Clinton Main Subwatershed Management Plan is included on the website for review and comment. Comments outside of the subwatershed advisory group have not been received, but will be included in this section in the event that comments are received during the public comment period, Activity 10. In addition, other subwatershed representatives have provided links from their individual websites to the CRWC website.

Activity 2. Newsletter: The Clinton River Watershed Council has developed and mailed at least two (2) newsletters each year from 2004 through 2006 that describe ongoing watershed planning activities within the Clinton River Watershed, as well as pertinent opportunities for learning more about public education and participation efforts through local workshops and annual events.

Activity 3. Focus Group: Focus group meetings were conducted on an individual basis with each of the subwatershed representatives and permittee staff. These focus group meetings were intended to engage other community staff and departments into the watershed planning process and identify further areas of concern that were representative within their individual areas of expertise. These “community tours” involved numerous staff and field visits to sites of particular interest, either from a protection and/or restoration standpoint.

Activity 4. Annual Events: The Clinton River Watershed Council with support from the local communities and counties has organized and hosted both River Day and Clinton Clean-Up annually. River Day is held

in June and the Clinton Clean-Up is hosted in September. Both events bring about numerous residents at the different sites throughout the subwatershed. In 2005, a Clinton River Clean-Up Survey was utilized at a number of the sites within the Clinton Main Subwatershed. The survey was intended to help prioritize goals and objectives for the Clinton Main Subwatershed. The following table highlights the goals most often selected in the survey by the twelve (12) recipients:

Clinton River Clean-Up 2005 Survey Results

| DRAFT Goal Language | Percent of Respondents Selecting as an Important Goal |
|---|--|
| 1. Reduce Sources of Pollution | 67% |
| 2. Increase public understanding of their role in protecting and enhancing watershed resources. | 58% |
| 3. Protect and restore Clinton River fisheries | 75% |
| 4. Improve recreational access and opportunities. | 58% |
| 5. Reduce flow variability. | 50% |
| 6. Enhance and protect water-front areas. | 58% |
| 7. Protect and mitigate loss of natural features and open spaces in the watershed. | 83% |

In addition to identifying which goals are important to the subwatershed, 100% of the respondents believed that the goals were representative for the subwatershed. Other items for consideration in the plan that were suggested by the respondents included the following:

- ❖ Sustainability, slope restoration, native plantings;
- ❖ Historical aspects; and
- ❖ How to actually tabulate the information in a uniform and consistent manor.

A survey identifying areas of concern was also utilized during River Day 2005; however, no surveys were returned.

Activity 5. Cable Television and/or Cable Bulletin Board: Various cable television, PSAs and bulletin board announcements were coordinated through the CRWC Public Education Program. These activities were reported through the individual PEP reports.

Activity 6. Media/Press Releases: The Clinton River Watershed Council has distributed numerous press releases and has received coverage for various events during the watershed planning phase. A list of watershed-wide press releases and subsequent media coverage articles may be viewed at www.crowc.org/pressroom/mediarchives/mediarchives.html.

Activity 7. Presentation to Specific Groups: The Clinton River Watershed Council has contracted with most representatives throughout the watershed to implement most components of the Public Education Plan. This PEP includes workshops that discuss specific information about watersheds and watershed planning activities. At least six (6) storm water presentations were conducted throughout the watershed focusing on various aspects of storm water. Results and evaluations of these workshops have been included and reported in annual PEP reporting. In addition, volunteer stream monitoring activities have also incorporated similar survey sites as those evaluated through this planning process which has given residents opportunities to further engage and understand about subwatershed awareness.

In addition to these ongoing presentations and volunteer monitoring activities, the Clinton Main Subwatershed also organized and hosted the “Clinton Main Subwatershed Open House”. This was held on July 13, 2005 and hosted by Oakland University. Approximately 70 people visited the event. The Open House was set up to encourage residents to visit different areas of the room that had displays/handouts on various topics pertinent to watershed planning. Categories of discussion/booth topics included Recreational Opportunities, Land Use Planning, Existing Watershed Conditions and Stewardship/Volunteer Opportunities. Displays were provided by Oakland County, Friends of the Clinton River Trail, DNR Fisheries, Sheriff’s Department Marina Division, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Oakland County Planning and Economic Development, Oakland County Drain Commissioner’s Office, Trout Unlimited and the Clinton River Watershed Council.

A survey was also utilized to help focus watershed planning efforts. This survey resulted in a general ranking of priorities which is described as follows:

Ranking of Priorities by Visitors to the Clinton Main Open House

| Rank | Area of Concern |
|------|---|
| 1 | River and Lake Quality |
| 2 | Protection of Waterfront |
| 3 | Educating the Public about Actions to Protect Water Quality |
| 4 | Future Development and Redevelopment |
| 5 | Recreational Opportunities |
| 6 | Clinton River Flow |
| 7 | Visual Appeal of Lakes and Streams |

In addition to completing the survey, many visitors provided individual comments regarding the open house and Clinton Main Subwatershed. These comments are summarized as follows:

What Planning and Land Use Issues Concern You?

1. It is difficult to get the development community to accept and embrace innovative stormwater techniques...including municipal planning commissions, councils/boards

2. Concerned about how the road (county "MAIN TYPE") are keeping up with development. How is the Road Commission handling increased stormwater directed to road ditches
3. Too much development
4. Need more open space
5. Invite High School science classes to open house (when planning for next open house)
6. Lack of stormwater management for road systems
7. Open space and natural areas need to be calculated for their economic values and designed in to land use planning and development
8. Too much impervious surface runoff, not enough infiltration
9. The Drain Office is keeping all the water in the lakes and the river gets too dry in the summer
10. Insufficient stormwater retention in the system
11. How can we restore/incentives for ground water recharge? This subwatershed is blessed with highly porous geology.
12. How can we improve public education of water quality and stormwater BMP's in the key public: golf courses, builders/developers, homeowners
13. How can we educate Oakland County's lake owners that their lake is really a wide spot in the Clinton River to see it from a watershed view?

Stewardship Opportunities / Concerns

1. Native prairie restoration on private property
2. Concerned about protecting steep slopes in Rochester Hills
3. Log jams / river flow issues in Rochester Hills
4. Identify natural features in each municipality and create stewardship partnerships to care for / protect them (like Adopt-A-Highway)
5. Galloway Creek, Galloway Lake, Clinton River corridors, below Bloomer Park, Riverside to Riverwoods park corridor in Auburn Hills, Crystal Lake, Clinton River corridor in Waterford, Stony Creek corridor
6. Log jams near Auburn / Opdyke in Auburn Hills
7. What happens to the frogs?

Community Tour Desired Watershed Issues to Address

1. Encroachment into Riparian Corridor areas
2. Lack of detention
3. Soil erosion/sedimentation
4. Log jams/woody debris management
5. Bank erosion
6. Maintaining riparian corridor
7. BMP implementation and maintenance
8. Invasive species control along riparian areas (lakes and streams)
9. Need more environmental protection ordinances
10. Water levels in River drop in the summer
11. Coordination between county and communities
12. Redevelopment BMPs
13. River flashiness and flooding
14. Increase recreational opportunities and public education
15. Road maintenance and salt application

Activity 8. Public Survey: The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and the Southeast Michigan Partners for Clean Water conducted a water quality survey during the summer of 2004. The purposes of the survey were to provide a benchmark to gauge the effectiveness of regional and local public outreach campaigns, leverage resources, and provide the opportunity to compare results from different areas of the SEMCOG region.

A four-page survey and cover letter were mailed to a stratified random sample of 10,800 households in the SEMCOG planning area, which includes the City of Detroit along with Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties. Another 1200 households outside the SEMCOG area were selected for a total sample of 12,000 households. Approximately 10 days after the surveys were mailed, residents who received the survey were contacted by phone. Those who indicated that they had not returned the survey were given the option of completing it by phone.

Of the 10,800 households in the SEMCOG planning area that received a survey, 1,824 households returned the survey by mail and 1,896 completed the survey by phone for a total of 3,720 completed surveys. An additional 411 surveys were completed outside the SEMCOG area with residents of the City of Flint and Jackson County. The sample was stratified to obtain at least 200 completed surveys from the 7-county SEMCOG area and each of nineteen subareas (see figure A). This was done to ensure that the results from each subarea would be statistically representative of all households within the subarea. The results for each watershed have a precision of at least $\pm 6.9\%$ at the 95% level of confidence.

The overall results for the SEMCOG region have a precision of at least $\pm 2\%$ at the 95% level of confidence. Since the population of the subareas is not equal, the final survey results were weighted based on the relative population of each subarea. This was done to ensure that overall results were representative of the entire SEMCOG region. Results for the Clinton Main Subwatershed are included in Chapter 3.

Activity 9. Email Distribution List: The Clinton River Watershed Council established an email listserve that currently has at least 900 members. The listserve has been an invaluable resource with which to provide notices on meetings, events and workshops across the entire Clinton River Watershed. It is anticipated that a notice will be emailed to advertise that the Clinton Main Subwatershed Management Plan is available for public comment.

Activity 10. Public Comment Period: The Clinton Main State of the Subwatershed Report has been available for public comment since March 2005. No significant comments have been received. The public comment period for this watershed management plan is anticipated to occur during the month of September 2006. During this timeframe, comments will be received, evaluated and the plan will be updated, if necessary based on these comments.