



Federal Clean Water Act
Section 319 Grant
MDEQ Tracking Code: 2010-0002



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Prairie River Watershed Planning Project

June 1, 2011 to June 30 2014

The Prairie River Watershed encompasses an area of 116,668 acres in Branch and St. Joseph Counties in Michigan and Steuben County Indiana. Land use in the watershed is primarily agricultural (67%) with areas of wetlands (14%) and forest (12%). Urbanized areas account for the remaining 7%. In spite of the large proportion of developed land, water quality in general is good. This project identified and prioritized nonpoint source pollutants, assessed land use planning and made recommendations to enhance water quality. The project resulted in a watershed management plan for the Prairie River Watershed approved by the DEQ and US EPA.

Grant Amount:\$238,632.59

Match Funds:\$60,247.96

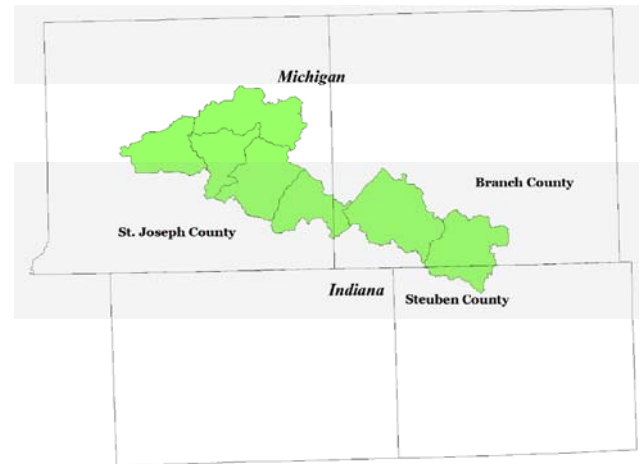
Total Amount:\$298,880.55

Project Accomplishments

- Watershed inventory including road stream crossings and stream banks
- Mapped critical areas to focus protection , agricultural & urban management activities
- Reviewed & made recommendations on master plans and zoning ordinances for 2 townships and 1 county
- Recommended best management practices
- Developed an I&E strategy for implementation
- Completed a Natural Resource Inventory for 1 township
- Provided recommended language related to wetlands protection and other water quality elements to townships with high natural resource protection potential
- A Landscape Level Wetland Functional Assessment was completed for the watershed and used to prioritize actions

I & E Activities

- 4 direct mail newsletters were written and mailed
- Prairie River Watershed promotional items were developed and distributed
- Hosted stakeholder workshops and meetings
- Maintained a website with Prairie River Watershed info for homeowners/landowners
- Completed a watershed-wide social survey to guide outreach efforts



Partners involved

- Burr Oak Township
- Branch County
- Branch County Drain Commissioner
- Branch County Road & Parks Commission
- Friends of the St. Joe River Association
- Lake Templene Property Owners Association
- Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Michigan State University
- Nottawa Township
- Ovid Township
- Potawatomi Resource Council & Development
- Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
- St. Joseph County Conservation District
- St. Joseph County Drain Commissioner
- Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District
- USDA-NRCS