

Watchin' the Wabash

A publication of the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission

The Upper Wabash River Basin Commission meets every 2 months at 7:00 a.m. at the Wells Co. Government Annex 223 W. Washington St., Bluffton, IN.

UWRBC MEETING SCHEDULE

*August 13th
October 8th
December 10th*

The UWRBC Steering Committee meets every 2 months at 12 noon at the USDA Service Center, 117 W. Harvest Rd., Bluffton, IN.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

*July 30th
September 24th
November 26th*

The public is encouraged and welcome to attend.

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Purpose of a Watershed Management Plan

The Upper Wabash River Basin Commission (UWRBC) is currently working on a watershed management plan that will help landowners and land users in the Wabash River-Griffin Ditch, Rock Creek, and Eight Mile watersheds evaluate and prioritize non-point source pollution problems affecting ground and surface waters.

Watershed planning connects the community's decision making to sensible data collection and defensible analysis. Recording those decisions in a watershed management plan increases the probability that the problems will be addressed, and provides a way to track progress with measureable results.

The purpose in writing the watershed plan is to create change. The plan makes it clear what the community wants to accomplish.

What are the things you are worried about? What are the things you want to change? All concerns, opinions, and passionate convictions are important in the planning process.

The #1 reason to write a watershed management plan: "To improve the quality of life for people in the watershed by helping to ensure clean water and healthy natural resources!"

“Living with the Wabash” and River Clean up! Saturday, July 27th

How does the Wabash River improve the quality of our lives? How can we keep it clean?

Learn about what makes the Wabash River a unique environment for the creatures that live in and around it, then help with a river clean-up event on **Saturday, July 27th.**

From **9-11 a.m.** the UWRBC will be hosting the “Living with the Wabash” education event in cooperation with the Bluffton City Parks Department on the banks of the Wabash near the Kehoe Park pavilion.

UWRBC volunteers will lead participants through water monitoring and identification of aquatic insects which

indicate water quality. Live specimens, preserved specimens and microscopes will be used in the program!

Then, at **1 p.m.** you can join your neighbors in a effort to clean up the Wabash River!

The river clean-up will take place from the White Bridge, to the Main Street Bridge in Bluffton. We will be removing trash and other debris that is littering the river and river banks.

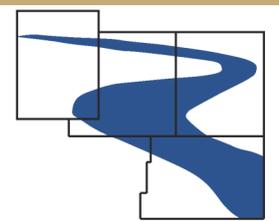
The UWRBC is seeking volunteers to help with clean-up activities. For more information, contact the Watershed Coordinator by e-mail at shenderson@adamswells.com.

UPPER WABASH RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

117 W. Harvest Road
Bluffton, IN 46714

The Upper Wabash River
Basin Commission

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A cooperation of local government established in 2001 under IC 14-30-4.
Huntington, Wells, Adams and Jay Counties

UWRBC Mission Statement

To provide regional leadership and promotion of flood prevention and control, soil and water conservation, and related resource management through a coordinated and comprehensive planning and implementing approach in which projects of the Commission will not adversely affect landowners within the watershed.

Water Quality Monitoring

Water quality monitoring will be conducted on the Wabash River, Eight Mile and Rock Creek to identify the chemical, biological and physical conditions of the river and streams. Sections of the river and tributaries are listed on the IDEM 303(d) list for impairments that include *E. coli*, impaired biotic communities and nutrients. By assessing the current conditions, we can document the impairments and then identify concerns and critical areas that need to be addressed, and set goals to track progress with measurable results.

What will we be testing? Chemical testing will include measuring: dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, turbidity, nitrate-nitrite, total phosphorus, *E. coli*, and flow. The chemical tests will be performed using monitoring equipment and taking water samples for laboratory analysis.

Biological monitoring involves using nets or seines to see which macro-invertebrates are living in the stream or river. Examples of macro-invertebrates that are water quality indicators include: mayfly, stonefly, damselfly, and dragonfly nymphs; clams/mussels, snails, crayfish; and midge larva, leeches, or aquatic worms.

Physical conditions are recorded as a habitat assessment. Does the section of stream or river have a rocky bottom, or does it have a lot of silt? Is there in-stream cover for fish or macro-invertebrates? Is the stream shaded or open? These questions and more, combine to make an assessment score that indicates if the stream provides habitat that will support aquatic life, and is also an indicator of water quality.

Water quality monitoring will be conducted on a monthly basis for one year, at 15 sites in the watershed area. Hoosier Riverwatch volunteer monitoring will also occur yearly at three of the 15 sites. If you are over 18 yrs. old and would like to volunteer to help with sampling events, contact the UWRBC.

What's in it for you?

- ⇒ Be a voice for citizens of your community.
- ⇒ Have the satisfaction of helping to restore the Wabash River so everyone can enjoy it.
- ⇒ Be recognized as a community leader.
- ⇒ Learn more about water resource protection and restoration.
- ⇒ Contribute your unique knowledge and skills.
- ⇒ Meet and work with great folks, and have a lot of fun!

**For more information
contact:**

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