

9.0 Project Tracking and Future Activities

9.1 Evaluating Effectiveness of Project

Indicators for measuring progress have been identified for each goal established by the Steering Committee and stakeholders. Water quality monitoring data, habitat, and biological surveys will continue to be collected throughout practice implementation and will be compared to the baseline data contained in this plan. Meadow-Wood Environmental Laboratory will serve as the Water Quality Coordinator and perform laboratory testing at a cost of approximately \$39,000 over the three-year implementation period. Following implementation, on-going volunteer water quality monitoring will be conducted using the UWRBC monitoring equipment and Hoosier Riverwatch methods. Load reduction estimates will be used for comparison to the baseline modeling to gauge improvements in water quality.

Best management practices installed throughout the implementation program will be mapped and modeled for their respective load reductions. This information will be reviewed by the Steering Committee and partners to determine the success or failures of installed practices and used for evaluating the watershed management plan action items or when considering revisions and refinement to the implementation strategies.

Social data will be used to track stakeholder attitudes, awareness, behaviors and participation in conservation programs and the implementation of best management practices that directly affect water quality improvement and protection. Surveys and questionnaires will be used to gather the social data, and personal interviews will be completed with landowners interested in applying for financial assistance programs. The social data will be evaluated by the Steering Committee and partners to determine the effectiveness of our education and outreach efforts, as well as identify improvements for future implementation programs.

The overall project progress will be tracked using the action register (Appendix J) as a guide for the schedule of activities to be completed throughout the implementation project. A tracking database will be developed by the UWRBC to include measureable items such as workshops held, BMPs installed, meetings held, stakeholder and volunteer participation, etc.; and will be updated quarterly with completed items. Individual landowner contacts and information will also be tracked for installed and future projects.

Information about the watershed management plan, implementation project, water quality monitoring and educational and outreach events will be posted to the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission website (<http://uwrbc.org>) and other social media as well as in news releases provided to media outlets advertising project events.

9.2 Future Watershed Activities

The Upper Wabash River Basin Commission has been awarded an IDEM 319 grant to implement best management practices in the project area over a three-year period based on the approval of this plan. The implementation project includes developing and promoting a BMP cost-share program, BMP implementation, water quality monitoring, and education and outreach

activities. The critical areas, BMPs, goals and objectives outlined in this watershed management plan will be the basis for the implementation grant project.

Support from the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission members, steering committee, partners and stakeholders is necessary for the success of future programs and for achieving the goals and objectives outlined in this plan. The UWRBC members and steering committee will continue to meet bi-monthly to provide guidance and review findings and progress of the project activities.

This watershed management plan will be reviewed and updated as goals, objectives and strategies are met; and as proven technologies and additional management measures are approved. At a minimum, it is expected that the plan will be reevaluated annually within the three-year implementation period and on a five-year basis thereafter. Revisions to the plan can be completed at any time due to changes in water quality, land use, regulations, attitudes and behavior or for other reasons that are deemed appropriate.

The Upper Wabash River Basin Commission continues to conduct water monitoring activities and partners with the NRCS, ISDA and SWCDs in the Phase 1 project area; and is committed to future planning and implementation projects in the proposed Phase 3 project area. The UWRBC will work to integrate this watershed management plan and the plan that was developed for the Phase 1 project area into a regional effort for the entire area under the jurisdiction of the UWRBC to capitalize on the potential shared resources.

This watershed management plan will be available to the public through the UWRBC, local libraries, County Surveyor offices and Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Adams, Jay, Wells and Huntington Counties.

For additional information on this watershed management plan or future activities, contact the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission, 117 W. Harvest Road, Bluffton, IN 46714. Phone 260/824-0624 ext. 3.