



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Great Lakes

Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA CSREES
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Winter 2007

Building Capacity of Watershed Organizations, Agricultural Land Owners, and Land Planners to Protect and Restore Watersheds

National Theme: Watershed Management

GREAT LAKES REGION



Project Description

Extraordinary People Creating Extraordinary Communities: A Profile of Land Use Decision Makers

Land use and drainage planning play a significant role in watershed health. Many water quality issues, such as urban stormwater runoff and sedimentation, which affect watersheds in the Midwest, are directly linked to land use decisions.

Even highly successful stream protection and restoration projects can be undermined by changes in hydrology and contaminated runoff resulting from changes in land use patterns in the surrounding watershed. Watershed leaders and volunteers and individual land owners could have a much greater impact on water quality by participating more effectively in decision making processes that affect land use.

This project highlights extraordinary people in the region and their decisions to improve their communities by protecting water resources. The individuals involved in these efforts are extraordinary in their ability to initiate individual and collaborative efforts for community wide change. The decisions and collaborations of these individuals will protect watersheds and provide lasting community benefits such as access to streams and cleaner reservoirs. By sharing these stories we hope to inspire others who want to improve their communities using local people and resources.

Three of our extraordinary people:



Ken Chamberlain photo

Angie Brown, White River Watershed Project and Marta Moody, Delaware-Muncie Metro Planning Commission

Marta Moody (left) and Angie Brown discuss with Brent Ladd their collaboration to develop a Master Plan for Prairie Creek Reservoir, Madison County, Indiana. Angie and Marta formed a successful collaboration between the White River Watershed Project and the Delaware-Muncie Metro Planning Commission to create a Master Plan for Prairie Creek Reservoir in Eastern Indiana that includes locally led recommendations guiding land use decisions that include water quality protection for the Prairie Creek reservoir.



Don Lee, Cardington, Ohio

Don Lee and Anne Baird, OSU Extension at the site of the future Maxwell Park, Cardington Ohio. Farmer Don protected 90 acres of stream bank along the Shaw and Whetstone Creeks along the headwaters of the Olentangy River in Central Ohio with 200-foot stream strips of prairie buffers. Don also helped obtain a 30-acre stream side park for the Village of Cardington along the banks of Whetstone Creek.

PROJECT CONTACTS

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Actions

A joint video workshop co-sponsored by Purdue and The Ohio State University is being planned and will be available to participants in Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The video will be taped and available for download on the Great Lakes Regional Water Quality website (<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/regionalwaterquality>). In addition, profiles are being compiled that highlight successful collaborations between watershed organizations, farmers, and land owners with local and regional land use and drainage planning efforts. These will be presented in a booklet and on the Great Lakes Regional Water Quality Website.

Outcomes/Impacts

This project will:

- Improve watershed and land use decisions by promoting cooperative decision making among watershed organizations, farmers, land owners and local governments
- Produce and distribute collaborative publications and Extension education programs on linking land use and watershed decisions
- Enhance knowledge among watershed organizations, farmers and land owners, and local governments of effective approaches to organizations, farmers, and land owners linking land use and watershed management
- Increase farmer, land owner, and watershed organization participation in land use planning



www.uwex.edu/ces/regionalwaterquality