

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
AGENDA**

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

**Town Hall Room
Meridian Municipal Building
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864**

Work Session

1. Call the work session to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Approval of the work session agenda
3. Review of the minutes of the February 4, 2015 work session/regular meeting
4. Other business
 - a. Discuss Environmental Stewardship Award nominations
5. Public remarks
6. Adjournment

Regular Meeting

1. Call the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Approval of the regular meeting agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of the February 4, 2015, work session/regular meeting
4. Public remarks
5. Green Themes Presentation by Harmony Gmazel, Senior Planner at the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission entitled: *"Wrapping Up The Mid-Michigan Program For Greater Sustainability"*
6. Chair's Report
7. Communications/staff report
 - a. ITC Grant check presented to the Township Board
 - b. Solar webinar
 - c. Possible upcoming wetland use permit
 - d. Spring Recycling Event on April 25th
8. Other Business
 - a. Approve Environmental Stewardship Awardees
9. Study groups/liaison reports
 - a. Land Preservation: Jim Kielbaso
 - b. Energy Team: John Sarver
 - c. Street Tree Replacement: John Scherbarth
 - d. Parks: Richard Searl

3/4/15 Agenda
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10. Public remarks
11. Adjournment

WORK SESSION

PRESENT: Chair McConnell and Commissioners Kielbaso, Jackson, Sarver, Scherbarth, Schools, and Searl

ABSENT: None

STAFF

PRESENT: Richard F. Brown, Jr., AICP, Associate Planner

OTHERS

PRESENT: Planning Commissioner John Scott-Craig and Recycling Coordinator LeRoy Harvey

1. **CALL WORK SESSION TO ORDER**

Chair McConnell called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE WORK SESSION AGENDA**

Agenda approved without objection.

3. **REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 7, 2015 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING**

Minor corrections.

4. **OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. Mall outlot: Discussion on the concerns over the planned removal of numerous trees to improve sightlines to the proposed structure from Grand River Avenue.
- b. Energy Team collaboration: Comments made by Recycling Coordinator Harvey about working together; the upcoming changes to the public works and engineering department; and his willingness to redefine his role as necessary.

5. **PUBLIC REMARKS**

None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Work Session adjourned without objection at 7:02 p.m.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
Meridian Municipal Building
February 4, 2015 - DRAFT**

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Chair McConnell and Commissioners Searl, Jackson, Schools, Scherbarth, Sarver, and Kielbaso

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Richard F. Brown, Jr., AICP, CBSP Associate Planner

OTHERS: Planning Commissioner John Scott-Craig, Greater Lansing Housing Coalition Director Julie Powers, and Recycling Coordinator LeRoy Harvey

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McConnell called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Jackson to approve the agenda. Supported by Commissioner Kielbaso. Approved 7-0.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JANUARY 7, 2015 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Jackson to approve the minutes as corrected during the Work Session. Supported by Commissioner Schools. Approved 7-0.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

None

5. GREEN THEMES PRESENTATION BY JULIE POWERS, DIRECTOR OF THE GREATER LANSING HOUSING COALITION ENTITLED: "HOUSING AND THE ENVIRONMENT"

Planning should be aspirational was the underlying theme of the presentation. Other topics included transit-oriented development, putting density in the right places, changing demographics, continuing care, senior housing that is positioned in relationship to amenities.

7. CHAIR'S REPORT

No report.

8. COMMUNICATIONS/STAFF REPORT

Associate Planner Brown summarized the following:

- Accepting Environmental Stewardship Award nominations until 3/1/15. One nomination to date.
- Harmony Gmazel will be speaking in March.
- Staff provided a copy of the recycling handout prepared by Granger – participation is now up to 64 percent of single-family households.

9. **OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. **Meridian Leadership Group presentation:** brief discussion about Friday morning's event. Commissioners McConnell, Jackson, and Schools plan to attend, along with staff.

10. **STUDY GROUPS/LIAISON REPORTS**

- a. **Land Preservation:** No report.
- b. **Energy Team:** Commissioner Sarver noted Consumers Energy's presentation to the Township Board on Solar Ready Communities.
- c. **Street Tree Replacement:** Commissioner Scherbarth and staff updated the Commission. Initial interest from Banyon Park subdivision.
- d. **Parks:** Commissioner Searl summarized what took place at the most recent Park Commission meeting, including 150 deer taken during the culling; looking into smaller dog parks versus a single large one; and an addition deer season will be held in January and February.

11. **PUBLIC REMARKS**

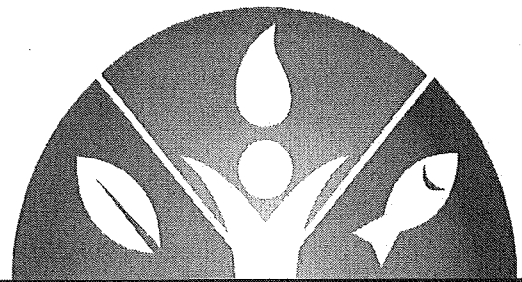
None.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Kielbaso to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Supported by Commissioner Searl. Approved 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Greater Lansing Regional Committee
for Stormwater Management

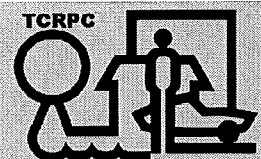
2014 Annual Report

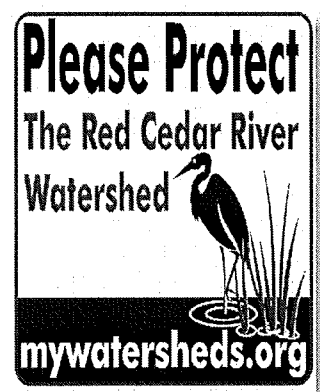
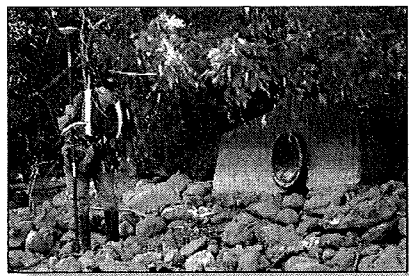
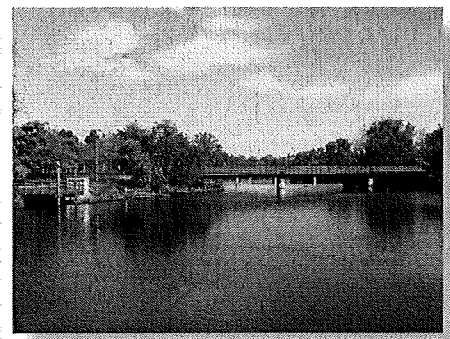
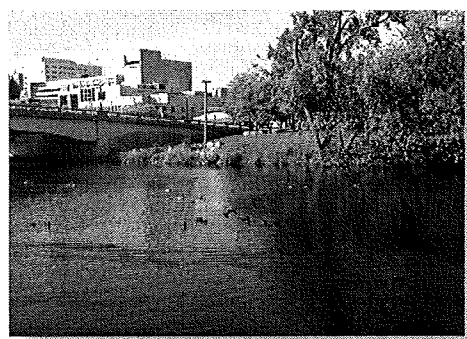
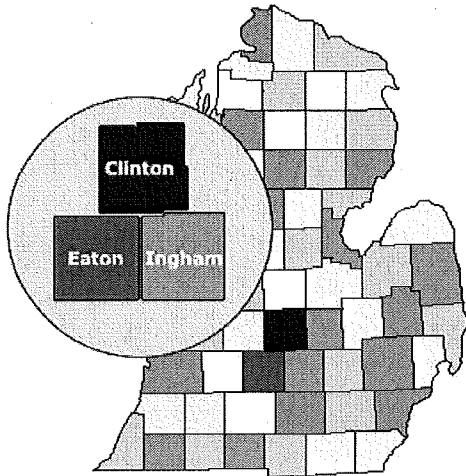


**GREATER LANSING
REGIONAL COMMITTEE**
FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

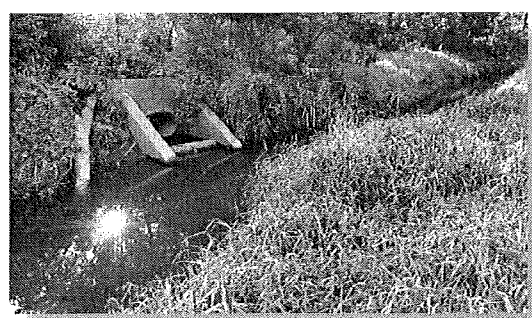
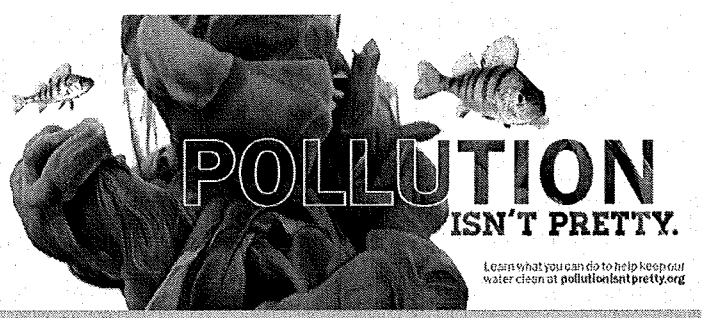
www.mywatersheds.org

www.mywatersheds.org





credit: Robert Killips / Lansing State Journal (above)



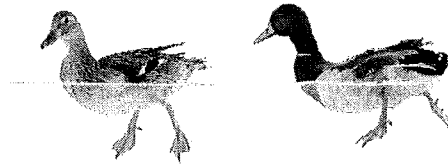


Greater Lansing Regional Committee for Stormwater Management

Polluted stormwater runoff is often transported through municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) and ultimately discharged into local rivers and streams without treatment. The Environmental Protection Agency's Stormwater Phase II Rule establishes an MS4 stormwater management program that is intended to improve the nation's waterways by reducing the quantity of pollutants that stormwater carries into storm sewer systems during storm events. The GLRC began meeting in 1998 and was formed under a Memorandum of Agreement in 2004. The GLRC has been established to guide the implementation of the MS4 program for the communities within the Grand, Red Cedar and Looking Glass River Watersheds.

GLRC Members

City of DeWitt
City of East Lansing
City of Grand Ledge
City of Lansing
City of Mason
Delhi Charter Township
Delta Charter Township
DeWitt Charter Township
Lansing Charter Township
Meridian Charter Township
Onelda Charter Township
Lansing Public Schools
Windsor Charter Township
Clinton County Road Commission
Clinton County
Eaton County
Ingham County
Michigan State University



Minimum Control Measures

The six MS4 program elements, termed "minimum control measures" that drive the efforts of the GLRC are described below:

Public Participation/Involvement: Providing opportunities for citizens to participate in program development and implementation, including effectively publicizing public hearings and/or encouraging citizen representatives on a stormwater management panel.

Public Education and Outreach: Distributing educational materials and performing outreach to inform citizens about the impacts polluted stormwater runoff discharges can have on water quality.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination: Developing and implementing a plan to detect and eliminate illicit discharges to the storm sewer system. Activities include developing a system map and informing the community about hazards associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste.

Construction Site Runoff Control: Developing, implementing, and enforcing an erosion and sediment control program for construction activities that disturb one or more acres of land. Controls could include silt fences and temporary stormwater detention ponds.

Post-Construction Runoff Control: Developing, implementing, and enforcing a program to address discharges of post-construction stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment areas. Applicable controls could include preventative actions such as protecting sensitive areas (e.g., wetlands) or the use of structural BMPs such as grassed swales or porous pavement.

Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping: Developing and implementing a program with the goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations. The program must include municipal staff training on pollution prevention measures and techniques, such as regular street sweeping, reduction in the use of pesticides or street salt, or frequent catch-basin cleaning.

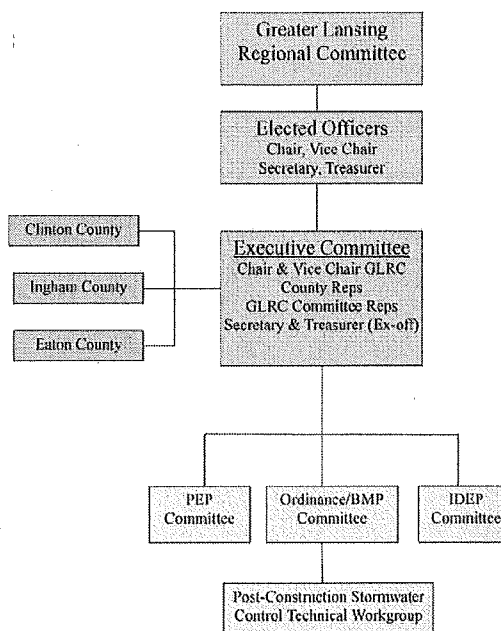
Fiscal Year 2014 and Structure

The GLRC is supported by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) which provides program staff, administrative and fiscal support. GLRC members pay annual dues for the services provided. The following committees coordinate and complete the work necessary to be in compliance with the permit requirements.

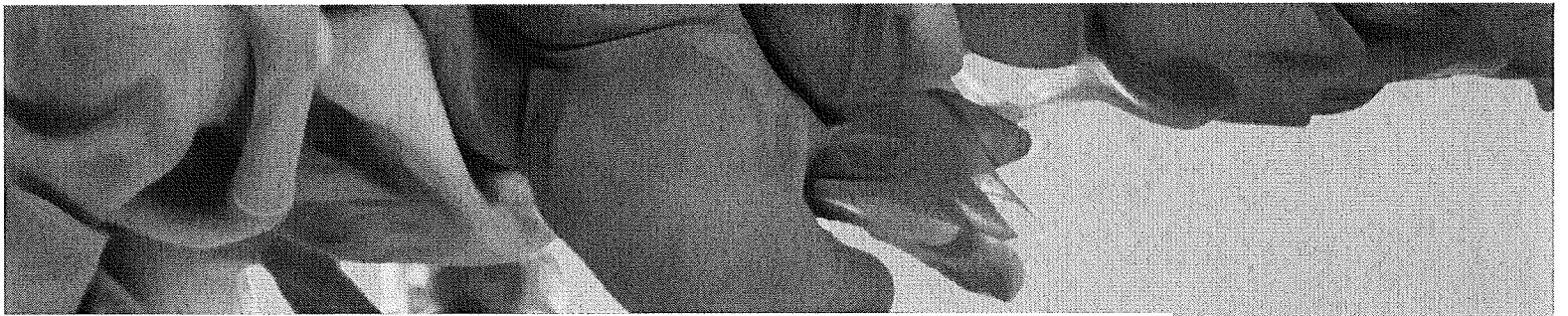
Illicit Discharge Elimination Program (IDEP) Committee guides the organization and implementation of the illicit discharge elimination program, mapping guidelines, field-sampling protocols, and how the watershed will be monitored for progress. The IDEP Committee has reviewed pet waste reduction techniques, septic tank maintenance issues, IDEP ordinances and provided staff training.

Public Education Program (PEP) Committee guides the overall public education, participation, outreach, and involvement process for the watershed management planning effort. This effort includes evaluation and assessment of public knowledge and activities.

Ordinance/Best Management Practices (BMPs) Committee reviews and makes recommendations on existing ordinance updates to ensure that they are consistent with the permit requirements. In addition, the committee provides education to GLRC members related to good housekeeping techniques, low impact development (LID) and BMPs that reduce pollution from stormwater runoff.



Category	Fiscal Year 2014	% of Expenditures
TCRPC - Staff/Support Services	\$87,668	86%
Annual Report Printing (100 copies)	\$350	>1%
Executive Committee	\$0	0%
Illicit Discharge Elimination Plan (IDEP)	\$300	>1%
Public Education Plan (PEP)	\$9,754	10%
Ordinance/BMP Committee	\$300	>1%
Website Hosting	\$500	>1%
Stream Monitoring	\$3000	3%
Total	\$101,872	



GLRC Permit Application Update

Most GLRC member permit applications are complete and moving through the MDEQ permitting process. Once issued, the permits will be in place until April 2017. The GLRC looks forward to permit issuance for all GLRC members and continues to move forward with programming.



Audits

MDEQ will continue to audit GLRC members. One of the biggest challenges thus far has been record keeping. Since the MSU program involves several different departments within a single community it can be very challenging to have a handle on record keeping. MDEQ has a guidance document regarding this and Erin Campbell, the GLRC Coordinator can assist with every step of the audit process.

Training

Staff Training for Good Housekeeping and Illicit Discharges

The MS4 permit requires that municipal staff be trained for identifying and eliminating illicit discharges and pollution prevention or good housekeeping techniques on municipal property. Staff should be trained once every five years, with new hires being trained within the first year of employment. The GLRC offers two training videos to assist members with training requirements.

Videos

Rain Check: focuses on good housekeeping and pollution prevention on municipal properties

IDEA A Grate Concern: focuses on identifying and correcting illicit discharges

GLRC members can borrow the videos at any time. Once the MS4 permits are issued, more collaborative training will be conducted in order to streamline this process for members.





Working Together for Improved Water Quality

There are several watershed management efforts currently underway by local watershed groups. They each have their own specific priorities related to water quality improvements, but the overall missions of these organizations are overlapping and related to working to improve regional water quality and management. The GLRC collaborates on several different projects and efforts related to water quality improvements, recreational opportunities, pollution prevention and in general regional water resource management.

Watershed Management Plans:

The Eaton Conservation District and Michigan State University Institute of Water Research are developing watershed management plans for the Middle Grand and Red Cedar River Watersheds, respectively. These efforts are funded through federal 319 non-point source grants through the MDEQ. The plans focus on improving the quality of impaired water bodies. Both the Middle Grand and Red Cedar Rivers do not meet water quality standards for *E.coli* and Dissolved Oxygen levels. Both plans are in the final review stages through MDEQ and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and approval is expected in early 2015.

Middle Grand River Watershed Planning Project
www.middlegrandriver.com

Red Cedar River Watershed Planning Project
www.redcedarriver.weebly.com

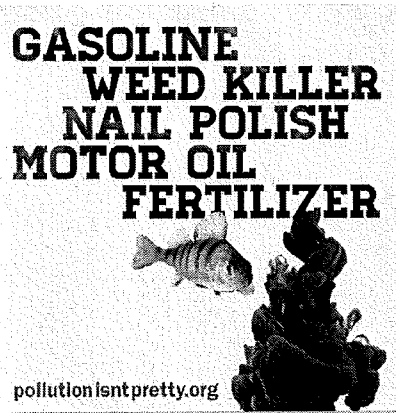
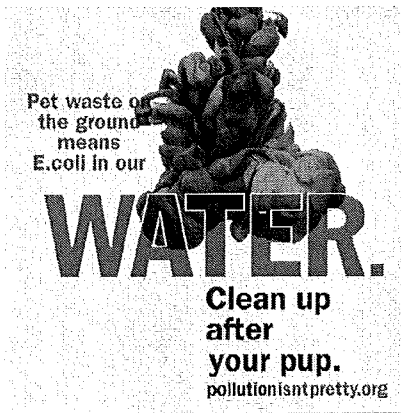


POLLUTION ISN'T PRETTY.

In December of 2013 the Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds (MGROW) announced the development of a new water resources brand for the Mid-Michigan area: Pollution Isn't Pretty. The campaign streamlines educational efforts to create clear, consistent messages that educate area residents about water quality concerns and what they can do to reduce pollution and protect our region's water resources.

The brand was funded by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's Mid-Michigan Program for Greater Sustainability. In 2014, the GLRC has utilized the Pollution Isn't Pretty brand to improve the social media presence, redesign the logo, redesign quarterly newsletters, develop brochures and other educational materials, and to accomplish a large scale printing of materials with all the involved partners and GLRC members. This provided a significant cost reduction and allowed GLRC members to purchase a large quantity of materials. The brand was issued a 2014 American Advertising Award-Gold Addy for creative development.

Be sure to keep your eye out for Pollution Isn't Pretty, and visit the website: Pollutionisntpretty.org to learn what you can do to help improve and protect water resources.



GLRC Website - www.mywatersheds.org

The GLRC website provides a valuable amount of information relating to watersheds, stormwater stewardship, educational information, links to other environmental organizations, local projects, recreational opportunities and much more.



Adopt-A-River

Each Spring the PEP Committee and GLRC members help promote and recruit participants for the annual Adopt-A-River program with the Lansing Board of Water & Light and Impression 5 Science Center.



Educational News Article Topics Available for Your Local Paper:

- Water is a Watershed
- Riparian Areas
- Who/What is the GLRC?
- Onsite Septic Systems
- Fertilizer
- Vehicle Maintenance
- Pet Waste
- Storm vs. Sanitary Sewer
- Car Washing
- Adopt Your Catch Basin
- Illicit Discharge
- Wetlands



Other Public Education Efforts

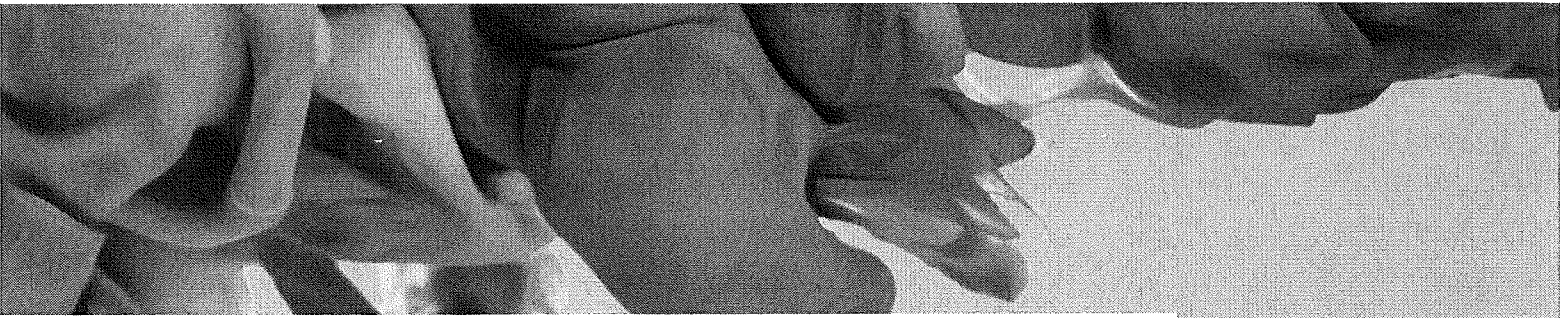
Greening Mid-Michigan

The GLRC worked with Greening Mid-Michigan (GMM) on a new DVD titled: Greening Mid-Michigan: A Vision for Green Infrastructure! This 28-minute DVD highlights green infrastructure success stories; from the reuse of industrial sites into successful county parks to our local farms and markets, watershed protection efforts, and finally, how promoting active living for residents through the promotion of river, park and trail systems is important.

The video is available on the GMM website: www.greeningmidmichigan.org; watch all four segments of the video related to agriculture, active lifestyles, stormwater protection and parks. Statewide and local PBS stations including WKAR, based out of Michigan State University (MSU), have aired the video several times throughout 2014.

GMM hopes that with this video residents will better understand and embrace sustainable "green infrastructure" efforts that are currently underway in Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties. GMM also hopes that this video will inspire everyone to create new "green" success stories in the years to come.



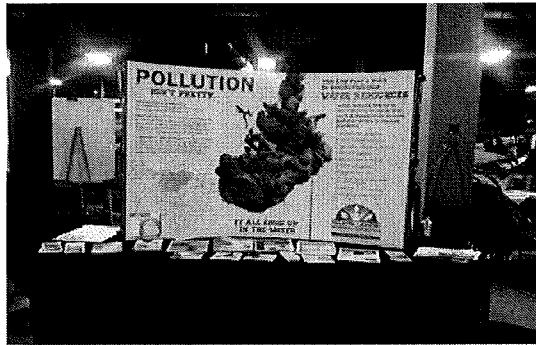


GLRC Display

The GLRC utilizes a traveling watershed display for local workshops, conferences, etc. When the display is not in use for an event, it circulates throughout the region to GLRC member offices. Look for it at your local City Hall, Public Works lobby and various locations around town!

This year the display was updated with the Pollution Isn't Pretty brand and could be seen at the following locations and events:

- Quiet Water Symposium: March 1, 2014
- Delhi Charter Township Lawn Care Seminar: March 20, 2014
- Michigan Water Environment Association Watershed Summit: March 26, 2014
- City of Lansing lobby: April 11-14, 2014
- Delhi Charter Township Open House: May 10, 2014
- Adopt A River: May 3, 2014
- Grand American Fish Rodeo: June 13-14, 2015
- Meridian Township Lake Lansing meeting: June 17, 2014
- MSU Ag Expo: July 21-25, 2014
- Ingham County Fair: July 27-August 2, 2014
- Grand Ledge Color Tour: October 10-12, 2014
- City of Lansing lobby: October 27-31, 2014
- MSU Autumn Fest: November 8, 2014



Children's Water Festival

Each year members of the GLRC join with other water management professionals to volunteer their time for the Children's Water Festival. The annual festival is sponsored by the Groundwater Management Board. Over the past 18 years, the festival has had great success with over 38,000 students from area schools attending. The purpose of the festival is to educate 4th, 5th and 6th grade students about the importance of our environment and water resources and their role in protecting and conserving it.



Billboard Public Service Announcement

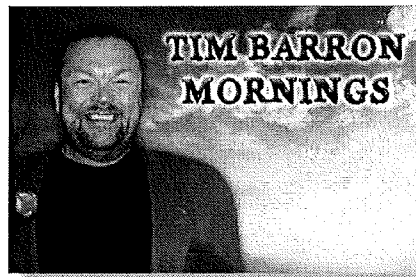
The GLRC billboard was displayed throughout the Greater Lansing area from March through May of 2014. This year we partnered with the Eaton Conservation District and in total 10 billboards were posted in the region.



Radio

The GLRC Coordinator provides information to the local 92.9 FM WLMI Tim Barron Morning Show. The following topics were discussed during the broadcasts in 2014:

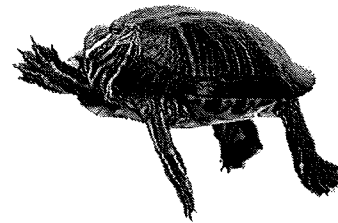
- April 11, 2014: Discussed best management practices for leaf disposal and fertilizer application.
- July 10, 2014: Discussed the Grand River oil spill in Old Town. Helped listeners understand about illicit discharges and spills, how to report them and what GLRC are doing to protect are waterways. Illicit Discharge Elimination Plans are in place for a spill occurs.
- October 16, 2014: Promoted the Greening Mid-Michigan videos that highlight our local water resources and trails systems.





Plans for 2015

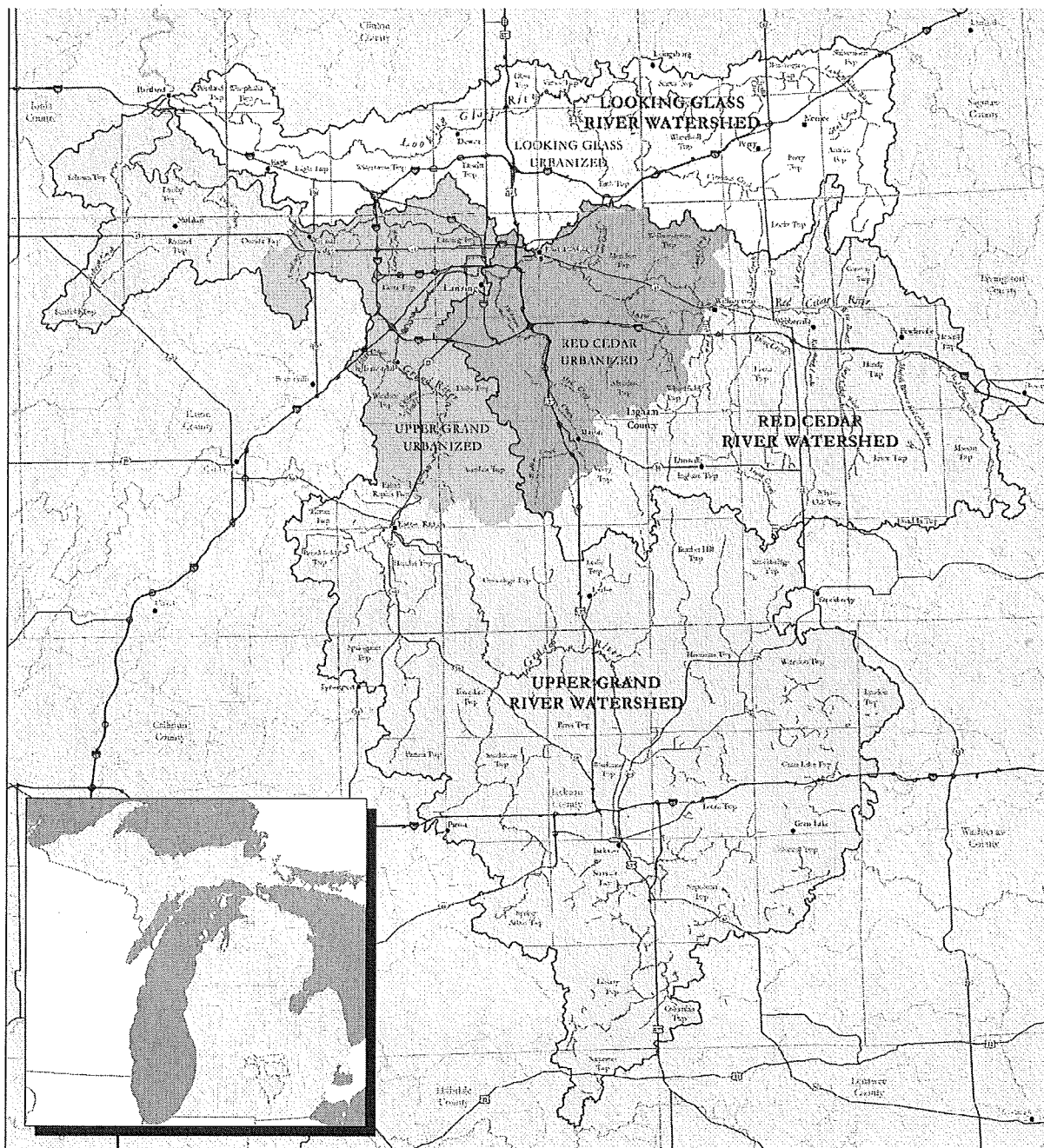
- Redesign the GLRC website
- Continue to utilize the Pollution Isn't Pretty brand
- MS4 Permits to be issued (reoccurring approval)
- Continue quarterly radio interviews
- Continue publication of quarterly newsletters
- Continue display use throughout the region
- Workshop for GLRC members on utilizing their websites for permit compliance
- Workshop for local school districts about the MS4 permit and youth education
- Presentations to local businesses and groups about stormwater permit requirements for development and redevelopment in the urban area
- Design and distribute new education materials related to urban agriculture and travel trailer waste disposal

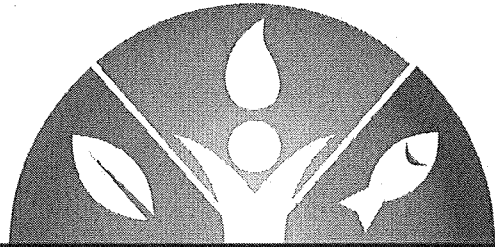


Carrier Creek, Delta Township



Map of the Upper Grand River Watershed





**GREATER LANSING
REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

www.mywatersheds.org

