

APPENDIX G – Focus Group Results

The Northeastern Watersheds Concerns (in no particular order)

1. Bacteria

- Lagoon discharges
 - Lack of local input for lagoon and package treatment plant sewage permitting.
 - Aesthetic concerns regarding spring and fall discharges.
- Lack of sewage disposal for porta potties at marina pump out stations.

Lower Black River (LBR)

1. Failing OSDS and cross connections
 - a. Kimball Township
 - b. Fort Gratiot, Krafft and Parker
 - i. Sewer extension needed
 - c. Brockway Twp/ Yale
 - d. Several homes without adequate sewage disposal
 - i. Rural hamlets need seed money for sewers.
2. Combined Sewer Overflows
 - a. 1 CSO on the Black River, City of Port Huron
 - i. Plans to eliminate it in 2006.
3. Wildlife Sources
 - a. Canada Geese & seagulls at boat launch and public beaches;
4. Total Maximum Daily Load Designations for Bacteria
 - a. Black River, Upstream to I-94, 2009
5. Agricultural
 - a. Livestock access to waterways

St. Clair River Direct Drainage (SRD)

1. Failing OSDS/ Cross Connections
 - a. Discharges along the St. Clair River
 - b. Ravenswood in Port Huron Twp.
 - i. In the process of extending sewer
2. Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO)
 - a. 5 CSO discharges from the City of Port Huron
 - i. To be eliminated by 2010
3. Beach Closings
 - a. Chrysler Beach, Maryville.
 - i. Historically Lighthouse Beach and Lakeside Park do not close as much as Chrysler Beach.)
 - ii. There are no TMDLs on any of the three beaches in SRD

4. Pet Waste and Wildlife
 - a. Canada Geese and seagulls along waterfront and on golf course

Lake Huron Direct Drainage (LHD)

1. Failing OSDS and cross connections
 - a. Milwaukee Creek
 - i. SCCHD monitoring shows high counts
 - b. Kettle Creek (Norman Road drain)
 - i. SCCHD monitoring shows high counts
 - c. Sheldon Subdivision
 - i. Seepage from OSDS due to poor drainage
 - ii. Drainage project needed
2. Indian Springs Manufactured House Development, Burtchville Twp.
 - a. Permitted high phosphorous discharges in Indian Springs Lagoon.
3. Total Maximum Daily Load Designations for Bacteria on the following beaches:
 - a. Burtchville Twp Park Beach 2005
 - b. Keewadhin Road Beach, 2005
 - c. Lakeport State Campground Beach, 2005
 - d. Metcalf Road Beach, 2005
4. Agricultural
 - a. Livestock access to waterways

2. New Development

1. Inadequate storm water review
 - a. Uniform review process that ensures a timely and adequate review process across the watershed.
 - b. Storm water runoff from single family homes along road drains and natural streams is not being reviewed for residential single family building
 - i. Storm water is being directed to road drains and natural streams
 1. Road drains are designed for road runoff only
 2. Road drains are facing increasing maintenance costs because of increased amounts of storm water.
2. Increase of impervious areas
 - a. Retention basins don't mitigate flow volumes.
 - b. Lack of incentive for new development to decrease impervious areas.
 - c. Dry weather low flows in creeks/ groundwater recharge.
 - d. Big FLOODING problems in Marysville.
 - i. Lack of storm water review in Kimball Twp.
3. Construction Sites
 - a. Construction sites lack enough inspections/ enforcement.
4. Wetland and riparian flood plain destruction
 - a. Lack of state wetland regulation enforcement

- b. Lack of riparian corridor protection along smaller tributaries
- c. Local municipalities should have the ability to deny developments on land that is known to flood but is not a FEMA designated floodplain.

3. Soil Erosion

1. Soil erosion in drains and road ditches due to increased storm water flows.
 - a. Sump pumps add more water to road drains during storms.
 - b. Inadequate storm water review noted in New Development.
 - c. Streambank soil erosion moderate to high in lower waterways of the subwatersheds.

2. Agricultural Practices (Lower Black River and Lake Huron Direct Drainage)
 - a. Livestock in waterways
 - b. Lack buffers alongside drains
 - c. Plowing occurring through smaller tributaries when in middle of the field
 - d. Soil erosion and sediment loading to road drains especially high from untilled fields in the spring
 - e. Channelized Drainage
 - i. Channelized drains have unstable banks and erode easily due to high velocities of straitened channels.
 - ii. Predominately in the upper portions of the LHD and LBR.

3. Gravel roads

4. Nutrients/ pesticides and herbicides

1. Agricultural runoff from tiled fields.
2. Over fertilization of suburban lawns
3. Golf Courses

5. Public Education

1. The public is generally uneducated about water resource management.

6. Aesthetics

1. Currently urban open drains are “eyesores”; not recreational assets.
2. Paper discharges into the St. Clair River. Paper floating in areas where people swim.
3. Public perception of spring and fall lagoon discharges.
4. Garbage in waterways and floodplains
 - a. Dump sites on floodplains
 - b. Dumping and littering

7. Financial

1. Financing storm water activities (sustainability)
2. Financing sewer construction and maintenance.

8. Additional concerns (in no specific order):

1. St. Clair River Direct Drainage
 - a. Leaching of coal ash into ground water at Detroit Edison. (SRD) Moratorium on drinking well water (there are no drinking wells.)

 - b. Perception that U.S. factories' discharges, permitted or not, are still a problem for local water quality.

2. Lake Huron Direct Drainage (LHD)
 - a. F. Gratiot landfill leachate
 - i. Releases of contaminated leachate have been documented. The landfill has recently been adequately capped, eliminating the landfill as a contamination source. However residual contamination may remain at locations in the Carrigan Drain and/or Keewahdin Road ditch. This is currently being investigated.

3. Lower Black River (LBR)
 - a. Lack of sediment quality data
 - i. "A review of existing data indicate a widespread lack of any sediment data for any of the targeted contaminants. A single USGS study (Frey 2001) did identify the pesticide Atrazine in the water of the Black River near Jeddo, MI as exceeding human health and aquatic life benchmarks, hence indicating impaired use. The source, magnitude and spatial extent of this risk is unknown." - GLNPO grant application, 2004

Of note:

1. Road Commission Concern: Sump pump and downspouts to road ditches
- Fuel tanks rust and the fuel oil goes into the basement sump which is pumped to the ditch.

2. Separation project in Port Huron has reduced the number of CSOs on the Black and St. Clair Rivers from 24 to 6 as of May 2005.