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Pigeon River Watershed Planning Project

The 145 square mile Pigeon River Watershed is primarily agricultural, with a high concentration of seasonal homes along the Saginaw Bay lakeshore. The project goal was to develop an EPA Section 319 approvable Watershed Management Plan that outline strategies and recommendations to effectively reduce pollution sources, specifically sediment, nutrients and pathogens and bacteria. The primary focus of the project was to recommend management measures to mitigate nonpoint source contamination. An information and education strategy was developed for the Watershed. A highlight of the project was a Tile Drainage Demonstration day held on August 11 and 12, 2010 at the 32 acre Phosphorus Study plot in the Village of Elkton. The demonstration included reduced tillage practices, the installation of tile drainage using GPS machine control, land leveling, waterway construction, installation of grade control structures and topographic surveying. Other sites included presentations on the pros and cons of artificial drainage and phosphorus use information generated from the plot. Speakers were present at each site. All tile materials, equipment etc. were donated, totaling approx. \$23,000. Approximately 250 people attended the event.

Grant Amount: \$ 299,061

Match Funds: \$ 39,527

Total Amount: \$ 388,588

Priorities

- Stabilize stream bank erosion sites
- Restore wetlands
- Implement agricultural practices
- Protect areas through conservation easements

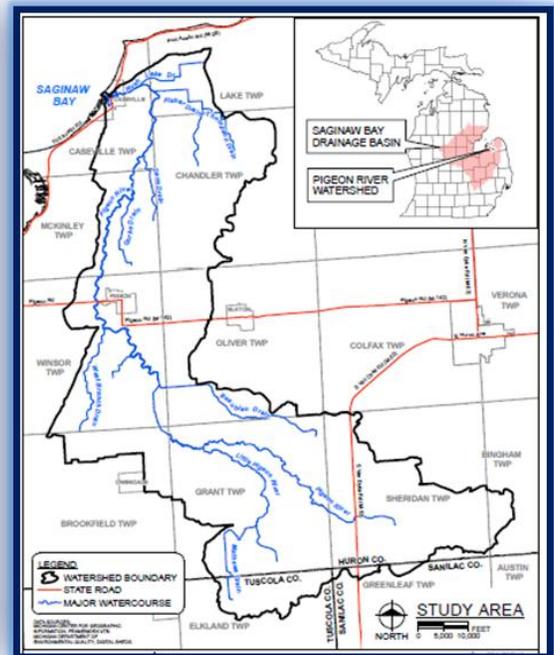


Mission

- Preserve the natural qualities of the Pigeon River Watershed, and promote practices to improve water quality throughout the watershed and the shoreline of Lake Huron.
- Ensure a good quality of life through continued environmental education directed toward homeowners, businesses, and the farming community.
- Promote recreational opportunities in the watershed and increase public access to waterbodies.
- Continue to provide educational opportunities for the communities and promote public involvement in managing and preserving the watershed for many years to come.

I&E Activities:

- Tile Drainage Demonstration held on August 11 & 12, 2010 at plot in the Village of Elkton.
- Horse Sense workshop held October 2009 at Expo Center in Bad Axe



Partners involved:

- Huron County Drain Commissioner
- Huron County Board of Commissioners
- Bingham, Broomfield, Caseville, Chandler, Colfax, Grant, Lake, McKinley, Oliver, Sheridan, and Winsor Townships
- City of Caseville, Village of Pigeon
- Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy
- Huron Conservation District Board of Directors
- Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. (FTC&H)
- MDNRE



32 acre phosphorus study plot near Elkton used for tile drainage demonstration. Plot is also used to demonstrate reduced tillage and compare phosphorus rates.



Bron tile drainage machine used for installation. GPS is used to steer and control grade.



Visitors at the field day traveled from site to site in covered wagons pulled by antique tractors.



Two attendees sign up for farm visits with Tom Hanselman (right) MAEAP specialist.



34 equine owners attended the workshop held October 2009.



Horse Sense attendees enjoyed dinner prior to six information-packed learning sessions.