



Michigan's  
Nonpoint Source  
Program

**Nonpoint Source Grant**  
**Clean Water Act Section 319**  
**Tracking Code 2007-0144**

Bay County Drain Commissioner

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## Kawkawlin River Watershed Planning Project

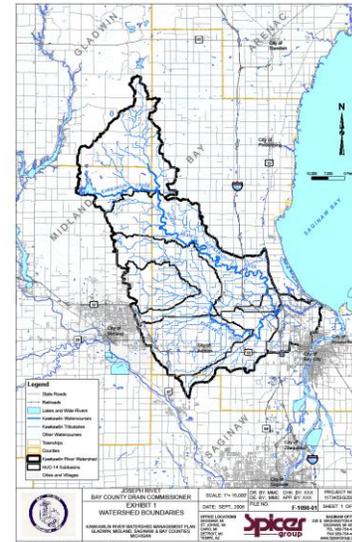
September 4, 2008 through March 31, 2011

The Kawkawlin River and Watershed is a unique and fragile resource that has experienced degradation over the last several decades. It is more dependent on storm water for its flow than any other river in Michigan. The 250 square mile watershed has seen increased development pressures and until the last decade, intensive agricultural practices and limited pollution control has contributed to the poor water quality and the physical condition of the stream. Warnings against full body contact in the River have been issued by the Bay County Health Department due to high levels of E- coli. Portions of the river that reach a depth of eight or more feet in the spring, dry completely in the summer. In that respect, the Kawkawlin more resembles a man made drain than a watercourse. There have been a number of studies done on the Kawkawlin over the years. This project has consolidated data and prioritized opportunities to better implement a restoration strategy.

**Grant Amount: \$ 207,400**

**Match Funds: \$ 23,000**

**Total Amount: \$ 230,400**



### Priorities

- Prioritize restoration opportunities
- Address ongoing E.coli issues
- Reduce sedimentation
- Review Hydrology

### Goals

- \* Improve warmwater fisheries and conditions
- \* Protect and improve habitat conditions for aquatic life and wildlife
- \* Determine causes and correction of sediment loading
- \* Identify and protect quality natural buffers including forests, floodplains, wetlands, riparian buffer and contiguous greenways
- \*Provide flood management
- \*Improve recreational opportunities
- \* Preserve rural character
- \* Improve aesthetics

### I&E Activities:

- \*Created a data list of riparian hobby farmers and direct mailed riparian opportunities
- \* Engaged the agricultural community to develop BMPs for water quality practices.

### Partners involved:

- Spicer Group
- Watershed Municipalities
- Kawkawlin River Watershed Property Owners Assn.
- Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy
- Saginaw Bay WIN
- Bay County Farm Bureau/MDA
- Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. (FTC&H)
- Midland County Drain Commissioner
- MDEQ

**Image of project**



**Kawkawlin River**



**Algae Bloom on River (low flow)**



**Low-level flyover aerial photo**



**Typical grassed agricultural watershed drain**



**Typical undeveloped river section**



**River floodplain**