

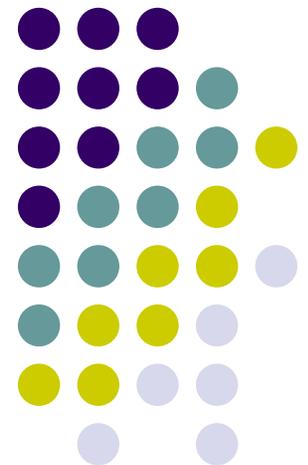
St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative

St. Joseph River

CEAP Watershed Update

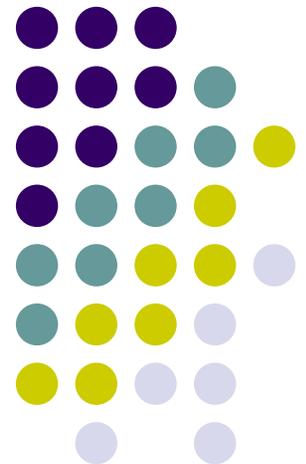
Indianapolis

May 24, 2005



St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative

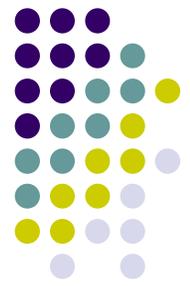
Jane Loomis, Executive Director
St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative



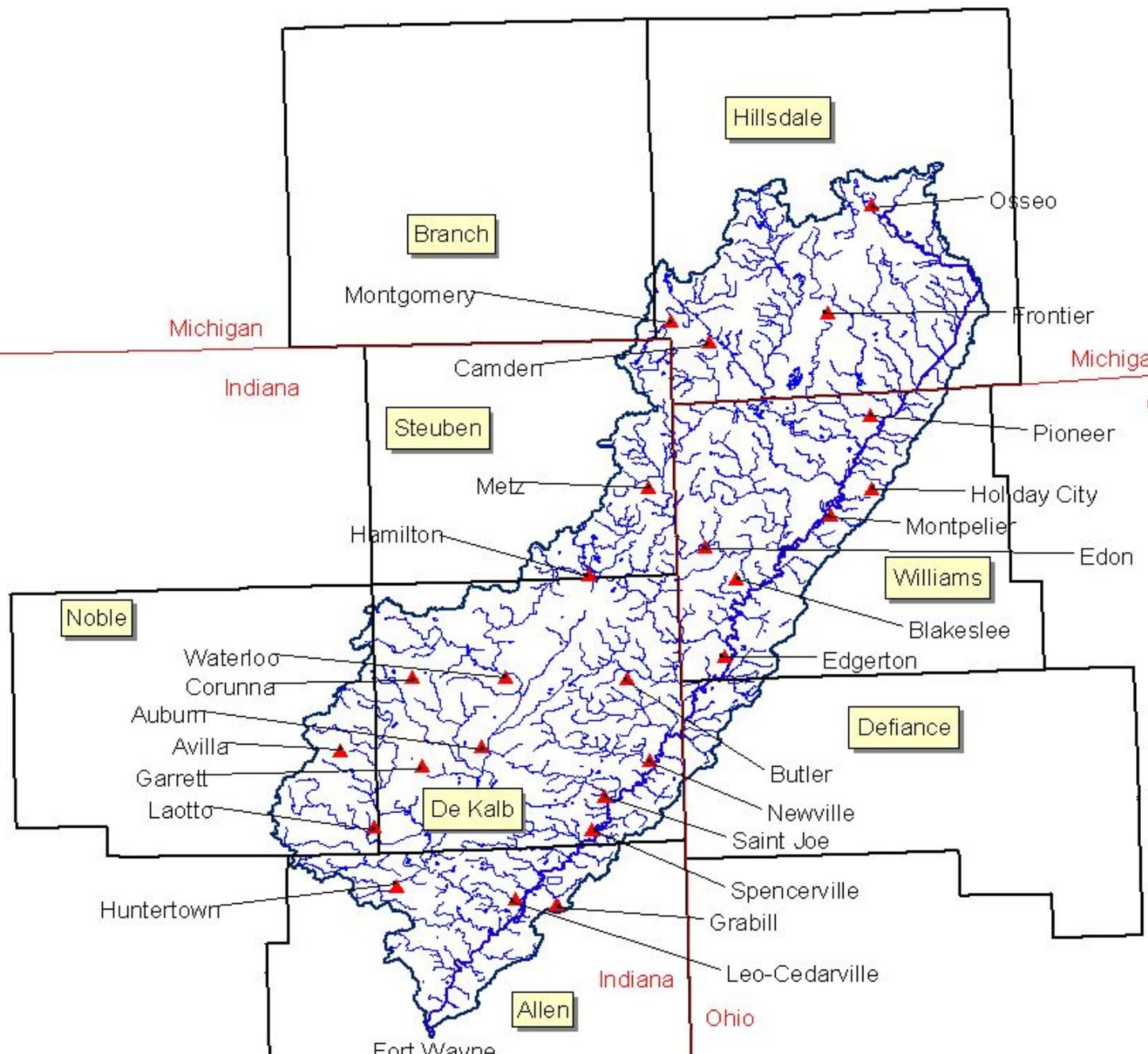




**Western Lake Erie Basin
Major Watersheds**



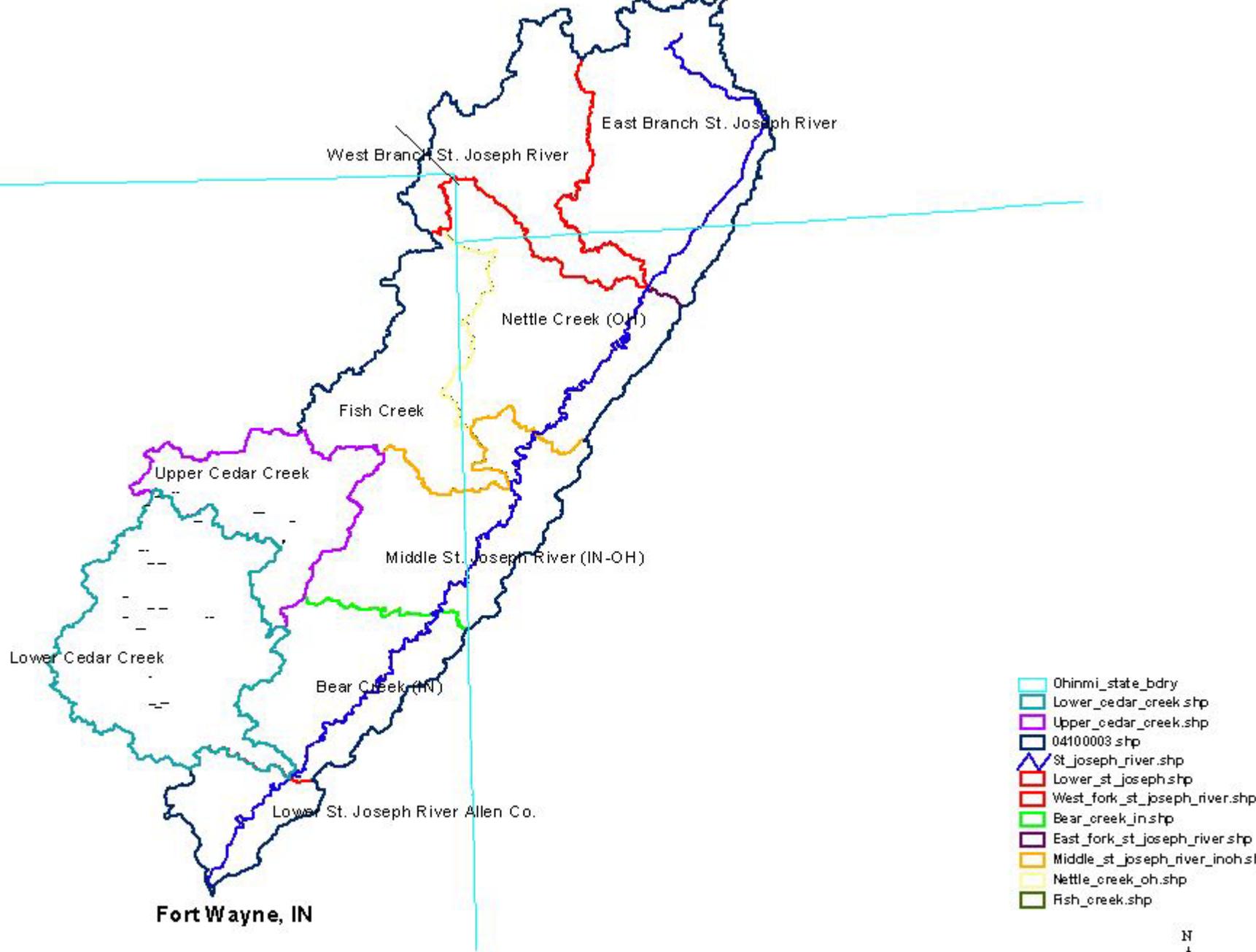
St. Joseph River Watershed
Counties and Urban Areas



The St. Joseph River Watershed



- 694,400 acres
- Includes six counties in three states
 - 56% in northeast Indiana
 - 22% in south central Michigan
 - 22% in northwest Ohio
- Land Use
 - 64% cropland
 - 15% pasture or forage
 - 10% woodland
 - 11% urban, farmsteads, rural residential, golf courses, airports, other land uses

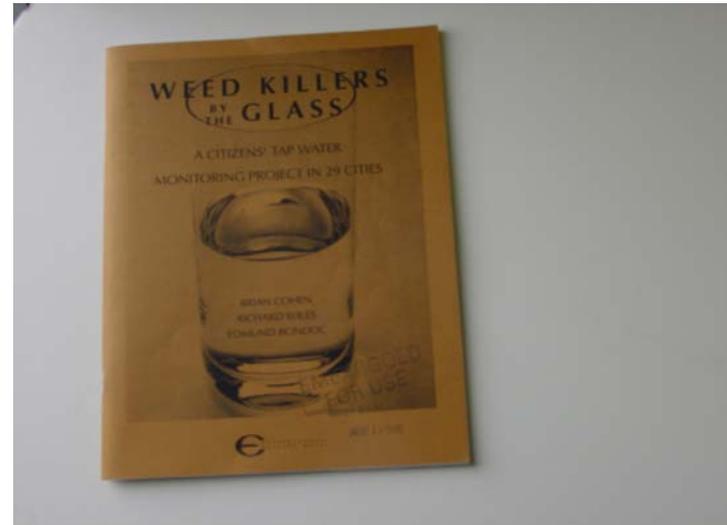


St. Joseph River Watershed & HUC 11 Subwatersheds

History of the Initiative



- 1995 “Weed Killers by the Glass” report
- 1996 Conference on the Three Rivers
 - Initiative partnership began
 - Strategic plan, by-laws
- 1999 Designated NFP 501(c)(3) status



Tests of Fort Wayne's tap water found up to nine pesticides or metabolites in a single sample of water. (sampled June 1, 1995)

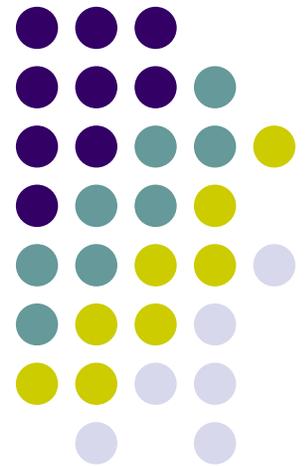


SJRWI Board of Directors

- 3 Conservation district representatives, one each from IN, OH, MI
- 3 Local business firms, including farms
- 3 Organizations (at least one representing environmental and one agricultural)
- 3 Corporations
- 3 Local governmental units
- 6 At-large, two from each state

SJRWI: Our Mission

to develop partnerships to promote economically and environmentally compatible land uses that improve water quality in the St. Joseph River watershed.





SJRWI: Focus of Activities

1. Water Quality Monitoring





Water quality monitoring program

- 10th year: Water Sampling Program continues
- Support research, maintain WQ database
- Identify sources of pollution
 - Understanding the problem
 - Targeting efforts
- Identify critical areas for intervention
 - Getting the most from dollars spent

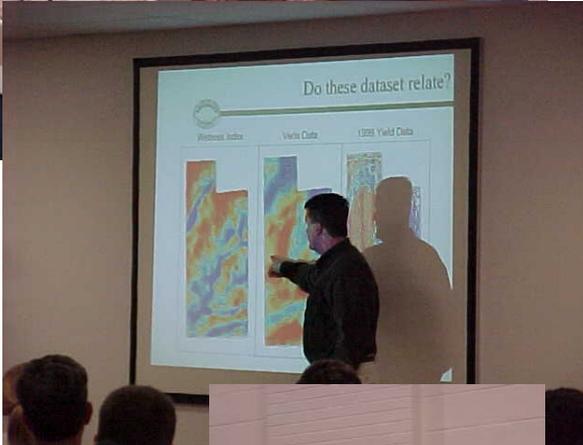
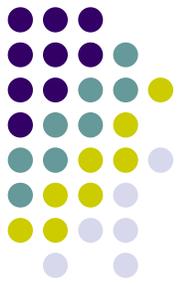
2. Placement of Best Management Practices (BMP)





- Support conservation efforts
 - Conservation Tillage
 - Manure management
 - Filter strips, riparian buffers, grassed waterways
 - Landscape management
- Assist with watershed management planning and coordination
 - Rural, urban, suburban issues

3. Public Outreach & Education





Public outreach and education

- Share information on the watershed
 - Maintain accessible database of WQ info
- Sponsor public educational forums
 - Drainage conference
 - Tri-State Conservation Tillage Expo
- Support volunteer stream monitors
 - Hoosier Riverwatch training workshops
- Facilitate public comment and concerns



SJRWI: Current Projects

Cedar Creek Watershed Management, WQ monitoring and Bacteria Source Tracking project



- Supported by CWA Section 319 grant
- Products
 - Watershed Management Plan for the Upper and Lower Cedar Creek sub-watersheds
 - Final report of research on BST
 - Annual water quality reports
 - SWAT model of the Cedar Creek

St. Joseph Sediment, Pesticide and Nutrient Reduction Project



- Supported by CWA Section 319 grant
- Encourages adoption of conservation tillage practices
 - Equipment leased and rented to farmers at reduced rate
 - Cost-share dollars available for 5-year commitment to no-till or modified no-till acreage
 - Outreach education and support, including field events and newsletters
 - Production of annual outcomes reports

St. Joseph Sediment Reduction Project

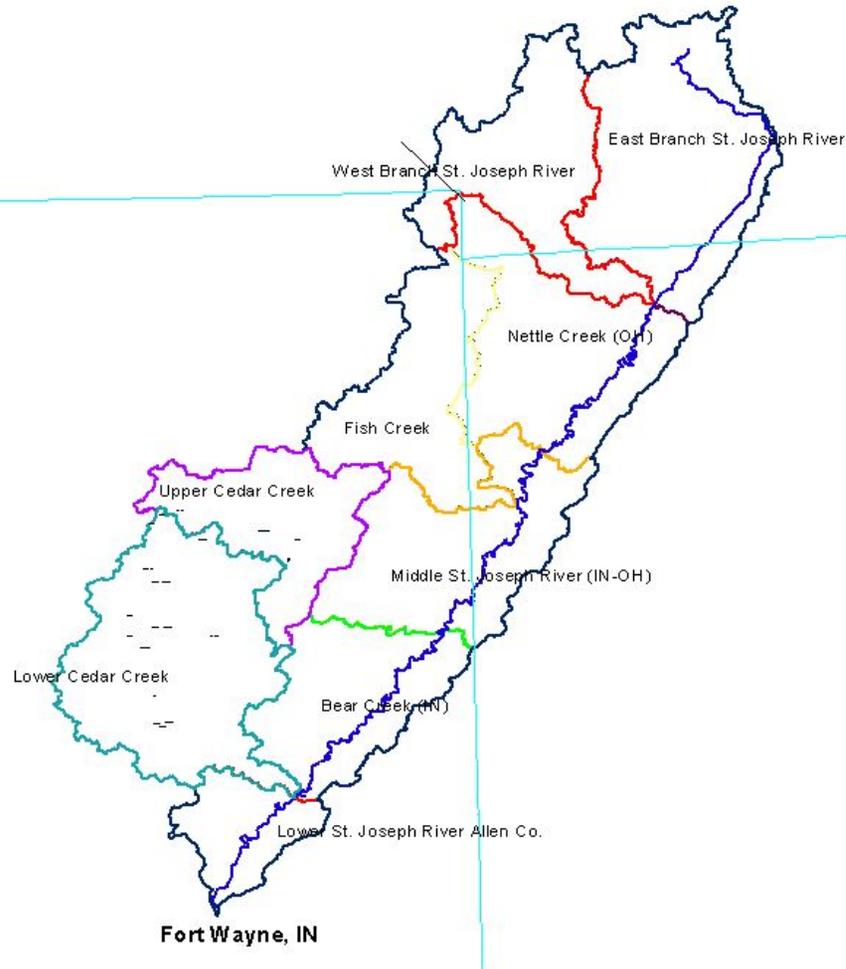


- Supported by Great Lakes Commission
- Farmer-to-Farmer effort
- \$\$ for filter strips, riparian buffers, grassed waterways, innovative sediment reduction BMPs
- Partnering with county SWCD offices
 - What works best in each county is determined by locals
 - Local non-fed match dollars can be utilized

Lower St. Joseph-Bear Creek Watershed Management Plan



- Supported by a Sec. 205j grant to the City of Fort Wayne
- Beginning late Spring-early Summer 2005
- Supports development of a watershed management plan for 2 subwatersheds immediately upstream of the City of Fort Wayne
- Looking for critical needs to support water quality protection



- DeKalb and Allen counties
- Cities of Fort Wayne, Leo-Cedarville, St. Joe, Grabill, Spencerville and Newville
- 2 reservoirs
- 2 county comprehensive plans
- Issues: Septic-sewer, recreation, rapid urbanization, drainage, logjams, industrial growth, transportation, increases in rural residential land use

St. Joseph River Watershed & HUC-11 Subwatersheds

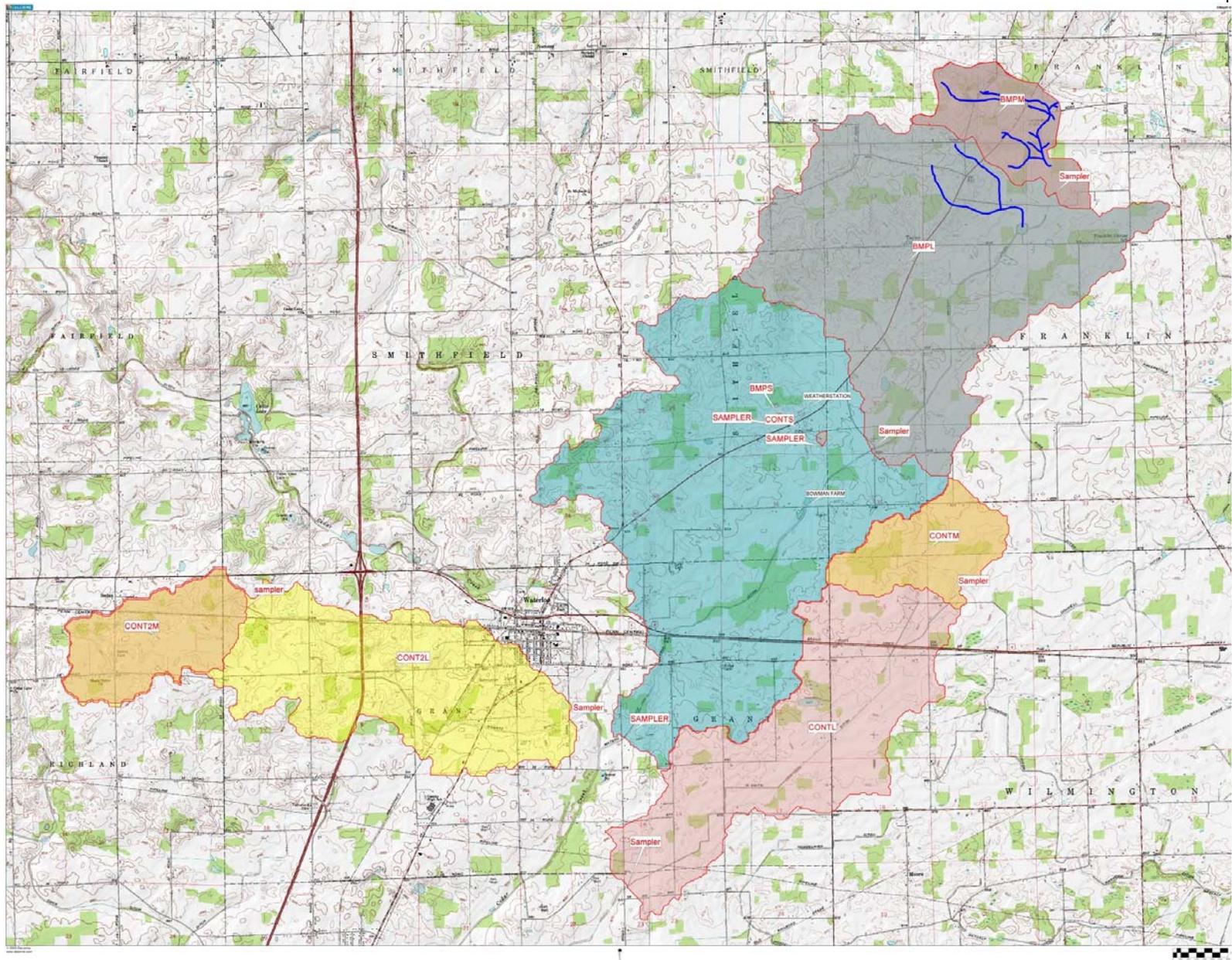
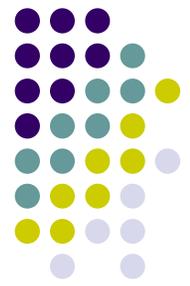


Source Water Protection Initiative



- One of two such projects nationally
- Research on pesticide, sediment entry into water from ag fields on a watershed scale
- Located near Waterloo, Indiana
- Partners:
 - America's Clean Water Foundation
 - Agricultural Research Service
 - SJRWI – partners DeKalb and Allen SWCD
 - NRCS







SJRWI as the *local partner*

- Gather daily samples (April – November)
- Routine maintenance for automated samplers
- Preliminary laboratory processing of samples
- Contract for local utility services
- Connect with landowners, with help from partners DeKalb SWCD & NRCS
- Gather field data from producers

Gathering Field Data



- Built GIS map layer of each watershed
 - Farm #, Field #, Tract #
 - Owner/operator name and address
- Data collection for each production year
 - Farm, field, tract, crop, plant date, prev. year's crop
 - Seed: brand, treatment, variety, rate/ac.
 - Fertilizer: date, application method, analysis, rate/ac.
 - Herbicide: date, application method, type, rate/ac.
 - Field operations/tillage: date, type, # trips



Information collection

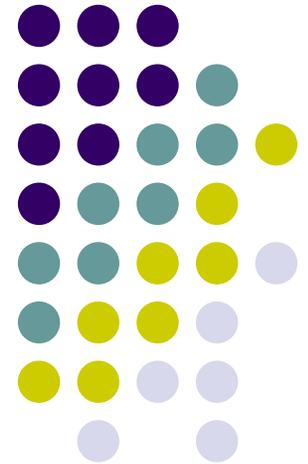
- Individual contact with producers
- Incentive payments for field information
 - Data collected annually by field
 - Began with year 2004
- Payments to date
 - 10 operators
 - 181 fields - \$3,620
 - Most data for 2004; some 2003 and 2002

Water Is the resource that brought us together in 1995



- Concerned Citizens
- Fort Wayne City Utilities
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Allen, DeKalb, Noble, and Steuben (IN) and Williams (OH) and Hillsdale (MI) counties
- The Nature Conservancy
- Maumee River Basin Commission
- Cedar Creek Watershed Alliance
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management
- Maumee Watershed Conservancy District
- Michigan Department of Agriculture
- Cooperative Extension Service, Purdue and MSU
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- T-by-2000 Education Program
- Williams county Engineers Office
- Wood-Land-Lakes Resource Conservation & Development
- Hillsdale County Drain Commission
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil Conservation

Water quality in the St. Joseph River remains our priority





- **St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative**

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St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative