



Michigan Clean Water Corps
#3003-VSM2005-01



Muskegon River Watershed Assembly
Contact Person: Terry Stilson
FSU College of Allied Health Sciences
Big Rapids, MI 49307-2740
Telephone: 231-591-2324
Email: mrwa@ferris.edu

Muskegon River Water Monitoring Program

June 4, 2005 through June 30, 2007

The Muskegon River Watershed is one of the largest watersheds in Michigan, encompassing over 2,700 square miles, and is fed by warm, cool and coldwater tributaries. With its headwaters in the Higgins Lake/Houghton Lake areas and outlet into Lake Michigan in Muskegon, the River is over 219 miles in length and is the second longest river in Michigan.

One of the Information and Education activities recommended in the Muskegon River Watershed Management Plan is to “support local volunteer monitoring efforts”. In 2004, the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly (MRWA) submitted a proposal to recruit volunteers, train them and provide them with equipment to conduct water monitoring in the streams and rivers of the Muskegon River Watershed. In 2005, the MRWA was one of the first organizations funded through the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps).

The overall goal of this project is to incite citizen interest in water quality issues by training and providing them with equipment to conduct water monitoring. A secondary goal is the collection of water monitoring data to assist the MRWA, local government officials and other organizations in their protective and restorative projects and to develop better local ordinances.

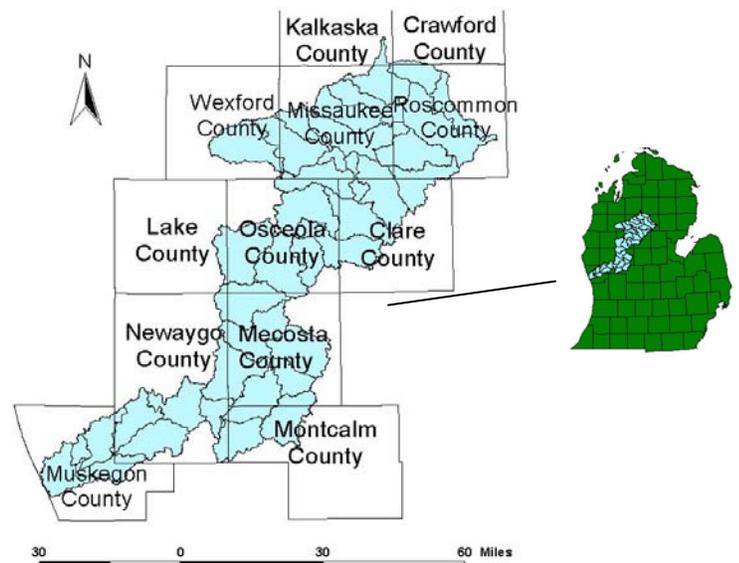
Project Accomplishments:

- Four training sessions conducted
- Twenty-six volunteers trained
- Thirty-five volunteers monitored twenty-nine sites in spring 2007
- Sites in twelve of forty sub-watersheds of the MRW are being monitored
- Monitoring sites are located in twelve townships of five MRW counties
- Two annual meetings conducted
- MRWA database created to store data
- MRWA web-pages publicize project and provide volunteers with information

Partners involved:

- Wege Foundation
- Fremont Area Community Foundation
- Cynthia Fitzwilliams-Heck
- Ferris State University
- Mecosta County Chamber of Commerce
- Clam Union Township
- City of Howard City
- Garfield Township

Muskegon River Watershed



Grant Amount: \$ 10,800.00

Match Funds: \$ 14,700.00

Total Amount: \$ 25,500.00



Four training sessions were held in different locations of the Muskegon River Watershed. Above: Trainer Cynthia Fitzwilliams-Heck helps volunteers identify macroinvertebrates during a training session.



Two annual "Meeting of the Monitors" were provided for volunteer monitors to assemble and learn more about the project and discuss problems and successes of their monitoring. Above: HRWC watershed ecologist Jo Latimore presents scientific information about macroinvertebrates.



Twenty-six volunteer monitors were trained to become team leaders of volunteer groups monitoring Muskegon River Watershed rivers and streams. Above: several Houghton Lake volunteers.



Thirty-five volunteers monitored twenty-nine sites in five counties in the Muskegon River Watershed in spring 2007. Three additional volunteers were trained and will be monitor additional sites beginning in the fall. Above: Bill and Nancy Burmeister monitor Ryan Creek in Mecosta County.