

Minutes of the Michiana Watershed

December 9, 2008

Members Present: Ted Beatty, Karla Cruise, Simeon Geels, Dick Reineke, Ken Sauer, Henry Scott and Don Sporleder

Trails:

Ken Sauer relayed updated information he learned from Carl Littrell about projects of interest to the MW:

- **Riverside Trail:** A bid has been awarded to continue the Riverside Trail from where it currently stops near Oakwood Blvd north to Darden Rd; construction is expected to commence in spring 2009. [[MAP](#)]
- **"Missing Link":** Background: \$250k in DNR funds have been promised to continue the South Bend river-walk trail along Northside Blvd from where it currently ends near Veteran's Park east towards Logan St where the Mishawaka river-walk trail begins, although it will most likely initially extend just along the portion by IUSB. Mayor Steve Luecke referred to this project as the "Northside Bikeway" in his June 10 address at the MW's 51st anniversary party ([address text](#)). Latest news: the bids to date were too high, so the project has been delayed. [[MAP](#)]

Additional trail discussion based on Ken's recent conversation with Evie Kirkwood (St. Joseph County parks and recreation director):

- **LaSalle Trail:** This trail currently goes from Cripe St to Cleveland Rd, but should eventually extend all the way to the Michigan state line. [[MAP](#)] A key issue involves how it will cross Cleveland Rd, and this is holding up its northward progression. St. Joseph County Engineer Jessica Clark (?) has also been a part of this conversation. It has been proposed that a pedestrian bridge should be constructed, but such a project would cost between \$1.5-3M.
 - **Proposed Followup:** A meeting will be organized early in the new year including Don Sporleder, Ken Sauer, Henry Scott and Evie Kirkwood; Henry will coordinate with members from the cycling community for additional input.

Other Discussions:

- IDEM (Indiana Department of Environmental Management) members are willing to make a presentation and attend a future MW meeting (likely February 10) about water quality and testing.
 - This would likely be a good opportunity to pull in additional interested parties, such as the [Friends of St. Joseph River Association](#), [EMNET](#), Notre Dame, IUSB, etc.
- Karla Cruise is seeking input to help prioritize her grant-writing efforts
- Dick Reineke relayed information about major construction plans near the south end of Eddy St, potentially including the removal of the clover leafs [[MAP](#)]. This may free

up space for a new boathouse along the river

- Continued discussion about the desirability of a pedestrian bridge across the St. Joseph river from near the Madison Center on the east side to Riverside Dr near Navarre St on the west. However, there are significant hurdles in terms of money and cooperation between surrounding businesses.
- Simeon Geels (treasurer) made announced that some MW checks were stolen. No fraudulent activity occurred, but it will likely be necessary to change the MW's account number.