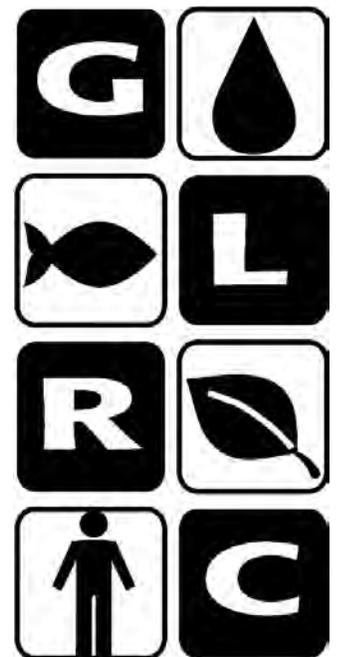


Greater Lansing Regional Committee
for Stormwater Management

2013 Annual Report

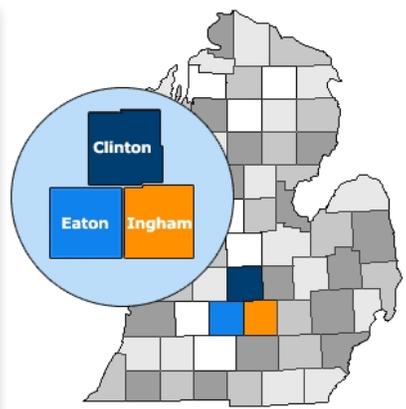


Please Protect
The Looking Glass River
Watershed



PICK IT UP!
 In Accordance with Local Ordinance

mywatersheds.org



It all ends up in the Grand River



www.mywatersheds.org

Greater
 Lansing
 Regional
 Committee
 For Stormwater Management



Please Protect
The Red Cedar River
Watershed



mywatersheds.org



Greater Lansing Regional Committee for Stormwater Management

Polluted stormwater runoff is often transported to municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) and ultimately discharged into local rivers and streams without treatment. The Environmental Protection Agency's Stormwater Phase II Rule establishes an MS4 stormwater management program that is intended to improve the nation's waterways by reducing the quantity of pollutants that stormwater carries into storm sewer systems during storm events. The GLRC began meeting in 1998 and was formed under a Memorandum of Agreement in 2004. The GLRC has been established to guide the implementation of the MS4 program for the communities within three identified watersheds: the Grand, the Red Cedar and the Looking Glass River Watersheds.

The six MS4 program elements, termed "minimum control measures" that drive the efforts of the GLRC are described below:

Minimum Control Measures

Construction Site Runoff Control: Developing, implementing, and enforcing an erosion and sediment control program for construction activities that disturb one or more acres of land. Controls could include silt fences and temporary stormwater detention ponds.

Post-Construction Runoff Control: Developing, implementing, and enforcing a program to address discharges of post-construction stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment areas. Applicable controls could include preventative actions such as protecting sensitive areas (e.g., wetlands) or the use of structural BMPs such as grassed swales or porous pavement.

Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping: Developing and implementing a program with the goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations. The program must include municipal staff training on pollution prevention measures and techniques, such as regular street sweeping, reduction in the use of pesticides or street salt, or frequent catch-basin cleaning.

Public Education and Outreach: Distributing educational materials and performing outreach to inform citizens about the impacts polluted stormwater runoff discharges can have on water quality.

Public Participation/Involvement: Providing opportunities for citizens to participate in program development and implementation, including effectively publicizing public hearings and/or encouraging citizen representatives on a stormwater management panel.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination: Developing and implementing a plan to detect and eliminate illicit discharges to the storm sewer system. Activities include developing a system map and informing the community about hazards associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste.

GLRC Members

- City of DeWitt
- City of East Lansing
- City of Grand Ledge
- City of Lansing
- City of Mason
- Delhi Charter Township
- Delta Charter Township
- DeWitt Charter Township
- Lansing Charter Township
- Meridian Charter Township
- Oneida Charter Township
- DeWitt Public Schools
- Lansing Public Schools
- Windsor Charter Township
- Clinton County Road Commission
- Clinton County
- Eaton County
- Ingham County
- Michigan State University



GLRC Fiscal Year and Structure

The GLRC is supported by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) which provides program staff, administrative and fiscal support. GLRC members pay annual dues for the services provided. Due to revised permit requirements, in 2013 the GLRC removed the Funding and Habitat and Recreation Committees. These committees fulfilled their tasks and are no longer necessary for implementation of the MS4 stormwater permit. The following committees coordinate and complete the work necessary to be in compliance with the permit requirements.

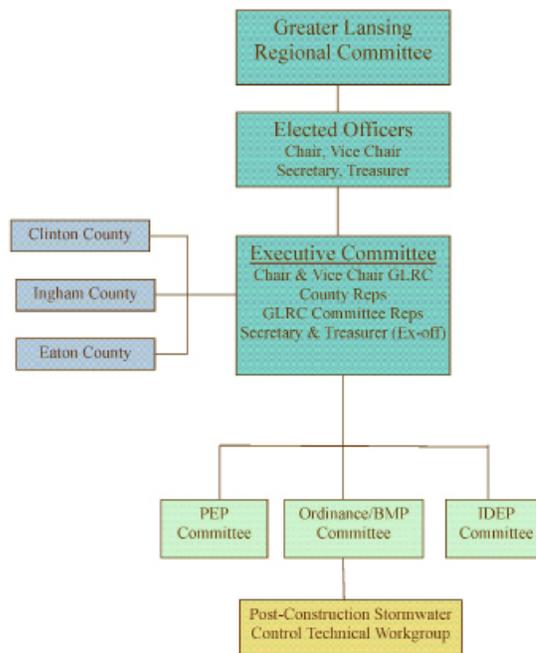
Illicit Discharge Elimination Program (IDEP)

Committee guides the organization and implementation of the illicit discharge elimination program, mapping guidelines, field-sampling protocols, and how the watershed will be monitored for progress. The IDEP Committee has reviewed pet waste techniques, septic tank maintenance issues, IDEP ordinances and provided staff training.

Public Education Program (PEP) Committee

guides the overall public education, participation, outreach, and involvement process for the GLRC. This effort includes evaluation and assessment of public knowledge and activities.

Ordinance/Best Management Practices (BMPs) Committee reviews and makes recommendations on existing ordinance updates to ensure that they are consistent with the permit requirements. In addition, the committee provides education to GLRC members related to good housekeeping techniques, low impact development (LID) and for BMPs that reduce pollution from runoff.



Category	Fiscal Year 2011	% of Expenditures
TCRPC - Staff/Support Services	\$ 87,668	92%
Annual Report Printing (100 copies)	350	>1%
Executive Committee	0	0%
Illicit Discharge Elimination Plan (IDEP)	300	>1%
Public Education Plan (PEP)	3,650	4%
Ordinance/BMP Committee	300	>1%
Mid-MEAC stream monitoring support	3,000	3%
Total	\$ 95,768	100%



GLRC Permit Application Update

In the fall of 2012 there were significant changes to the MS4 permit issuance process. MDEQ will issue individual permits specific to each community based on the commitments described in the permit application. GLRC members submitted their permit applications to MDEQ in January of 2013. The permit applications are still under review by the MDEQ. Once issued, the permits will be in place until April 2017. The GLRC looks forward to permit issuance and continues to move forward with programing.



Photo Credit: businessinsider.com

Audits

MDEQ will continue to audit GLRC members. One of the biggest challenges thus far has been record keeping. Since the program infiltrates several different departments within a single community it can be very challenging to have a handle on record keeping. MDEQ has a guidance document regarding this and Erin Campbell, the GLRC Coordinator can assist with every step of the audit process.

Training

Staff Training for Good Housekeeping and Illicit Discharges

The MS4 permit requires that municipal staff be trained for identifying and eliminating illicit discharges and pollution prevention including good housekeeping techniques on municipal property. Staff should be trained once per permit cycle with new hires being trained within the first year of hire. The GLRC offers two training videos to assist members with permit requirements.

Rain Check: focuses on good housekeeping and pollution prevention on municipal properties

IDEA A Grate Concern: focuses on identifying and correcting illicit discharges

GLRC members can borrow the videos at any time. Once the MS4 permits are issued, more collaborative training will be conducted in order to streamline this process for members.



Regional Watershed Efforts - Success in Collaboration

There are several watershed management initiatives underway in our region. They each have their own specific priorities related to water quality improvements, but the overall missions of these organizations are overlapping and related to working to improve regional water quality and management and working together! Consequently, these groups collaborate on several different projects and efforts related to water quality improvements, recreational opportunities, pollution prevention and in general regional water resource management.

The Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds (MGROW) has developed a regional public education campaign that is being utilized by all watershed groups in the region. MGROW is also working on the development of a Heritage Water Trail, a reforestation project in the Looking Glass River Watershed and improved organizational capacity.

The Eaton Conservation District and Michigan State University, Institute of Water Research are developing watershed management plans for the Middle Grand and Red Cedar River Watersheds, respectively. These efforts are funded through a federal 319 non-point source grant from the MDEQ; they will be completed and approved in 2014. These efforts focus on improving the quality of impaired water bodies. Both the Middle Grand and Red Cedar Rivers are not meeting water quality standards for *E.coli* and Dissolved Oxygen levels.

The Clinton Conservation District has an approved watershed management plan for the Maple River Watershed and has received implementation funding to move their completed plan towards on-the-ground water quality improvements.

These efforts continue to move forward - visit their project websites for the latest news!

Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds: www.mgrow.org
517-393-0342

Middle Grand River Watershed Planning Project: www.middlegrandriver.com
517-543-5848 x5

Red Cedar River Watershed Planning Project: www.iwr.msu.edu/redcedarriver
517-353-3742

Maple River Watershed Management Planning Project: www.clintonconservation.org
989-224-3720 x3



In addition, the GLRC works closely with the following organizations on a variety of projects and events:

- Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council: local volunteer stream monitoring program (www.midmeac.org)
- Greening Mid-Michigan: green infrastructure planning; promotional videos; training for elected officials (www.greenmidmichigan.org)
- Groundwater Management Board: Children's Water Festival

POLLUTION ISN'T PRETTY.

In December of 2013 MGROW announced the development of a new water resources brand for the Mid-Michigan area: Pollution Isn't Pretty. The brand is funded by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's Mid-Michigan Program for Greater Sustainability.

The campaign streamlines educational efforts to create clear, consistent messages that educate area residents about water quality concerns and what they can do to reduce pollution and protect our region's water resources. All mid-Michigan watershed (protection) groups including the GLRC and many other agencies are using this campaign. Be sure to keep your eye out for Pollution Isn't Pretty, and visit the website: Pollutionisntpretty.org to learn what you can do to help improve and protect our water resources.



Adopt-A-River

Each Spring the PEP Committee and GLRC members help promote the annual Adopt-A-River program with the Lansing Board of Water & Light and Impression 5 Science Center.

Educational News Article Topics:

- Water is a Watershed
- Riparian Areas
- Who/What is the GLRC?
- Onsite Septic Systems
- Fertilizer
- Vehicle Maintenance
- Pet Waste
- Storm vs. Sanitary Sewer
- Car Washing
- Adopt Your Catch Basin
- Illicit Discharge
- Wetlands

Other Public Education Efforts

GLRC Display

The GLRC utilizes a traveling exhibit display for local workshops, conferences, etc. When the display is not in use for an event, it circulates throughout the region to GLRC member offices. Look for it at your local City Hall, the public works lobby and various locations around town!

This year the display could be seen at the following events:

Quiet Water Symposium: March 2, 2013

Michigan Water Environment Association Watershed Summit: March 27, 2013

Delhi Charter Township: Lawn Care Seminar and Open House April and May, 2013

Adopt A River: May 4, 2013

Lake Lansing meeting: June 11, 2013

Grand Ledge Color Tour: October 11, 2013



Billboard Public Service Announcement

The GLRC billboard was displayed throughout the Greater Lansing area in March and April of 2013. Each spring the billboard can be seen at five separate locations in the urban area.

The purpose of the billboard is to increase public understanding that everything one puts on the ground will eventually end up in the river.

The GLRC logo and website are prominently featured on the billboards. This has led to an increase in website traffic. As a result, we post seasonal messages about reducing fertilizer use and appropriate car washing techniques on the GLRC homepage.



TV & Radio

On August 1, 2013 the GLRC Coordinator represented our organization on a panel broadcasted on HOM-TV. The panel covered several different topics related to water quality in the Greater Lansing Region. Other panel members included the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, and the Executive Director of the Mid-MEAC.

On July 25, 2013 the GLRC Coordinator was invited by the Delhi Charter Township Environmental Coordinator to sit in on the local 92.9 FM WLMI Tim Barron morning show. The conversation centered around stormwater runoff and how it is delivered directly to our rivers without treatment, picking up pollutants and trash along the way. Mr. Barron invited the GLRC Coordinator to return on a quarterly basis to discuss local water issues.

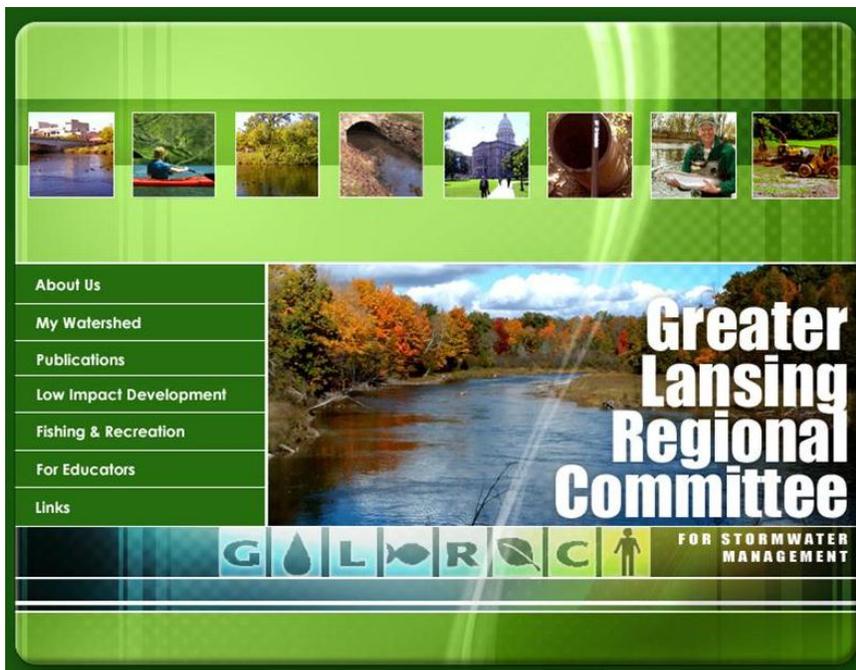




GLRC Website - www.mywatersheds.org

The GLRC website includes a significant amount of information relating to watersheds, stormwater management, educational information, links to other environmental organizations, local projects, recreational opportunities and much more.

All public education outreach materials direct the viewer to our website. Eye-catching messages related to current public education efforts can be found on the homepage.



Children's Water Festival

Each year members of the GLRC, along with others throughout the region, volunteer their time for the Children's Water Festival. The annual festival is sponsored by the Groundwater Management Board. Over the past 17 years, the festival has had great success with over 34,000 students from area schools attending. The purpose of the festival is to educate 4th, 5th and 6th grade students about the importance of our environment and water resources and their role in protecting and conserving it.



Social Media

The GLRC is learning how important social media can be for our public education efforts. We are using Facebook and Twitter to relay messages about stormwater runoff and what people can do to help keep our water clean. This will continue to be a high priority into 2014.



Public Presentations

- February 6, 2013: In partnership with the MDEQ, we provided the Meridian Charter Township Environmental Commission with an overview of the MS4 program and how the GLRC and the Township work together to meet the permit requirements. The presentation was broadcast on HOMTV in Meridian Charter Township.
- April 10, 2013: Provided the TCRPC Groundwater Management Board with an update on current and upcoming GLRC activities.
- May 21, 2013: Gave a general stormwater presentation to the Frugal Living Exchange group at Putnum District Library and built/installed a rain barrel for the library. The local Maple Valley News reported on the event.
- July 1, 2013: The GLRC Coordinator conducted a Totally Topography presentation to about 30 kids at the Putnum District Library.
- August 14, 2013: In partnership with the Eaton Conservation District, we presented on LID and local conservation projects as part of the Eaton County Sustainability Series.
- September 11, 2013: Gave a brief update on GLRC activities to the TCRPC Program and Grant Committee.

Coming Up in 2014

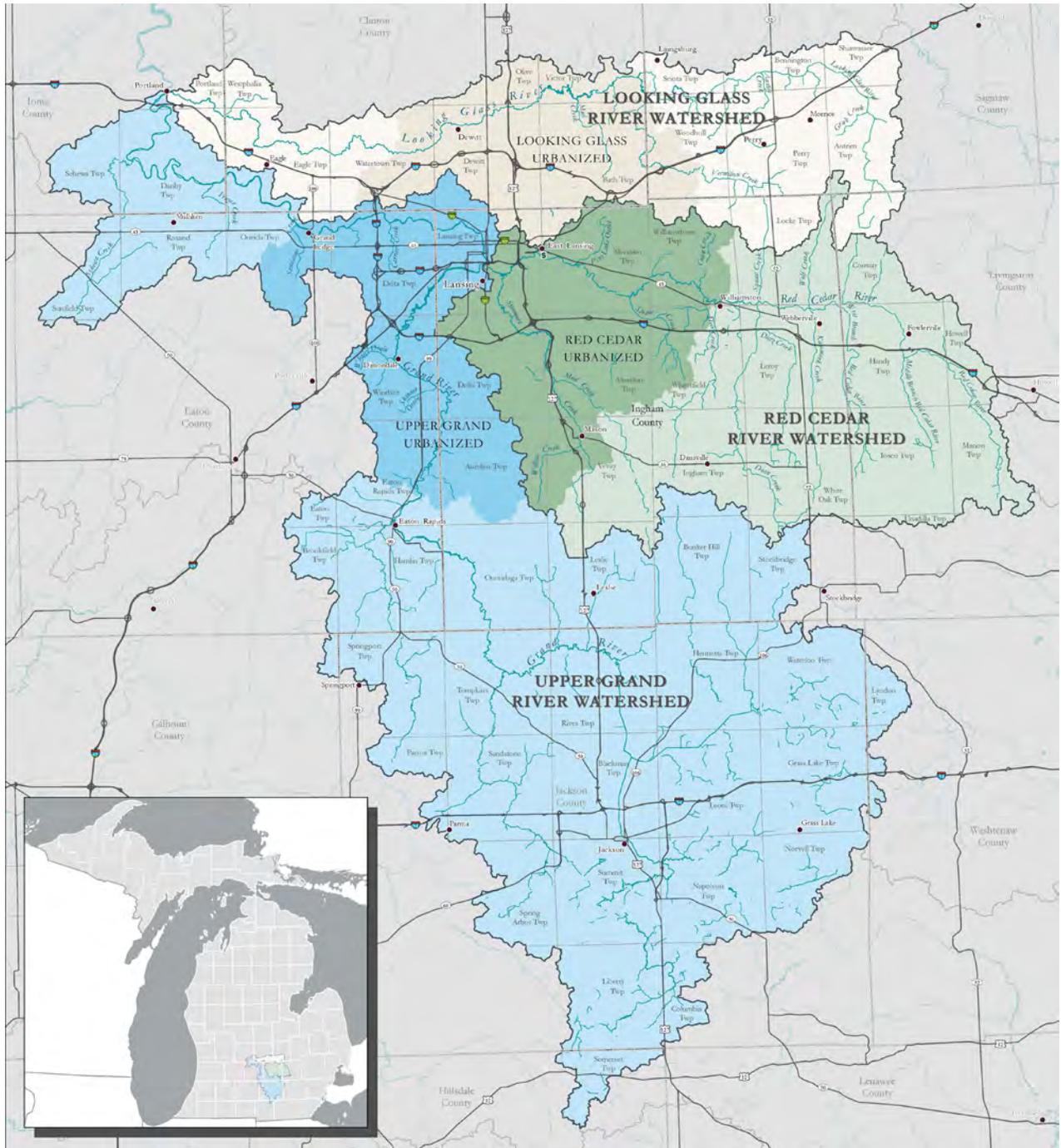
- MS4 Permit issuance
- Audit assistance
- Implementation of the Pollution Isn't Pretty campaign
- Updated and redesigned GLRC display
- Updated and redesigned GLRC logo
- And more!



"Carrier Creek, Delta Township"



Map of the Upper Grand Watershed





G  **Greater**
L  **Lansing**
R  **Regional**
C  **Committee**
For Stormwater Management

www.mywatersheds.org

