

Action Plans Approved by the Mackinaw River Planning Team

The following is a summary of the Action Plans approved by the Planning Team at their final two-day Planning Team meeting, held on February 21-22, 1997.

Biological Diversity:

1. Identify and promote restoration of suitable wetland habitat and promote side stream storage, such as slough and backwater lakes. Develop an incentive package for wetland development.
2. Identify and enhance or restore natural plant areas. Establish, restore, or widen riparian zones where desirable.
3. Stabilize stream banks, establish grass buffers.
4. Recognize landowners, agencies, governments units, etc. using good management practices.
5. Seek public and private funding for stream restoration and biological restoration.

Education:

1. Develop a network of educational activities: a feasibility study into an Education/Conference center, organize a Mackinaw River Festival, develop an annual Mackinaw River Conference, coordinate existing workshops and develop new ones pertinent to the Mackinaw River watershed.
2. Organize and train six citizen habitat-monitoring/stewardship teams that will collect data at six locations throughout the watershed.
3. Develop environmental lesson plans specific to the Mackinaw River watershed.

Community Issues:

1. Control Storm Water Run-off and Erosion: contact and assist communities to adopt and implement IEPA's "Urban Best Management Practices", funding for engineering studies to identify projects for interested communities, funding for construction of demonstration projects/models, encourage adoption of model ordinance for storm water run-off, initiate erosion control on 60% urban acres over next 5 yrs., secure staff person for work with communities.
2. Improve waste water disposal: establish specific guidelines for design, construction, etc. of constructed wetland waste water treatment facilities, funding for technical assistance for communities to study waste water problems and alternative solutions, funding for construction of alternative solutions, including demonstration wetlands, waste water treatment sites, work with schools, colleges, trade associations, etc. to develop educational components on demonstration sites.

Agency Coordination:

1. Make the "Landowners Guide to Natural Resource Management Incentives" available to individual landowners/operators within the Mackinaw Watershed.
2. Seek, recognize, encourage, and support efforts which diversify agency participation in achieving the overall goals of the Mackinaw River Plan.

3. Adopt an organizational structure for Implementation of the Mackinaw River Watershed Plan.

Agricultural Practices: each of the Agricultural Practices plans recommends the landowner enlist an agency for technical assistance and/or cost share needed.

1. Cost Residue Management: increase or maintain No-till
2. Critical Area Planting/CRP
3. Wascob- Water and Sediment Control Basin
4. Grass Waterway
5. Filter strips
6. Streambank Stabilization
7. Farm ponds to retain storm water
8. Terraces
9. Grade control structure
10. Management Intensive Grazing
11. Contour farming
12. Nutrient Management
13. Wetland establishment or enhancement
14. Tree planting
15. Woodland management