

Chapter 9. Evaluation and Revision

EVALUATION

The primary goal of the Old Woman Creek Watershed Action Plan is to improve stream segments that are not meeting attainment status as defined by the Ohio EPA and enhance the ecological integrity of the creek, estuary, and barrier beach. The FCT partners realize that accomplishment of these goals depends not only on the use of conservation practices such as BMPs but also on the engagement and development of a sense of ownership among people living in and near the watershed. Evaluation of this plan will address both of these factors: water quality and community engagement.

Water Quality

The evaluation of pollutant reduction will depend partly on monitoring the stream before and after specific projects, monthly monitoring of the entire watershed, and intensive monitoring of the estuary. Using different scales of monitoring will aid in the evaluation of each strategy's impact both remotely and at the watershed level. Near shore monitoring of the estuary provides an understanding of the wetland's role in filtering pollutants before they reach Lake Erie and how climate affects the flow and relative loading rates of pollutants from storms. Monitoring will be performed as previously described by the Tribes Team volunteers and OWC NERR SWMP. The Monitoring Committee will provide oversight for data related to water quality improvements resulting from the FCT efforts and will provide recommendations to the plan strategies as needed to improve implementation.

Community Engagement

As previously described, the participation of the local community is essential in the lasting success of water quality improvement projects. The FCT plans to utilize its partners to continue the education and outreach efforts of watershed stewardship within surrounding communities. Evaluation of education and outreach efforts will be accomplished through the use of the Soil and Water Information Management System (SWIMS). This system documents events and materials along with attendance and additional comments on the impact of the activity. The Education Committee will establish goals and conduct program evaluation.

REVIEW AND REVISION

An internal review of plan strategies completed will be completed each year. This review will be conducted by the FCT coordinator and the Advisory Board. Successes and challenges will be discussed and the watershed action plan implementation timeline adjusted accordingly. After the yearly review, a report will be presented to the FCT partners at the next partners' lunch and will be included in the subsequent newsletter. An update for the plan will be initiated by the Advisory Board after five years, unless otherwise stated by the Board. As in the initial planning process, residents, business owners, civic groups, public officials, and agency staff will participate in the revision process.