

BASIN BITES

and

TECHNICAL TIDBITS

The St. Joseph River Basin Commission exists to conserve, enhance, and promote the natural resources and benefits of the Watershed for present and future generations by providing vision, leadership, and means.

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of the
St. Joseph River Basin
Commission*

2012 ST. JOSEPH RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

MEETING SCHEDULE:

March 13**

June 5*

September 11**

December 4*

All meetings are open to the public and begin at
10:00 a.m.

*Elkhart County Public Services Building
4230 Elkhart Road (US 33), Goshen

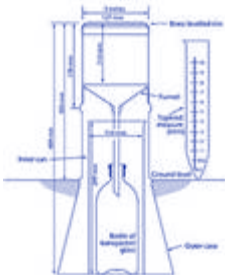


**Elkhart County Administration Building
117 No. Second Street, Goshen

Consult website for agendas and possible meeting changes—
Meeting presentations are also linked at this site when available

STORM WATER—WHERE IS IT GOING TO GO

We live under them, we drive on them, we park on them—Hard surfaces! And over time, we are seeing more and more land surface, that once served to soak up storm water and snow melt, being covered by surfaces that have no capability to infiltrate or store water.



So where will it go? Most likely, it will run across the hard surfaces and enter our storm sewers and combined sewer systems, or run directly into our lakes, streams and rivers.

Have you noticed a neighboring waterway after a hard rain? Not only does it fill quickly, with a noticeably energized flow, but the water is usually chocolate in color and probably carries with it other less obvious pollutants than the soil particles that cause the discoloration.

One inch of rain falling on only one acre of land amounts to 27,150 gallons of water! How many acres is an average parking lot at a mall? A one-mile road with two 10-foot wide lanes represents more than 2.42 acres. That is 67,703 gallons of water running off during a one-inch storm event. With wider lanes, more lanes and paved shoulders the expected runoff is even greater.

Storm water that drains directly to a waterway, or is funneled through a storm drain before entering a waterway, causes a quick rise in water levels but quickly drops. The water does not stay, it does not permanently increase the base flow of surface water, nor does it allow for recharge of the aquifer. The energy created by the quick rise and fall of the water causes damage to the banks, and scours or scrapes the bottom of streams and ditches that do not have the capacity to handle these flash flood affects.

We all need to be reminded about the actions we can take whether big or small to reduce runoff and encourage infiltration where possible. Use rain barrels or redirect downspouts to vegetated areas on your own land, support local ordinances that allow low impact development, or subdivision ordinances that reduce the space needed for parking, protect remaining wetlands and transform previously converted wetlands back to their original functionality. Buffer agricultural land through installation of wide filter strips.

While some natural changes occur to our waterways, the impacts of changing our natural land surfaces to hard surfaces are taking their toll on the structure and quality of our water resources. Take actions before expensive restoration is necessary or the waterbody is beyond restoration.

NEW FERTILIZER AND MANURE MANAGEMENT RULES ARE IN PLACE IN INDIANA

Indiana's Fertilizer Law directs the Office of Indiana State Chemist to establish a certification and education program for select groups of fertilizer users, as well as rules concerning the staging, management, and land application of fertilizer material.

The goal of the new rule is to insure that fertilizer materials (including manure) are distributed and used effectively and safely as plant nutrients and in a manner that protects water quality.



The **Agriculture Fertilizer Applicator Certification Rule** (Category 14) has been in full force since January 1, 2012. Three issues were addressed in this rulemaking:

- ◆ Persons who apply, handle or transport commercial fertilizer or manure for hire must have a fertilizer business license AND employ at least 1 person certified in **Category 14: Agricultural Fertilizer Application**;
- ◆ Any persons who apply, handle or transport manure from an Indiana regulated animal feeding operation or operations outside of Indiana that meet the confined feeding operations (CFO) standards must also be certified in **Category 14: Agricultural Fertilizer Application**;
- ◆ Any distributor of fertilizer materials (including manure) must be licensed. A *Fertilizer Material Distributor license* does not allow a business to apply, handle, or transport fertilizer for-hire and does not require an employee to be certified.

Category 14 applicators must keep records of all material distributed and applied.



The requirements do not apply to producers applying commercial fertilizers to their own property. Producers applying manure to their own property that did not come from a permitted facility are also not covered under the certification rule.

Only credentialed individuals can apply manure for hire or apply manure that came from a CFO. An exception to the rule: Those using less than 10 cubic yards or 4,000 gallons of manure from a CFO in a calendar year do not need certification.

RULE 355 IAC 8—LOGICAL ACTIVITIES TO SAFEGUARD WATER RESOURCES FROM CONTAMINATION

February 16, 2013 marks the compliance deadline for Indiana's Rule 355 IAC 8. EVERYONE using manure, as defined in the rule, will be required to:

St. Joseph River Basin Commission

227 W. Jefferson Blvd.--#1120
South Bend, IN 46601-1830

DID YOU KNOW—Cover Crops, control nutrients not utilized by production crops, hold soils from eroding during the Fall rains and Winter snowmelts, maintain moisture in the soil, increase soil health, and provide additional nutrients for crops planted in the Spring. Now is the time to get those cover crops in for best results.

- Develop a **Fertilizer Application Plan**, for all application sites;
- Refrain from applying any fertilizer (including manure) directly to surface water, saturated ground or from a public road
- Apply any fertilizer or manure at reasonable agronomic rates in accordance with the Fertilizer Application Plan;
- Adhere to time limits and protective practices when staging fertilizer
- Refrain from applying manure on slopes greater than 2 percent unless there is at least 40 percent crop residue or a vegetated cover crop;
- Refrain from applying manure to highly erodible land unless there is at least 40 percent residue or a vegetative cover crop
- Monitor the site soil condition and 24-hour weather forecast (Don't apply when it's going to rain!) prior to application, monitor field tile outlets and surface water for change in color, flow and volume and stop application if any changes are observed;
- Keep records;
- Report any manure spill to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management 1-888-233-7745.

It should be noted that the rule has a number of setbacks depending on the method used to apply manure. An example is the liquid application of at least 100 feet from a drainage inlet. More details related to requirements, setbacks, and monitoring can be reviewed in the Rule at www.isco.purdue.edu.

The new rule incorporates common sense approaches to prevent fertilizer and manure impacts to our water resources. Any observed violation of these application and storage requirements should be reported to the Indiana Office of the State Chemist at 765-494-1492.