

Monthly Progress Report
Bear Creek Inter-County Drain Clean Water Initiative
July 28 – Aug. 31, 2001

Progress Made:

Wet Weather -

8/16/01 (Thursday) – Checked rain gauge at project site at 3:00 pm. It read 0.40 inches and more rain was forecasted, so a wet weather event was likely. Checked sampler at manholes 700-10 (Lorraine Storm Branch No. 1), 756-10a (Grobbel Relief and Branches) and 695-1S (Grobbel Relief South). Each sampler had samples from last week's non-qualifying storm event. Those samples were dumped out. Two of the samplers had already triggered for current event. Ice was added to samplers at 756-10a and 695-1S and they were reinstalled to complete the sample round (a total of 24 sample bottles are available in each sampler). Samples 13-24 from location 700-10 were from the current event, so we put them on ice to process the next day. We left the flow meter installed, because the water level was too high for a safe drain entry.

8/17/01 (Friday) – Checked rain gauge at 8:00 am. It read 0.75 inches, so a qualifying rain event occurred. We began processing the samples from 700-10, while the other two samplers were extracted. Because of hold time restrictions, we sent the samples to the lab in two trips. The samples from 700-10 and 756-10a were sent first, followed by the samples from 695-1S. We ran an equipment blank on one of the samplers and a rinse blank on the one of the sampler bottles. The weather report from the Commercial Weather Service did not predict any more rain for the weekend, so all the sampling equipment was extracted and reinstallation was planned for Tuesday.

8/21/01 (Tuesday) – The weather forecast changed and we missed a rain event on Saturday-Sunday. The rain gauge read 0.60 inches. Installed samplers on a branch of the Sharkey and Kutchey Relief Drains. The gas monitor stopped working, so we quit for the day.

8/22/01 (Wednesday) – Rain gauge read 0.0 inches in the morning. Installed a sampler on Bear Creek Warren Branch No. 2 Drain, while it began raining. The rain gauge then read 0.15 inches and samples were pulled from the Sharkey and Kutchey branches. The rain stopped with the event totaling 0.15 inches. The samples were discarded.

8/26/01 (Sunday) – Scattered storms occurred throughout the area. The rain gauge read 0.05 inches. No event, yet.

8/27/01 (Monday) – Rain gauge read 0.25 inches; therefore Sunday's event totaled 0.30 inches, which was not a qualifying rain event. The forecast predicted ¼" or more in areas, so we replaced the sampler bottles and iced down the samplers at all three sites. We did not get any more rain.

In summary, we completed wet weather sampling on 3 drains (Grobbel Relief and Branches, Grobbel Relief South and Lorraine Storm Branch No. 1). This makes for a total of 17 drains sampled of 32. The results indicated that 2 of 3 drains were above the criteria of 3000 colonies/100ml. This makes for a total of 11 of 17 drains sampled that have exceeded the criteria.

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Sediment Sampling -

- The sediments of the inverted siphon in the Sharkey Relief Drain were sampled for *E. coli*. The results were 11,870 for one sample and 22,820 colonies/100g for a second sample.

Follow-up –

- A sampler was installed on the upstream end of a branch of the Kutchev Relief Drain.
- The Oakland County Drain Commissioners Office performed wet weather sampling on the Sharkey Relief Drain near Dequindre Road. Some of the results were above the criteria. They are following up on possible illicit connections.
- The City of Warren has asked a business owner, whose dumpster is leaking into the Mierow Drain, to correct the situation.
- The Macomb County Office of Public Works (MCPWO) is following up on several other drains that exhibited high *E. coli* counts during wet weather.
- MCPWO met with the City of Warren to discuss progress and the status of IDEP locations.

Website –

- The site was updated to include additional sediment sampling results, additional wet weather results, and follow-up information obtained during the month of August.

Problems Encountered & Recommended Solutions:

- Missed a wet weather event on Saturday-Sunday, August 18 & 19, because the forecast changed over the weekend and the samplers were not reinstalled on Friday. We will try to immediately reinstall samplers after each drain is complete.

Activities for Next Reporting Period:

- Update website with monthly sampling data.
- Continue wet weather sampling as the weather allows. Thirteen drains have not yet been wet weather sampled.
- Televising the Centerline, Lorraine and Hartsig Drains.
- Decide on Final Verification laboratory.