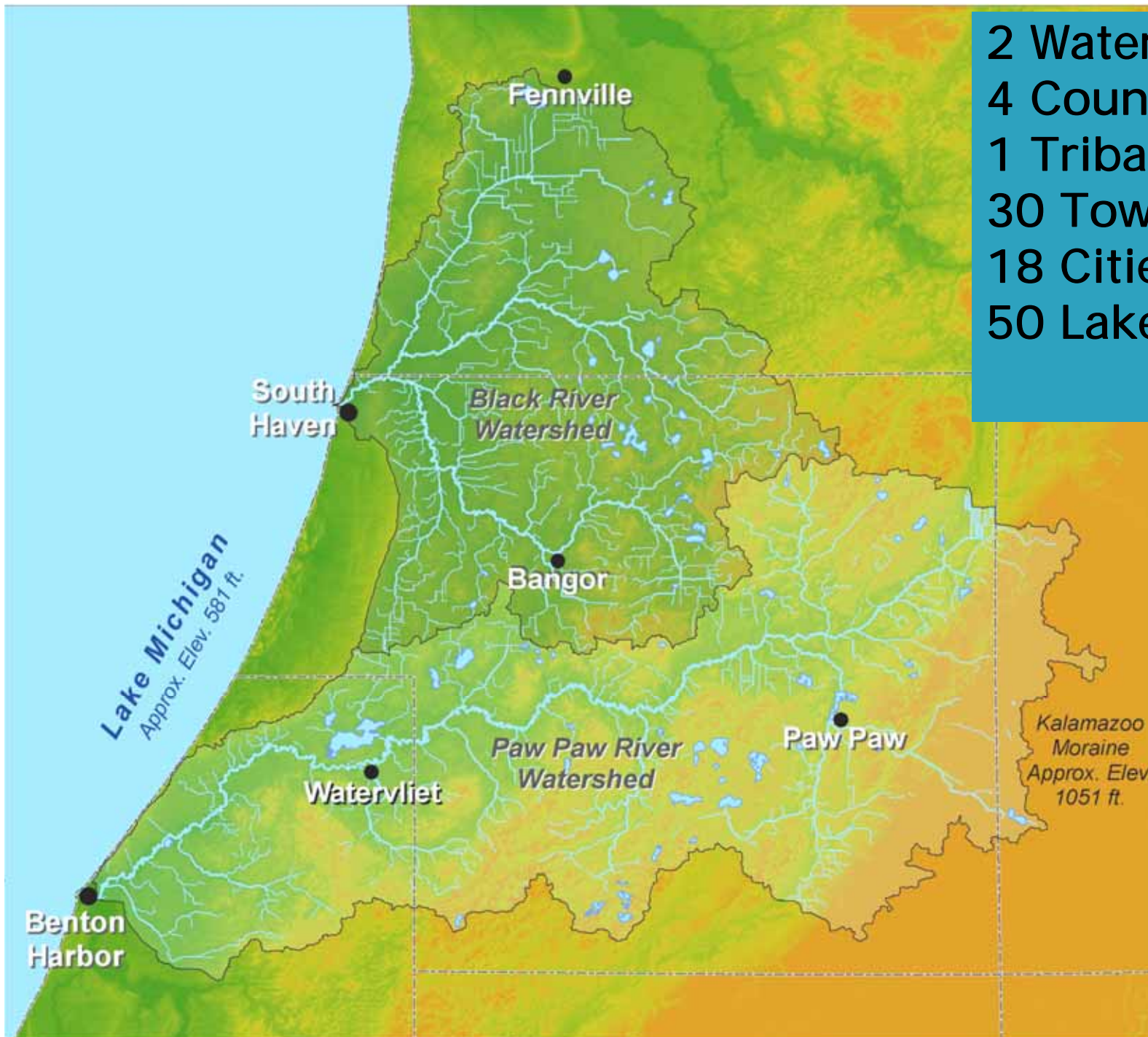




2010

A Successful and Productive Year  
*An Overview of The People, The Projects, The Future*

2 Watersheds  
4 Counties  
1 Tribal nation  
30 Townships  
18 Cities/Villages  
50 Lakes



# Two Rivers Coalition

- ▶ 501(c)3 formed in 2009
- ▶ A citizen based group
- ▶ **Our Mission** - working to protect the health of the Black River and Paw Paw River Watersheds through conservation, education, and advocacy.
- ▶ **Our Vision** - Clean rivers and lakes





# WHAT DO WE DO?

Promote healthy lakes,  
streams and rivers by:

- ▶ Encouraging Conservation
- ▶ Increasing Awareness
- ▶ Promoting Good Practices
- ▶ Forming Partnerships



# The People

- ▶ Board of Directors
- ▶ Partners
- ▶ Local Governmental Officials
- ▶ Members
- ▶ Interested Citizens



# Major Partners in 2010

- ▶ Van Buren Conservation District
- ▶ Van Buren County Drain Commissioner
- ▶ The Nature Conservancy
- ▶ Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
- ▶ Freshwater Future/River Network
- ▶ MDNRE, Water Bureau
- ▶ Michigan Association of Environmental Professionals
- ▶ Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
- ▶ Bangor South Haven Heritage Water Trail Association
- ▶ Michiana Paddlers
- ▶ City of South Haven (E.coli)
- ▶ Village of Paw Paw (Maple Lake)
- ▶ Van Buren MSUE
- ▶ The Depot
- ▶ Foundry Hall
- ▶ Michigan Maritime Museum
- ▶ Healthy Water Rural Pride (Allegan County Conservation District)
- ▶ Celery Pond Advocates





# Conservation, Education & Advocacy

- ▶ Website
- ▶ Campaigns
  - Who Do I Call?
  - P-Ban
  - Buffers
- ▶ Workshops/Tours
  - Green Infrastructure
  - Wetlands
- ▶ Committees and Meetings
  - Village of Paw Paw - Maple Lake
  - Van Buren Co. Planning Commission
- ▶ Events
  - Earth Day
  - River Rescue





*An alliance of the Black River  
and Paw Paw River Watersheds*

[www.TwoRiversCoalition.org](http://www.TwoRiversCoalition.org)

[ABOUT US](#) [THE WATERSHEDS](#) [PROGRAMS](#) [NEWS AND RESOURCES](#) [MEMBERSHIP/DONATIONS](#)

December, 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

[Join Us](#)

[Donate](#)

## Two Rivers Coalition

### Welcome!

Explore and discover the Black and Paw Paw River Watersheds with us.

Learn what you can do to help protect and improve the wonderful resources in these watersheds. Learn about the Two Rivers Coalition, Inc., a citizen based group working to protect the health of the Black River and Paw Paw River Watersheds through conservation, education, and advocacy.

Our goal is to be your source of information about the Black and Paw Paw River Watersheds here in Southwest Michigan. We hope our web site will provide you with accurate and thought provoking information about these watersheds and the community we live in. We believe that an informed and engaged community is the key to making this one of the best places to live and play. Please look around and let us know if there is information that you would like for us to include on our web site.

The Black and Paw Paw Rivers drain lands in Allegan, Berrien, Kalamazoo and Van Buren Counties. The Black River flows into Lake Michigan at South Haven. In Benton Harbor, the Paw Paw River flows into the St. Joseph River which then flows to Lake Michigan.

### Attention!

Our web site is evolving. We will continually be adding new content in the months to come and welcome any and all comments. Please use the "Comments" link at the top of the page to provide your feedback and suggestions.

"We want this website to be a one-stop-shop for people wanting information on water quality issues in our community. We believe that being informed and engaged is the key to making this community one of the best places to live and play. We all want clean water, and this website will help get the message out on how to protect and improve our precious waterbodies." -



## Play a Part in Keeping Our Lakes, Streams and Rivers Clean

### Report Activities That Are Causing Water Pollution!

What Kinds of Activities Should You Report?	
Wetland filling or other destructive activity	Suspicious dumping to drains and/or surface waters
Contamination to lakes, rivers and streams	Construction site soil erosion entering surface waters
Large numbers of dead fish	Sewage discharges on the ground or into surface water
Suspicious discharges from pipes	Polluted storm water runoff from storage piles and dumpsters
Pollution entering a storm drain or surface water	Illegal connections of sanitary sewers to storm drains or surface waters

**Phone numbers for reporting water pollution problems are provided on the other side.**

This information is provided by *Two Rivers Coalition, Inc.*, a citizen-based group working to protect the health of the Black River and Paw Paw River watersheds through conservation education, and advocacy. Please visit our web site to learn more —

**[www.TwoRiversCoalition.org](http://www.TwoRiversCoalition.org)**



### Who Do I Call to Report a Water Pollution Problem?

Immediate and Obvious Threats to Public Safety	Dumping or Discharges in or near Lakes or Streams	General Pollution Threats
Emergency Dispatch  Call: 911	Michigan DNRE Pollution Emergency Alert System  Call: 1-800-292-4706	EPA Office - Region 5  Call: 1-800-621-8431

Simple tips to help keep pollution out of our waterways:

- Never dump anything down a storm drain
- Pick up pet waste promptly and dispose of it in the trash
- Minimize soil erosion and sedimentation
- Have your septic system pumped every 2-5 years minimum

For additional information on how you can help protect our most precious resource, please visit **[www.TwoRiversCoalition.org](http://www.TwoRiversCoalition.org)**

# You are not just applying fertilizer to your lawn!



## Zero-in-the-Middle

*Allegan County*

Effective January 1, 2009

*Van Buren County*

Effective January 1, 2010

*State of Michigan*



**LAWNS ARE STILL GREEN  
OUR WATER STAYS CLEAN**

**Be Kind to  
Our Waters  
Buy  
Phosphorous Free  
Fertilizers**

**Look for 0  
in the  
middle!**



**Two Rivers  
Coalition**

[www.TwoRiversCoalition.org](http://www.TwoRiversCoalition.org)



# Earth Day Celebration – South Haven





### Solution Watershed Management BMP's

- Lakeside landscaping
- Brush cover on slopes
- Vegetative buffer strips
- Limit impervious surfaces to reduce wave action
- Encourage use of pervious paving materials
- Encourage use of electric motors





Monday, April 26, 2010  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Fetzer Center, Kalamazoo  
Cost: \$15.00

## Go for the **Green** to Save the **Blue**

*Using **Green Infrastructure** to Protect Your  
Community's Water Quality*



Over 90  
participants

### Workshop Partners







# Wetland Wonders







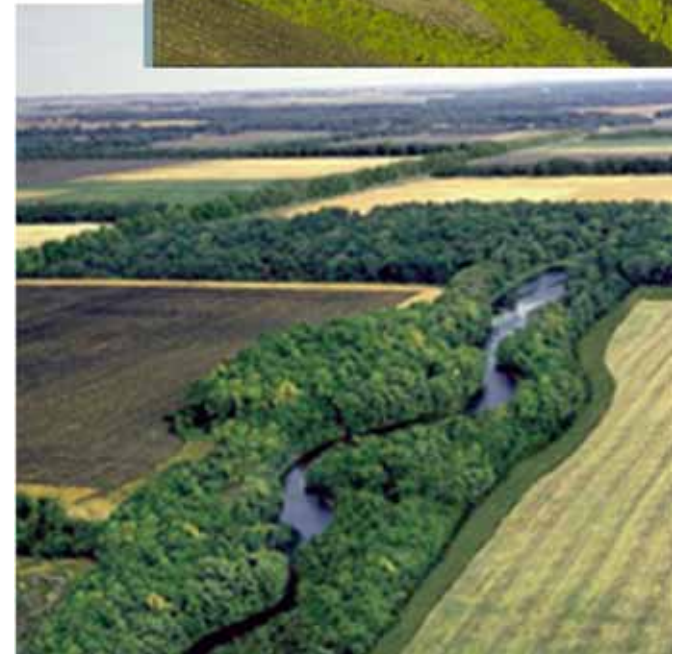
# River Rescue





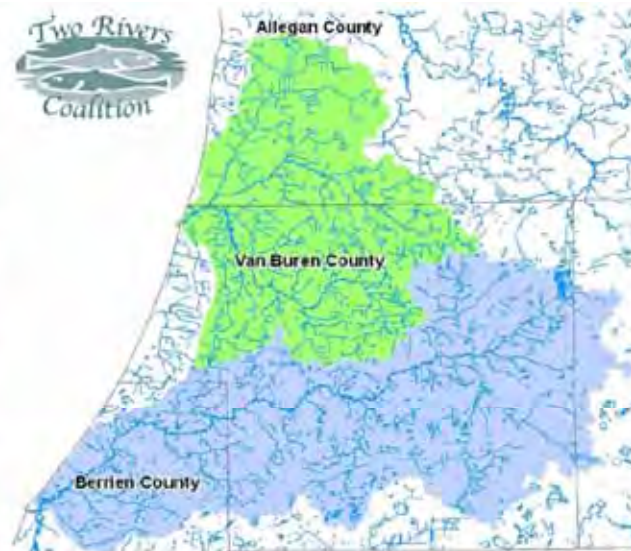
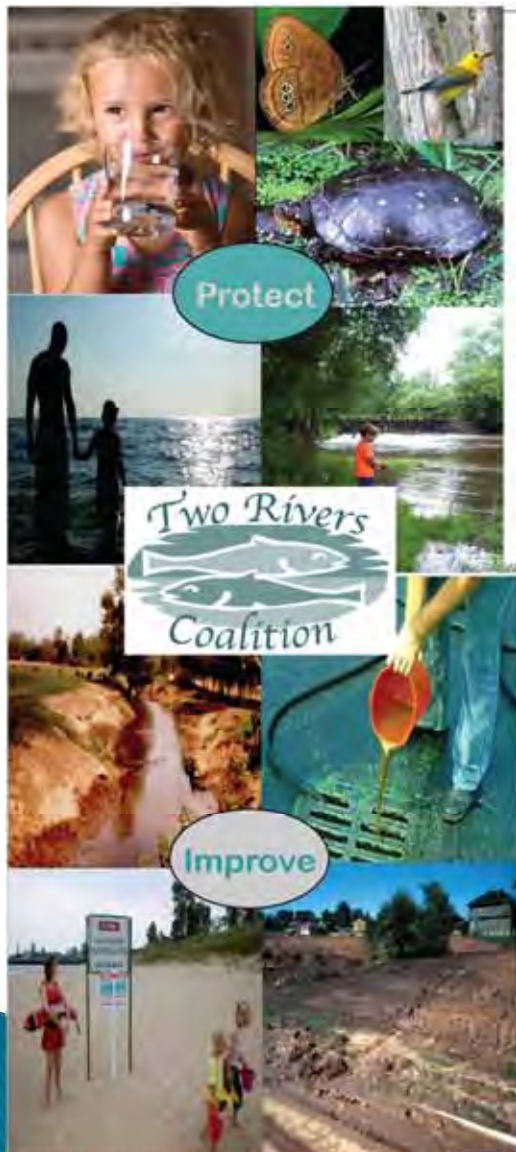
# Van Buren County Drain Commissioner Buffer Program

"Farmers can protect water quality by putting vegetation buffer zones between their cropland and nearby streams. These so-called filter strips prevent sediments and chemicals from washing into waterways. By encouraging the practice and seeking financial support for it from the federal government and private foundations, the DEQ could boost clean water and agriculture while also expanding wildlife habitat." – Dan Wyant





# Increasing Membership & Support



TRC is a citizen-based 501(c)3 organization working to protect the health of the Black River and Paw Paw River Watersheds through conservation, education, and advocacy. All donations to TRC are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**TRC's efforts to protect and improve water quality include:**

- Informing and influencing local officials
- Sponsoring activities such as creek clean-ups and stream bank improvements
- Protecting wetlands and wildlife habitat with our partners
- Educating the general public about water friendly lawn care, riparian buffers, wetland protection, septic systems and other watershed issues

Join Two Rivers Coalition at [www.tworiverscoalition.org](http://www.tworiverscoalition.org)

Contacts – 400 → 506  
Members – 75 → 86  
Annual mtg – 65 → ?



November 16, 2016

Name:  
City:  
Address line:  
City/State/Zip:

Dear:

"I've been most likely shocked and surprised like I am to hear about the spill on the Kalamazoo River. How could something like this happen to our precious water? What a waste of our life's blood—something we don't think about until it's too late."

The Black River and Paw Paw River watersheds are some of the most pristine and healthy river systems left in southern Michigan. I believe that protecting our resources and ensuring future safe drinking water is a top priority for all of us. It's time we take action to protect our water. It's important that we do everything we can to protect these two rivers for our benefit and for the benefit of future generations.

Strong floodwaters in the Paw Paw and Black River basins in the spring of 2014 caused by the intense ice break changes and increased pressure on the watershed due to human communities such as E. coli. I recall when the lakes were closed, clean-up of the watershed and fishing. Now our lakes are being closed only once, once and only once.

There are other threats facing the health of the rivers and lakes in our community—increasingly more water use, runoff from construction, more pollution, and the spread of invasive species. These threats not only harm fish and wildlife, they also impact our local economy.

Fortunately, Two Rivers Coalition is taking action today to reduce pollution and protect our watersheds.

I am writing to invite you to become a member of Two Rivers Coalition and support efforts that will keep our beaches open and water healthy, clean and safe. Your support will allow Two Rivers Coalition to build its success by doing such things as educating the public about future use and better water protection, and by working to ensure that the public understands the importance of a healthy watershed.

Two Rivers Coalition is a citizen-based group working to protect the health of the Black River and Paw Paw River Watersheds through conservation, education, and advocacy.  
P.O. Box 1000, Suite 100, Van Buren, MI 49881  
[www.tworiverscoalition.org](http://www.tworiverscoalition.org)

## Our Water, Our Responsibility

As you know, southern Michigan, and not just a great deal of the Black River and the more it is very different than it is today to escape the city and give them important environmental, social

The Two Rivers Coalition is keeping the foundation of what matters.

Unfortunately, our water and fisheries are in a very difficult position. It's time we take action to protect our water. It's important that we do everything we can to protect these two rivers for our benefit and for the benefit of future generations.

The largest source of pollution to the rivers and lakes in our communities is agriculture runoff. When it rains the runoff picks up pollutants from the land—fertilizers, animal waste, chemicals, and salt, sediment—and carries it quite directly to our rivers and lakes. Fertilizers then wind up in our lakes and streams, encourage weed and plant growth which like vegetation and up spending thousands of dollars to treat and remove. Excessive growth can also lead to algae blooms that choke the life of a lake.

You may be shocked to know that there is no one group or agency responsible for keeping our waters clean and healthy. The responsibility comes back to us. I believe that you, like me, care about the health of the water in your community. By becoming a member of Two Rivers Coalition you'll help to make sure we have the resources to protect and improve our Watersheds by:

- Taking action to reduce pollution
- Partnering in wetland preservation and restoration
- Initiating legislative reforms at the local and regional level
- Producing educational materials for distribution in the watershed
- Sponsoring activities such as creek clean-ups and stream bank improvements
- Educating those living in the Black and Paw Paw River Watersheds on how they affect and are affected by their watershed
- Informing and collaborating with local and county officials to improve and protect water quality
- Partnering with others to improve water quality and protect important wildlife habitat

**All beer/wine sales and tips benefit  
Two Rivers Coalition (TRC)!**

*Please Drink Responsibly and  
Have A Designated Driver!*



*A special thanks to:*  
**Foundry Hall for including TRC in this event.**  
**The Depot for supplying TRC the beer and wine.**



# Paw Paw River Odyssey

## Paddling with a purpose

*Hartford man travels length of Paw Paw River to draw attention to unique waterway*

**By Scott Aiken – H-P Staff**

Published: Sunday, November 7, 2010 1:07 PM EST

The Paw Paw River isn't known as a destination for canoeing and kayaking.

Kevin Haight is working to change that.

To raise awareness of water quality issues in the important river ecosystem, the Hartford resident paddled a kayak the stream's entire 66-mile length.

Haight divided his kayaking odyssey into 11 sections. Starting at the Maple Lake Dam in Paw Paw on Aug. 22, he completed one part each weekend, sometimes accompanied by other kayakers. He was to finish the last leg Saturday, paddling from the Coloma Road bridge in Riverside to Benton Harbor.

Donations still being accepted  
until 12/31/2010 at  
[www.firstgiving.com/kevinhaight](http://www.firstgiving.com/kevinhaight)

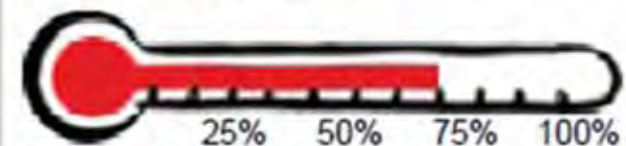
Goal - \$2,000

Raised - \$1,368.50 (68%)



Photo courtesy Kevin Haight Kevin Haight paddles the Paw Paw River earlier this year. To draw attention to this unique water system and get locals thinking about water quality, he kayaked, in sections, all 66 miles of the stream.

Fundraising progress







## Two Rivers Coalition

**T**wo Rivers Coalition is a citizen based group working to protect the health of the Black River and Paw Paw River Watersheds through conservation, education, and advocacy. Their current initiatives include phosphorus ban education and outreach, a buffer incentive program, wetland restoration and protection, and septic system education and outreach.

Freshwater Future funding was used to help host a workshop for about 75 decision makers and citizens about the benefits and mechanics of managing stormwater runoff with green infrastructure. Decision makers were provided with resources such



Dave Foerster and Joe Parman of the Two Rivers Coalition as sample master plan language and zoning ordinance models and encouraged to use the new Michigan Low Impact Development Manual.



# The Future

- ▶ Watervliet Dam Removal
- ▶ City of South Haven – water quality monitoring
- ▶ Village of Paw Paw – 319 grant application for Maple Lake/South Branch
- ▶ Wetland Protection and Restoration
- ▶ Van Buren County Master Plan
- ▶ Buffers
- ▶ Paw Paw River Water Trail
- ▶ Build more partnerships!



# What Can You Do?

- ▶ Renew TRC membership
- ▶ Take an active role
- ▶ Tell others about the issues & about TRC
- ▶ Talk to your local officials
- ▶ Talk to your kids

