

1st Quarter
March 2, 2017



Opening Business

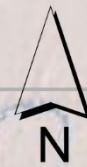
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
 - Introduction





Lake Michigan

Michigan



Kalamazoo

Calhoun

Van Buren

Berrien

Cass

St. Joseph

Branch

Hillsdale

St. Joseph

Elkhart

LaGrange

Steuben

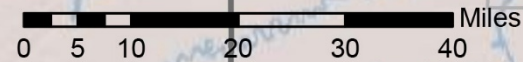
Ohio

Indiana

Noble

DeKalb

Kosciusko



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The SJRBC was created to:

IC 14-30-3-19

Powers

Sec. 19. The commission may do the following:

- (1) Provide a forum for the discussion, study, and evaluation of water resource issues of common concern in the basin.
- (2) Facilitate and foster cooperative planning and coordinated management of the basin's water and related land resources.
- (3) Develop positions on major water resource issues and serve as an advocate of the basin's interests before Congress and federal, state, and local governmental agencies.
- (4) Develop plans to improve water quality in the basin.
- (5) Publicize, advertise, and distribute reports on the commission's purposes, objectives, studies, and findings.
- (6) When requested, make recommendations in matters related to the commission's functions and objectives to political subdivisions in the basin and to other public and private agencies.
- (7) When requested, act as a coordinating agency for programs and activities of other public and private agencies that are related to the commission's objectives.

The SJRBC shall consist of the following (or their proxy):

- The Mayor of each Class-II City or the Executive of the municipality with the largest population if the County does not have a Class-II city
- A County Commissioner from each County
- The Health Officer from each County
- An appointee of the Governor of Indiana
- The Director of the Indiana DNR

(paraphrased from IC 14-30-3-8)

Opening Business

- Call to Order
- **Roll Call**
 - **Your Name**
 - **Your Title/Affiliation**
 - **Who you represent (if you are a proxy)**



Opening Business

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- **Approval of Minutes**
 - **December 6, 2016**



Financials

- Financial Report



Financials

- Financial Report
- Approval of Claims



Old Business

- Basin Updates
 - Announcements from Commission Members



Old Business

- Basin Updates
- **St. Joseph River Basin Filter Strip Initiative**
 - **Brochure has been finalized**
 - **Budgeted to print 7,500**
 - **Distribute to SWCDs, Farm Bureau, Surveyor, etc**



Benefits of Filter Strips

Water Quality

A filter strip, paired with other conservation practices, can filter out up to 95% of sediments, 87% of phosphorus, & 75% of nitrogen attached in surface water runoff.

Stable Ditch Banks

Deep rooted vegetation in filter strips stabilizes stream banks, providing a safer environment for maneuvering farm equipment.

Easy Ditch Access

In the event the land-owner or county surveyor require access to the ditch, no precious row-crops will be lost in the process.

Reduced Ditch Maintenance

Eroded soils from stream banks and topsoil deposit in areas down stream from their source. Filter strips stabilize soils and capture sediments before they enter the stream, reducing drain maintenance and saving tax payers money.

Wildlife Habitat

Native plants established in filter strips provide food and habitat for several species of birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and pollinators.

Visual Appeal

A well established filter strip gives ditch banks some character and provides high visibility of good land stewardship.

Sign Up Today!

Who to Contact

Technical Assistance & Funding
Local SWCD & NRCS staff

Attaining a Parcel Plat & Application
County Surveyor

Information on IC 6-1.-6.7 & Assessments
County Assessor

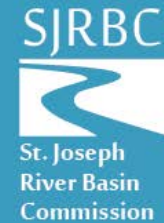
Visit www.sjrbc.com/resources
for more information

Keep in mind...

- Every two (2) years the parcel will be inspected by the local SWCD staff to document compliance with maintenance requirements.
- If a parcel is removed from classification, monies will be collected based on tax benefits received during the duration of filter strip classification.



227 W. Jefferson Blvd - #1120
South Bend, IN 46601-1830
574-287-1829
www.sjrbc.com



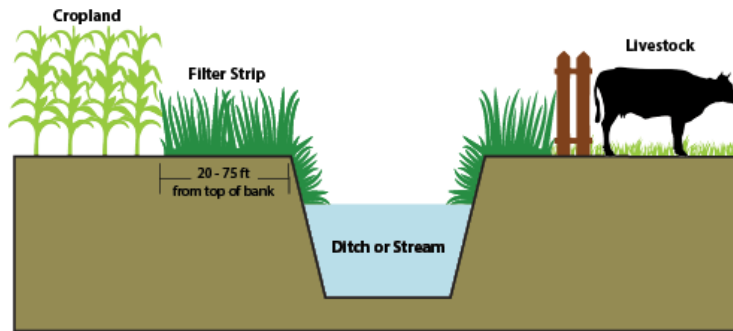
**Saving Money
& Improving
Water Quality:
Filter Strips**

Indiana Code 6-1.1-6.7

The Indiana Filter Strip Law

In 1991 the Indiana General Assembly approved the Indiana Filter Strip Law (IC 6-1.1-6.7) defining what qualifies as a filter strip, how it will be maintained, who approves specifications, and how classification will be recorded.

Above all, the land designated as a “classified filter strip” **will be assessed property tax at a rate of \$1.00 per acre** compared to the current method of assessments for agricultural land.



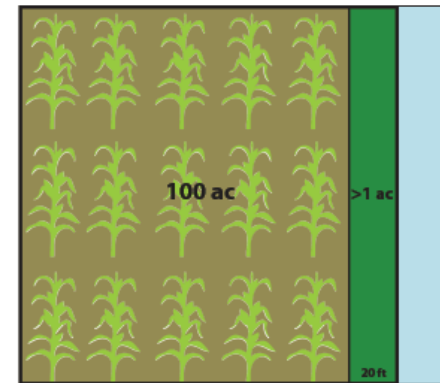
Follow these steps to to save money under the Indiana Filter Strip

- 1 Consult with your local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) staff on filter strip design and maintenance.
- 2 Attain a described parcel plat from County Surveyor or any liscence surveyor.
- 3 Obtain an up-to-date assessment of proposed filter strip parcel
- 4 Submit an application to your County Surveyor with following documents:
 - The parcel plat
 - The county assessment
 - Signatures of land owner, County Surveyor, County Assessor
 - A letter of filter strip approval from your local Soil and Water Conservation District
- 5 Approved application is returned to applicant.
- 6 Land entered for taxation at the assessed value of one dollar (\$1.00) per acre.

Tax Savings Eample

Mr. Smith works with his local SWCD and NRCS staff to attain cost-share funds to install a 20 foot wide filter strip along a ditch running the length of his 100 acre square plot. The information below outlines the filter strip specifications and Mr. Smith's projected annual tax savings based on Indiana State averages, on top of the farmbill monies he received. It's easy to see that the Indiana Filter Strip Law can provide a significant tax break for any farmer, large or small.

Filter Strip Specs



Old Taxes*	New Taxes	Tax Savings	Tax Reduction
\$34.29	\$0.96	\$33.39	97%

**Old Taxes calculated using the following information
 Property Tax = Base Rate Value * Soil Productivity Factor *
 (1.0 - Deduction Factor) * Tax Rate
 Agricultural Land Base Rate \$1,960/ac (2016 IDLGF Rate)
 Soil Productivity Factor: 0.951 (2014 Indiana County Avg)
 Deduction Factor = 0.0
 Tax Rate: 1.92% (2016 Indiana Township Avgs)*

Old Business

- Basin Updates
- **St. Joseph River Basin Filter Strip Initiative**
 - **Cost of printing 7,500 is \$1,111**
 - **Decided to wait on printing until after budget discussion**
 - **Consult with committee to determine next steps and potential digital distribution**



Old Business

- Basin Updates
- St. Joseph River Basin Filter Strip Initiative
- **2017 IWLA Scholarship**
 - **Alicia Czarnecki – Bowman Creek Educational Ecosystem**
 - **Will give presentation at our June meeting**



Old Business

- Basin Updates
- St. Joseph River Basin Filter Strip Initiative
- 2017 IWLA Scholarship
- **Cobus Creek Watershed Diagnostic Study**
 - **Draft Completed**
 - **Next Step: Post for public comment**

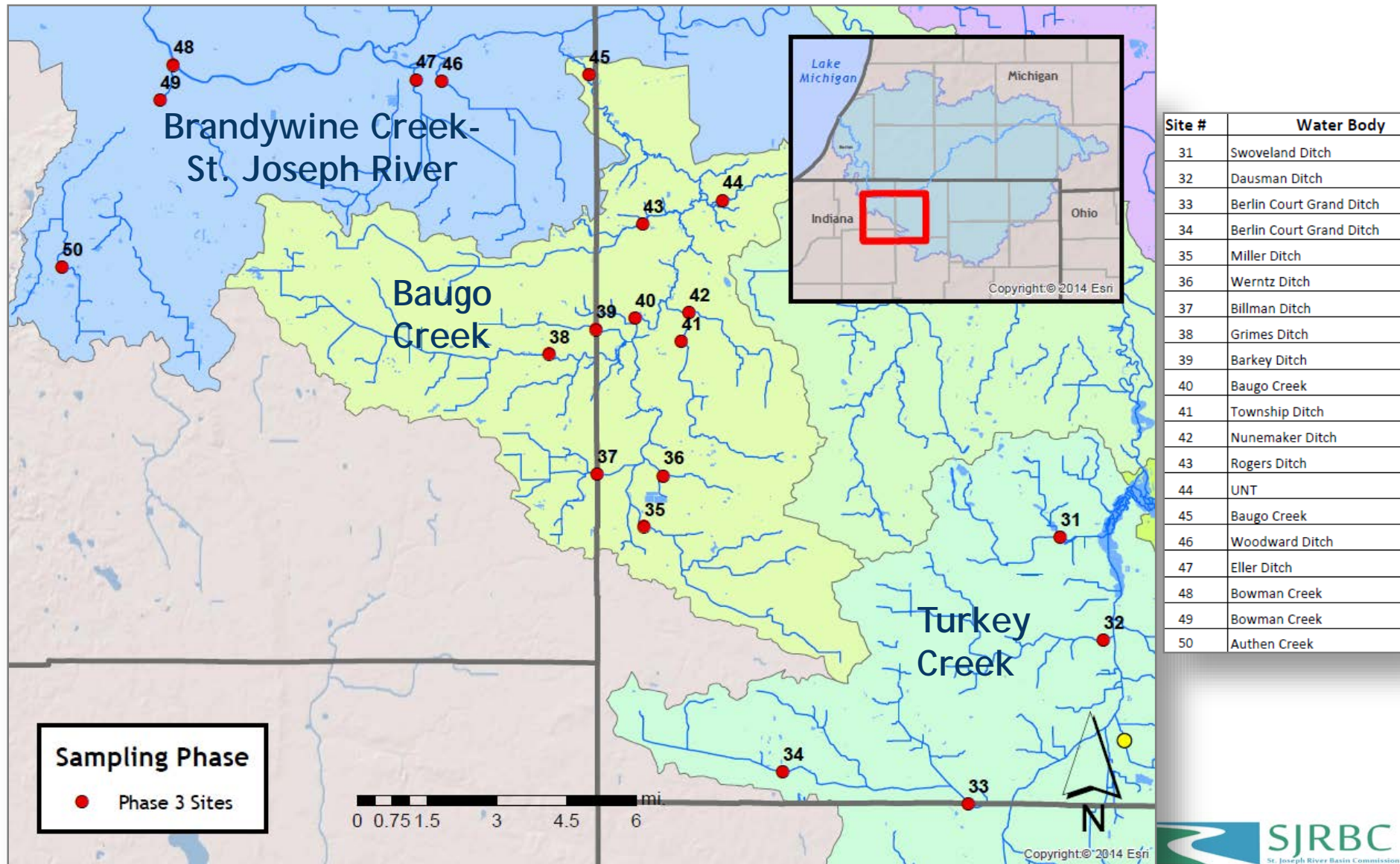


Old Business

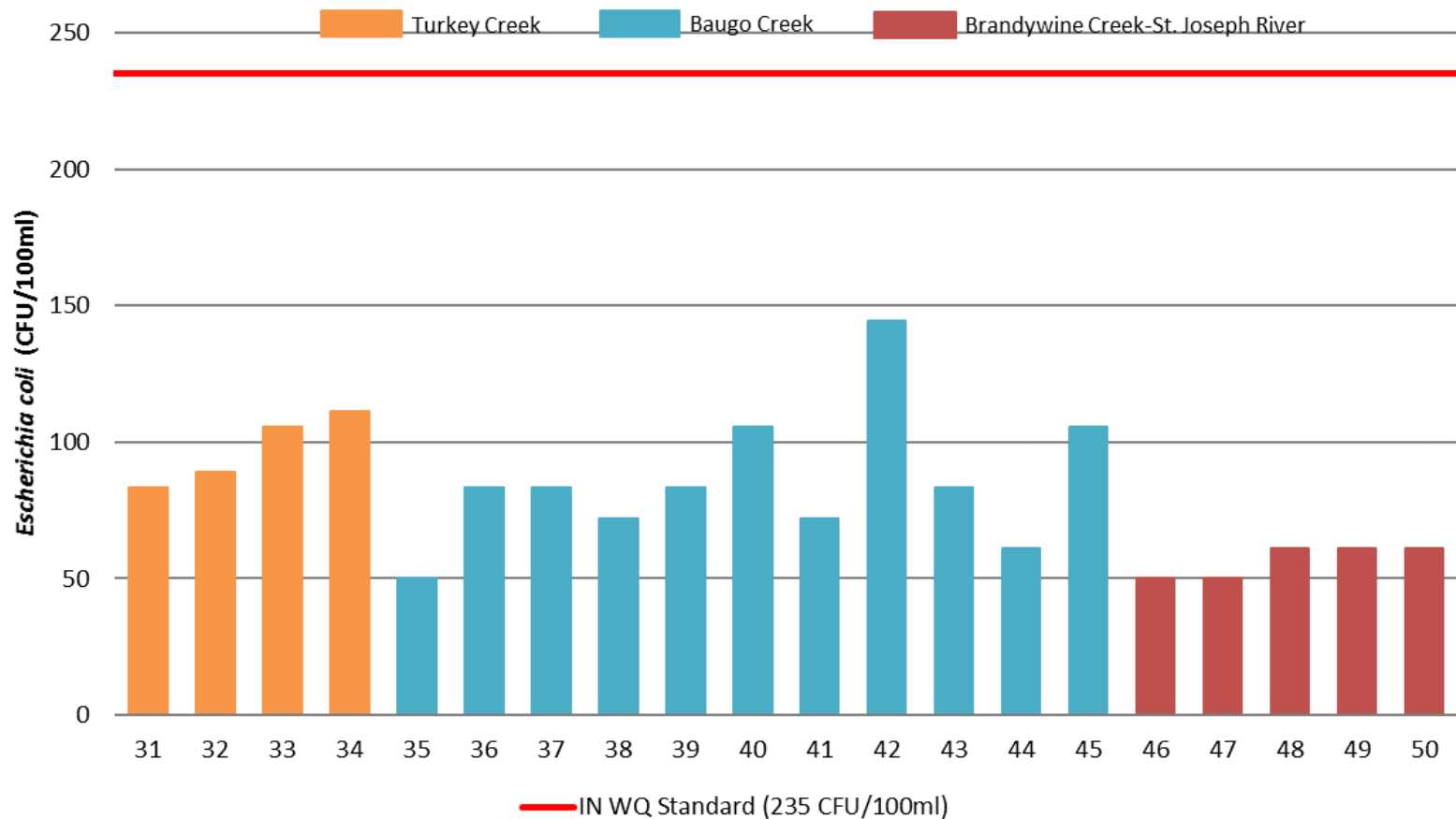
- Basin Updates
- St. Joseph River Basin Filter Strip Initiative
- 2017 IWLA Scholarship
- Cobus Creek Watershed Diagnostic Study
- **Water Monitoring Program Update**
 - **All Phase 3 sites meeting target values**



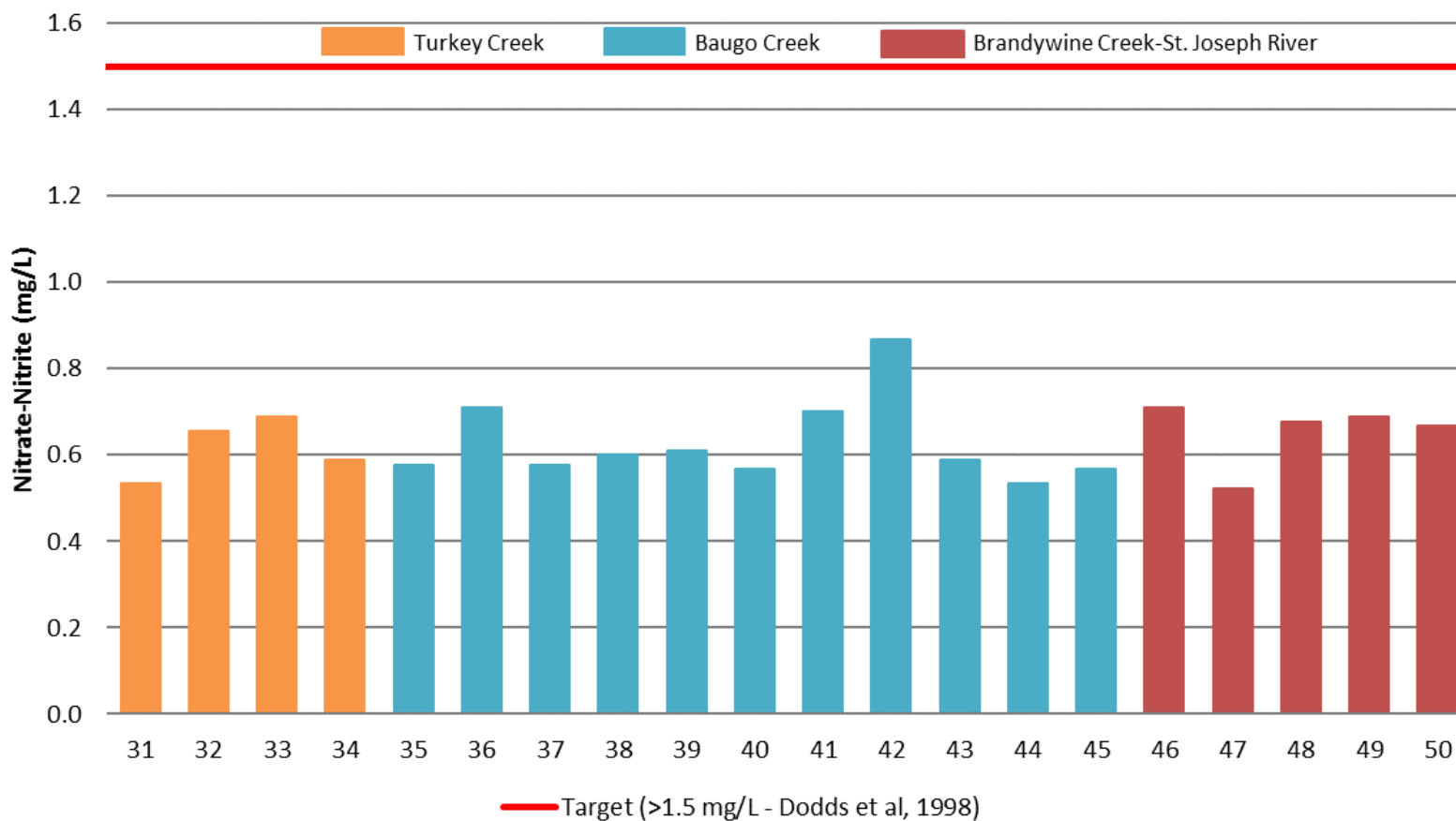
2016-2017 Water Monitoring Sites (Phase 3)



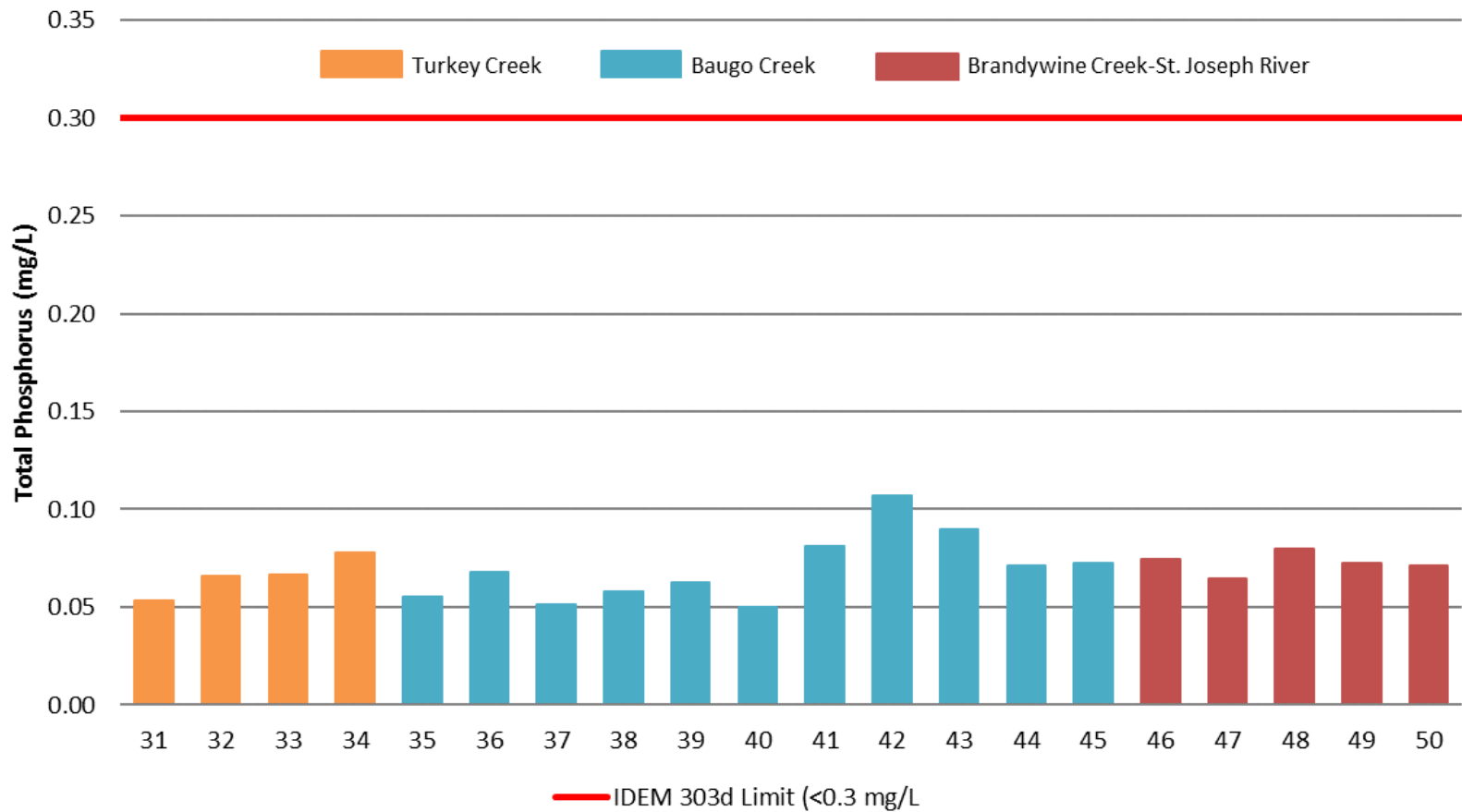
Phase 3 *E. coli* Averages by Subwatershed (April - December 2016)



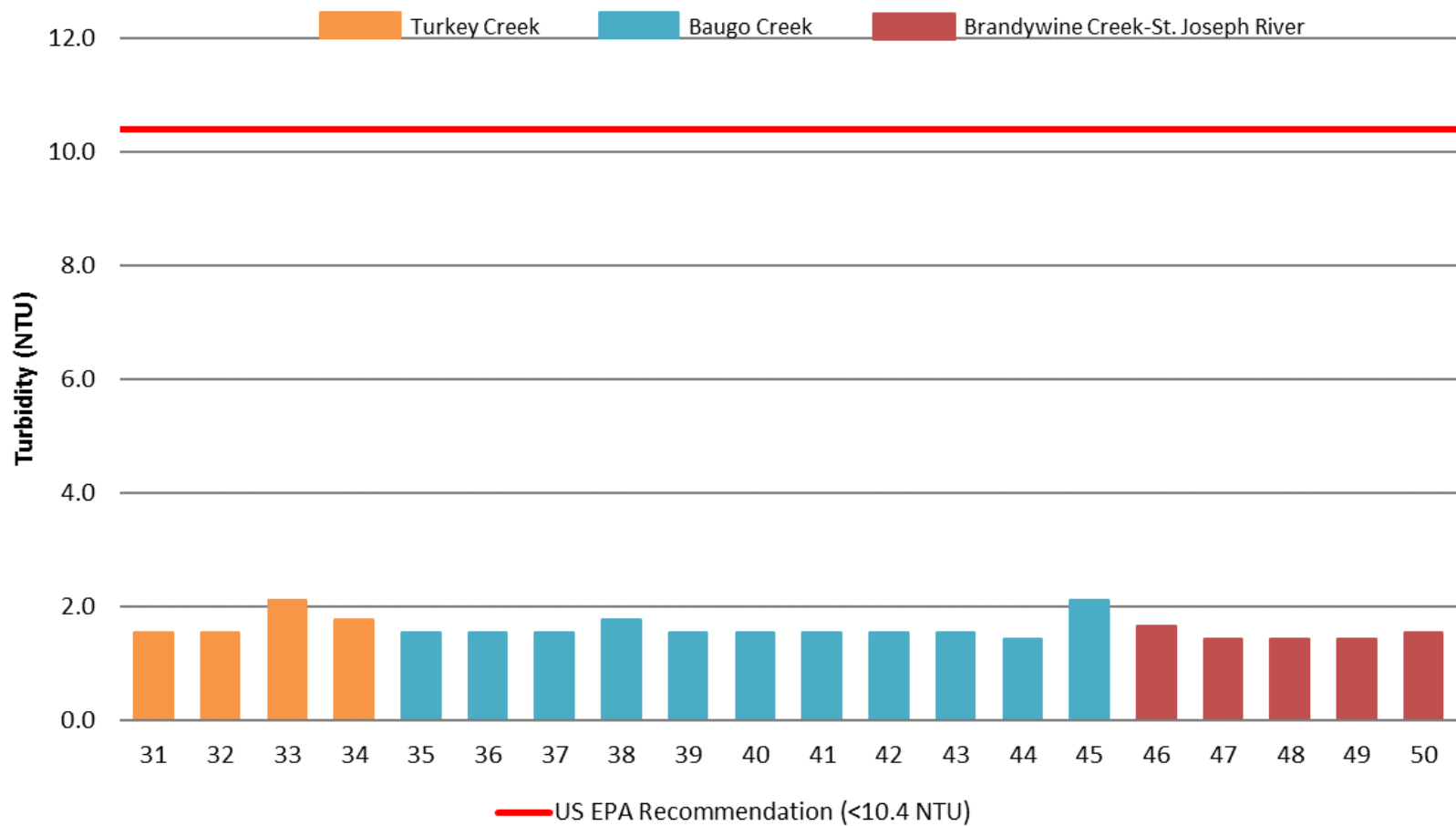
Phase 3 Nitrate-Nitrite Averages by Subwatershed (April - December 2016)



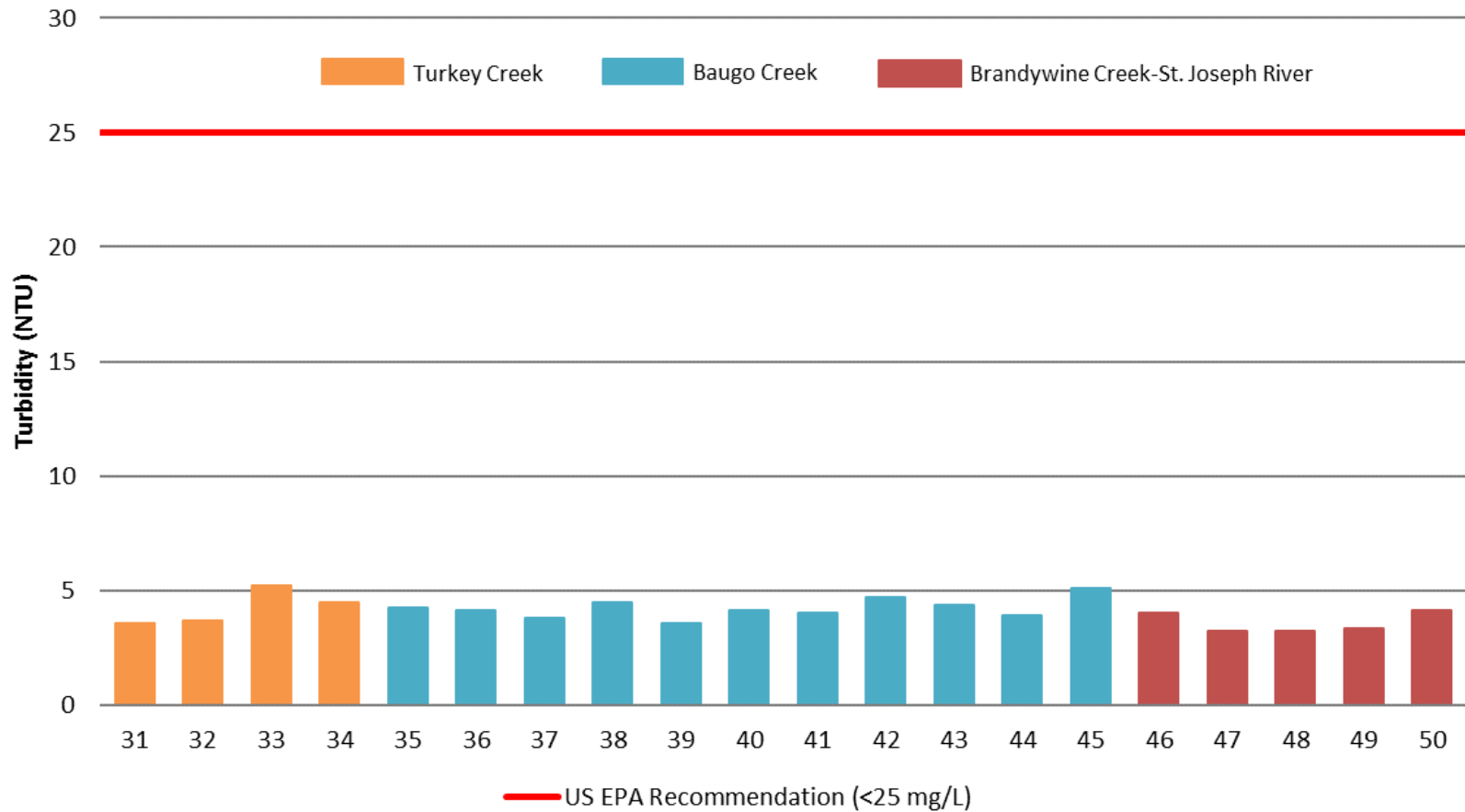
Phase 3 Total Phosphorus Averages by Subwatershed (April - December 2016)



Phase 3 Turbidity Averages by Subwatershed (April - December 2016)

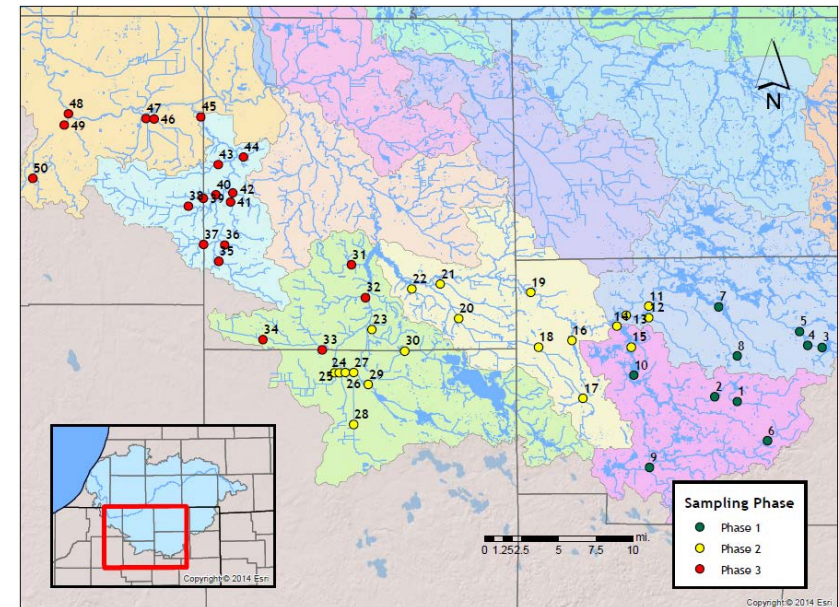


Phase 3 Total Suspended Solids Averages by Subwatershed (April - December 2016)



Water Monitoring Program - Next Steps

- 3 year contract w/ SNRT ends March 2017
- Final Narrative Report to be delivered at that time
- **Form Committee to discuss future monitoring**



Old Business

- Water Monitoring Program Update
- **Elkhart River Conservation Initiative**



New Business

- Meeting Schedule Amendment for 2017
 - 10am @ Elkhart Co. Public Services Building
 - March 2, 2017
 - June 1, 2017
 - September 7, 2017
 - December 7, 2017
 - Consider alternatives for 2018???



New Business

- Meeting Schedule Amendment for 2017
- **MACOG Agreement Planning**



&



New Business

- Meeting Schedule Amendment for 2017
- MAGOG Agreement Planning
- **FY2018 Budget Planning**

St. Joseph River Basin Commission 2016-2017 Budget		
Revenues Anticipated	2015-2016	2016-2017
Indiana State Legislature	\$52,486.70	\$52,486.70
St. Joseph River Basin Commission	\$50,967.97	\$52,554.30
Contributions	\$10,650.00	\$10,000.00
IN DNR LARE Grant	\$15,000.00	\$18,311.00
LARE Grant Local Contributions	\$2,900.00	\$4,900.00
Total	\$132,004.67	\$138,252.00

New Business

- Meeting Schedule Amendment for 2017
- MAGOG Agreement Planning
- FY2018 Budget Planning
- **GLPF Conservation Incentive Project**



Great Lakes
Protection Fund

KIESER & ASSOCIATES
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

New Business

- Meeting Schedule Amendment for 2017
- MAGOG Agreement Planning
- FY2018 Budget Planning
- GLPF Conservation Incentive Project
- **Great Lakes Day – Washington, DC**



New Business

- Meeting Schedule Amendment for 2017
- MAGOG Agreement Planning
- FY2018 Budget Planning
- GLPF Conservation Incentive Project
- Great Lakes Day – Washington, DC
- **St. Joseph River Basin Symposium**



**16th Annual Indiana-Michigan
St. Joseph River Basin Symposium**

Friday, May 20, 2016

Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve

Items From the Floor

Other
Misc.
Etc...

Next Meeting
June 1st, 2017

