

The enabling legislation addresses the composition of the St. Joseph River Basin Commission. Membership from each participating Indiana county includes:

- ◆ The Executive of each Class-II City (Mayor)
- ◆ The Executive of the Municipality with the largest population that is not a Class-II City (Mayor or Town Board President)
- ◆ A member of the County Executive Branch (County Commissioner)
- ◆ The County Health Officer
- ◆ An appointee of the Governor
- ◆ A Representative of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (*ex officio member*)

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

Activities

Guided by the philosophy, that “*increased knowledge and a greater awareness of the value of our natural resources, will serve to protect them from activities associated with increased contaminants entering our waterways*”, the St. Joseph River Basin Commission has concentrated its attention on the elimination of nonpoint source pollution through education and information sharing, planning and demonstration.

As funding becomes available, The Commission, has developed a number of materials in brochure, booklet, video or computer disc format that highlight pertinent issues that impact water resources. These materials have been distributed throughout the Basin and nationwide.

The Basin Commission regularly partners with various agencies and municipalities to host workshops related to nonpoint source pollution prevention, drainage, stormwater management and erosion control, watershed planning and onsite wastewater (septic system) disposal systems, allowing the local citizenry and policymakers an opportunity to learn the latest information without leaving the region.

The Annual Indiana–Michigan St. Joseph River Basin Symposium serves to bridge the gap between the bi-state border increasing communication and cooperation among policy makers and elected officials regarding water resource issues.

The Basin Commission, upon request, assists communities with water-related outreach programs and in the development of watershed management plans; aiding in administration of the plans if requested.

Finally, The St. Joseph River Basin Commission serves as a liaison between various water quality agencies on a federal, state and local level and continues to be a regional source of water-related information .

St. Joseph River Basin Commission



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The *St. Joseph River Basin Commission* was established by the Indiana General Assembly in 1988 with a focus to protect water resources

The *St. Joseph River Basin Commission* is an agency of the State of Indiana, comprised of representation from the 7 counties in the Indiana portion of the St. Joseph River Basin.

The agency is dedicated to maintaining or improving the quality of water in the St. Joseph River Basin—both surface and groundwater—for increased fisheries, water recreation and safe drinking water.

The *St. Joseph River Basin* is part of the Lake Michigan Basin and consists of all or portions of the following counties in Indiana:

DeKalb	Elkhart
Kosciusko	LaGrange
Noble	St. Joseph
Steuben	

In addition, 8 full or partial counties in Michigan are in the River Basin as well.

Legislated Purposes of the St. Joseph River Basin Commission

- ◆ Provide a forum for discussion, study, and evaluation of water resource issues of common concern in the Basin
- ◆ Facilitate and foster cooperative planning and coordinated management of the Basin's water and related land resources
- ◆ Develop positions on major water resource issues and serve as the advocate of the Basin's interests
- ◆ Make recommendations on matters related to it's functions and objectives, to political subdivisions in the Basin and to other public and private agencies
- ◆ Develop Plans to improve water quality in the Basin.

The St. Joseph River Basin Commission conducts quarterly meetings that are open to the public

*March
June
September
December*

Basin Facts

- ◆ The River Basin has a drainage area of 4,685 square miles
- ◆ 400 Lakes (3.5 to 6.00 square miles) are used for swimming, boating and fishing
- ◆ There is 600 feet of fall from the River headwaters at Baw Beese Lake, in Hillsdale, Michigan to its discharge at Lake Michigan in St. Joseph, Michigan
- ◆ The St. Joseph River Basin—Lake Michigan Basin is 1.6 percent of the Western Great Lakes Basin
- ◆ 1,641 miles of significant tributaries flow in the Basin.

Millions of dollars are realized each year by local communities as a result of fishing, boating and other water-related activities within the rivers, streams, and lakes of the Lake Michigan Basin—St. Joseph River Basin.