



St. Joseph River Basin Commission

22nd Annual Indiana-Michigan St. Joseph River Basin Symposium

Friday, May 6, 2022

Held Virtually Using Zoom Meeting Platform

AGENDA

9:00 – 9:30 **Virtual Networking Session**

9:30 – 10:00 **Welcome & Introductions**

Matt Meersman, St. Joseph River Basin Commission Director

Matt will provide an introduction to the St. Joseph River Basin Commission, including how it is organized and funded. He will also discuss the funding of watershed organizations in general, and some proposed legislation to create a funding mechanism for watershed management in Indiana.

10:00 – 10:15 **How's the Water? Monitoring Program Results**

Kate Barrett, St. Joseph River Basin Commission Aquatic Ecologist

The St. Joseph River Basin Commission launched a biological monitoring program in 2021 to assess the health of our tributaries. Understanding the quality and quantity of the water in lakes and streams is a primary goal for most watershed organizations. Kate will highlight the results from our first year of sampling.

10:15 – 11:00 **Public Funding for Watershed Management in Michigan**

Kelly Goward, Watershed Manager, ODC Network

The State of Michigan has many watershed organizations dedicated to protecting and restoring our valuable water resources. One factor that unites this work across the state is the lack of stable and consistent funding. Several organizations in West Michigan have been exploring options to develop a sustainable way to fund watershed management in the state. Kelly will discuss the results of studies related to this effort as well as other current initiatives in the state.

11:00 **Q&A – Closing Remarks**
