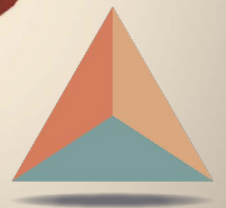




**GREATER LANSING
REGIONAL COMMITTEE**
FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

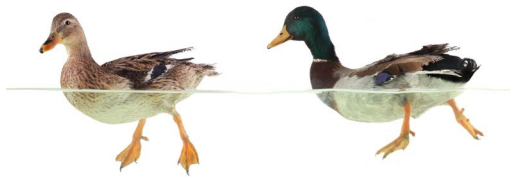
www.mywatersheds.org

2015 Annual Report



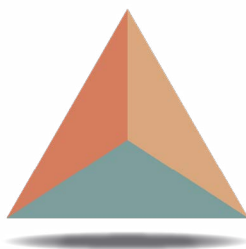
TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION





GLRC Members

City of DeWitt	DeWitt Charter Township
City of East Lansing	Eaton County
City of Grand Ledge	Ingham County
City of Lansing	Lansing Charter Township
City of Mason	Lansing School District
Clinton County	Meridian Charter Township
Clinton County Road	Michigan State University
Commission	Oneida Charter Township
Delhi Charter Township	Waverly Community Schools
Delta Charter Township	Windsor Charter Township



**TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION**

3135 Pine Tree Road, Suite 2C
Lansing, MI 48911
(517) 393-0342
www.mitrpc.org

A Letter From Our Chairman



“Strong partnerships are vital to any successful stormwater management program. The working relationships that have been established through the GLRC provide a solid foundation upon which communities throughout the Greater Lansing region have built their programs.”

Ruth Kline-Robach
Outreach Specialist
Michigan State University
Institute of Water Research

Greetings Friends of the Greater Lansing Regional Committee for Stormwater Management (GLRC),

I am pleased to present our Annual Report that reflects our activities from 2015. Tri-County staff and community members strive to achieve the goals set out by the current permits we are under and are excited to set our members up for success in the next permit cycle. Staff have updated the GLRC website to allow residents of the Tri-County area to be able to find out more ways to get involved with the community they live and play in. Staff have achieved some of these goals of informing the public by setting up an outreach booth at the Quiet Water Symposium and the Southern Clinton County Municipal Utilities Authority Open House event. Staff also attended the Adopt A River programs in Lansing and helped train staff in other municipalities about best stormwater management practices and how to identify illicit discharges in their community.

Public education was big this year, too, with public service announcements at the movie theaters and the REACH Studio Art Center storm drain awareness project. Staff also helped facilitate the stormwater permits for most of the GLRC members this year.

I want to give a big “Thank You” to the GLRC board members and support staff that take time out of their busy days to get involved in making this program a great resource for all the members of the GLRC.

Sincerely,

Ken Baker, City of Mason

2015 GLRC Chairman

Greater Lansing Regional Committee for Stormwater Management

Polluted stormwater runoff is often transported through municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) and ultimately discharged into local rivers and streams without treatment. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Stormwater Phase II Rule establishes an MS4 stormwater management program that intends to improve the nation's waterways by reducing the quantity of pollutants that stormwater carries into storm sewer systems during storm events. The GLRC began meeting in 1998, and was formed under a Memorandum of Agreement in 2004. The GLRC has been established to guide the implementation of the MS4 program for the communities within the Grand, Red Cedar, and Looking Glass River Watersheds.

Minimum Control Measures

The six MS4 program elements, termed “minimum control measures,” that drive the efforts of the GLRC are described below:

Public Participation/Involvement: Providing opportunities for citizens to participate in program development and implementation, including effectively publicizing public hearings and/or encouraging citizen representatives on a stormwater management panel.

Public Education and Outreach: Distributing educational materials and performing outreach to inform citizens about the impacts polluted stormwater runoff discharges can have on water quality.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination: Developing and implementing a plan to detect and eliminate illicit discharges to the storm sewer system. Activities include developing a system map and informing communities about hazards associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste.

Construction Site Runoff Control: Developing, implementing, and enforcing an erosion and sediment control program for construction activities that disturb one or more acres of land. Controls could include silt fences and temporary stormwater detention ponds.

Post-Construction Runoff Control: Developing, implementing, and enforcing a program to address discharges of post-construction stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment areas. Applicable controls could include preventative actions such as protecting sensitive areas (e.g., wetlands) or the use of structural best management practices (BMPs) such as grassed swales or porous pavement.

Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping: Developing and implementing a program with the goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations. The program must include municipal staff training on pollution prevention measures and techniques, such as regular street sweeping, reduction in the use of pesticides or street salt, or frequent catch-basin cleaning.



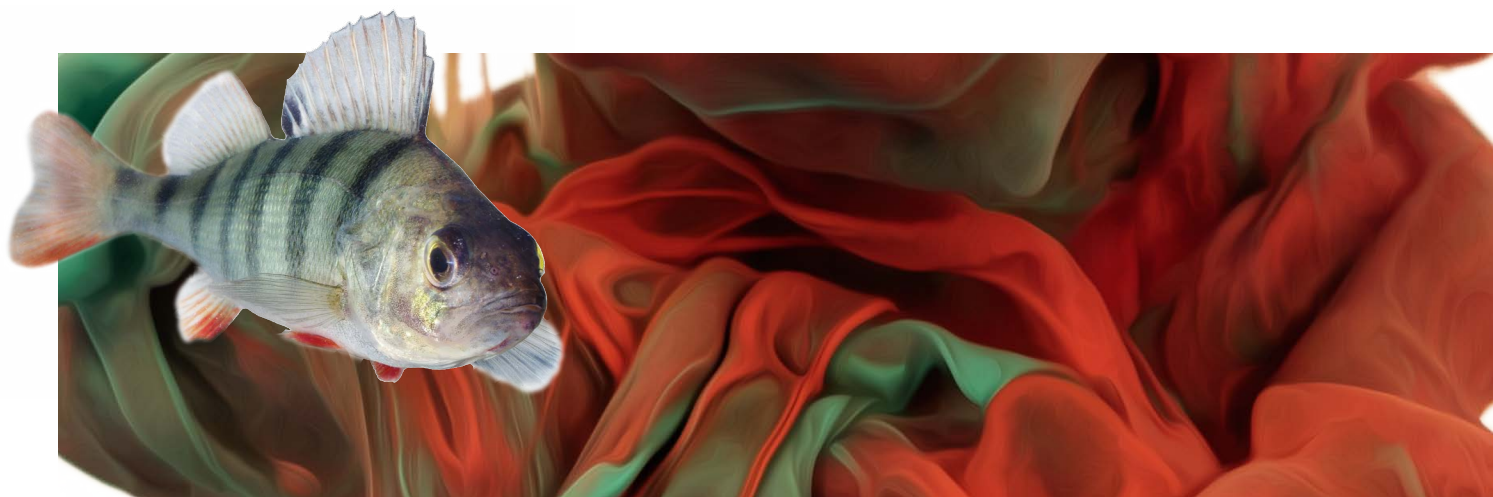
Fiscal Year 2015 & Structure

The GLRC is supported by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) which provides program staff, administrative and fiscal support. GLRC members pay annual dues for the services provided. The following committees coordinate and complete the work necessary to be in compliance with the permit requirements.

Illicit Discharge Elimination Program Committee guides the organization and implementation of the Illicit Discharge Elimination Program (IDEP), mapping guidelines, field-sampling protocols, and how the watershed will be monitored for progress. The IDEP Committee has reviewed pet waste techniques, septic tank maintenance issues, IDEP ordinances, and provided staff training.

Public Education Program (PEP) Committee guides the overall public education, participation, outreach, and involvement process for the stormwater program. This effort includes evaluation and assessment of public knowledge and activities.

Ordinance/Best Management Practices Committee reviews and makes recommendations on existing ordinance updates to ensure that they are consistent with the permit requirements. In addition, the committee provides education to GLRC members related to good housekeeping techniques, low impact development, and for BMPs that reduce pollution from runoff.



Category	Fiscal Year 2015	% of Expenditures
TCRPC - Staff/Support Services	\$97,668	87%
Annual Report Printing	\$350	<1%
Illicit Discharge Elimination Plan (IDEP)	\$300	<1%
Public Education Plan (PEP)	\$9,754	9%
Ordinance/BMP Committee	\$300	<1%
Website Hosting	\$500	<1%
Monitoring Support	\$3000	3%
Total	\$111,872	

GLRC Permit Application Update

Nearly all GLRC members were issued their MS4 discharge permit in 2015 by Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The permit cycle will expire April 1, 2017. We are working closely with MDEQ to develop a streamlined re-issuance process for the next permit cycle. It is clear that our positive relationship with MDEQ provides a common sense approach to the permit requirements and process to accomplish compliance both in our communities and through the permitting process. The GLRC looks forward to permit issuance for all GLRC members and continues to move forward with programing.



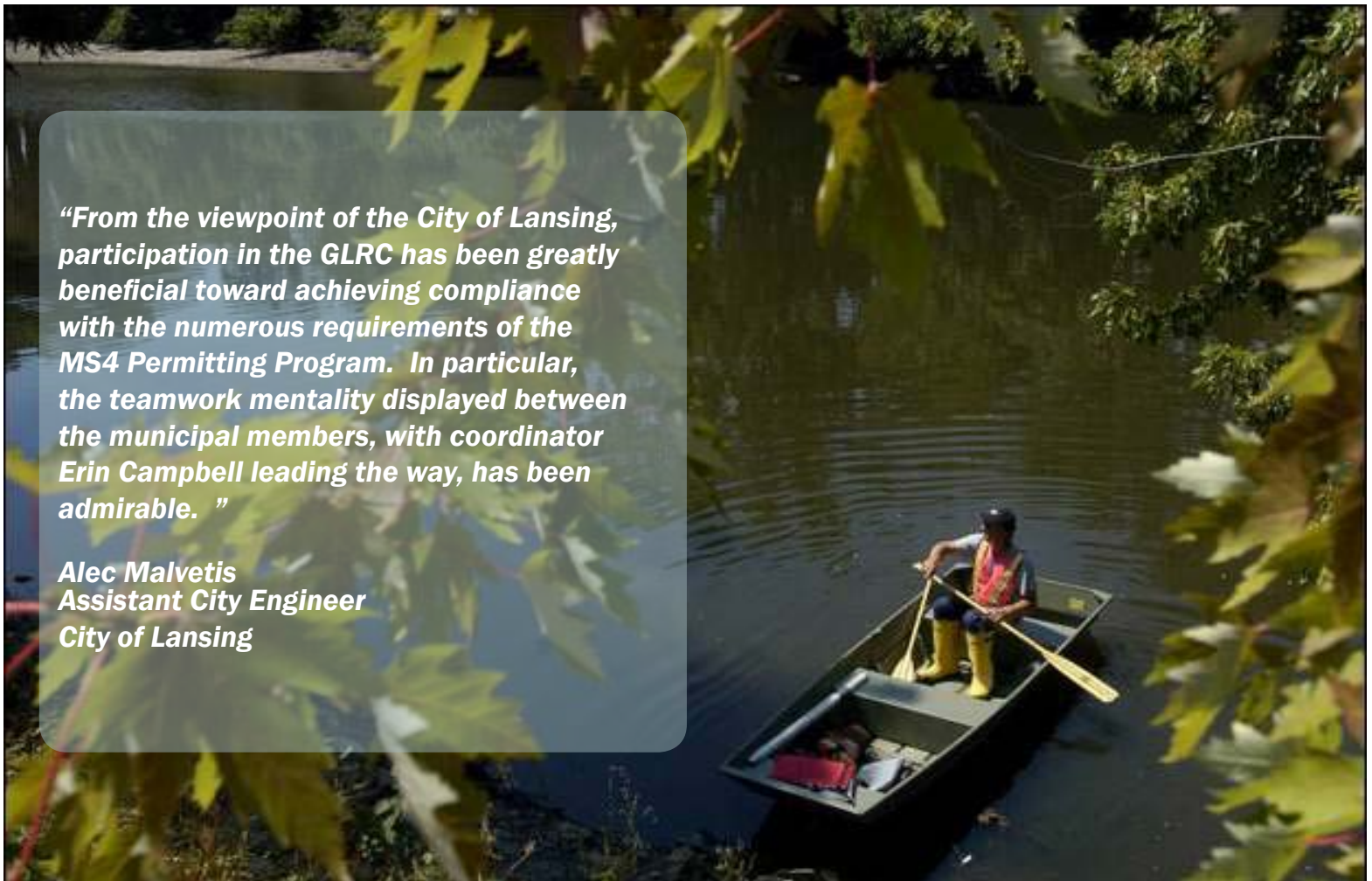
Training

Staff Training for Good Housekeeping and Illicit Discharges

The MS4 permit requires that municipal staff are given training on how to identify and eliminate illicit discharges and pollution prevention or good housekeeping techniques on municipal property. Staff training should be once per permit cycle with new hires being trained within the first year of hire. The GLRC offers two training videos to assist members with permit requirements. On May 28, 2015, MDEQ provided training to all GLRC members wishing to become certified or be recertified as an Industrial Stormwater Operator. On December 3, 2015, the GLRC hosted training for members' staff to accomplish requirements for both IDEP and good housekeeping.

“From the viewpoint of the City of Lansing, participation in the GLRC has been greatly beneficial toward achieving compliance with the numerous requirements of the MS4 Permitting Program. In particular, the teamwork mentality displayed between the municipal members, with coordinator Erin Campbell leading the way, has been admirable. ”

**Alec Malvetis
Assistant City Engineer
City of Lansing**



Educating Residents Watershed Wide



**Southern Clinton
County Municipal
Utilities Authority
Open House**
May 28, 2015
Erin Campbell

**City of Grand Ledge
Color Tour**
Oct. 6, 2015
Meredith Baker

Adopt A River
May 19, 2015
Erin Campbell
500 attendees

**Celebrate Our
Rivers, Michigan
Princess Riverboat**
Sep. 17, 2015
Over 130
attendees

**Water Quality
Awareness Week-
Open House, Delhi
Twp.**
May 13, 2015
Allen Bryant

**City of Lansing
City Hall**
Apr. 27 &
Oct. 27, 2015
Bill Brunner

**Michigan Water
Environment Association
Watershed Summit**
Mar. 25, 2015
Erin Campbell

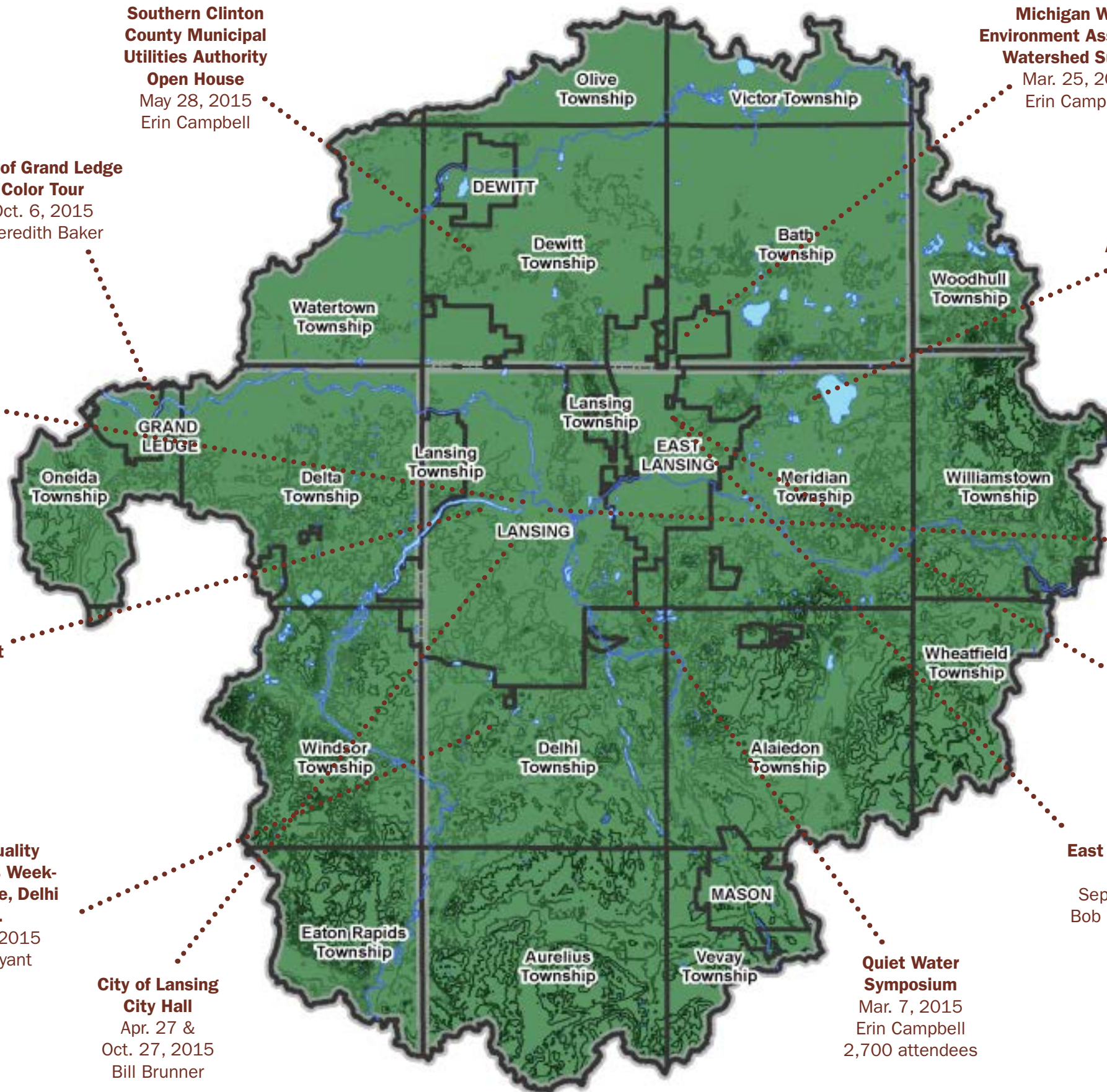
**Meridian Twp.:
Lake Lansing
Property Owners
Association Annual
Meeting**
Jun. 1, 2015
Younes Ishraidi

**Grand American
Fish Rodeo**
Jun. 12-13, 2015
Erin Campbell

**East Lansing
Hannah Center**
Sep.-Oct, 2015
Bob Scheuerman

**East Lansing City
Hall**
Sep.-Oct, 2015
Bob Scheuerman

**Quiet Water
Symposium**
Mar. 7, 2015
Erin Campbell
2,700 attendees



Public Education Efforts: Public Presentations

Jan. 22, 2015

Sustainability Symposium, Delta Twp.: Presented on GLRC and Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds (MGROW) activities at the TCRPC Sustainability Symposium, a celebration of the **Mid-Michigan Program of Greater Sustainability**. Over **100 people** attended.

May 1, 2015

Mid-Michigan Regional Meeting: Participated in a panel discussion with the **City of Lansing** to answer general stormwater questions at the **Michigan Environmental Council** Mid-Michigan Regional Meeting.

Jun. 23, 2015

Recognition: The GLRC Coordinator and TCRPC Senior Environmental Planner Erin Campbell was presented with the **Michigan Water Environment Association (MWEA) Watershed Management Professional of the Year** award at the MWEA annual conference.

Aug. 26, 2015

Kiwanis Club of Mason Golden K: Presented to the **Kiwanis Club of Mason Golden K** about stormwater management, GLRC mission activities, and what homeowners can do to reduce pollution. About **30 people** attended.

Sep. 23, 2015

Third Annual Ultimate Mid-Michigan Bus Tour: The TCRPC hosted an Ultimate Mid-Michigan Bus Tour for over **50 elected officials and others** to tour the region and learn about green infrastructure, downtown redevelopment, local farming initiatives, etc. The GLRC Coordinator shared the **importance of stormwater and natural resource management** on the tour.

Sep. 17, 2015

Celebrate Our Rivers: In partnership with the **Eaton Conservation District** and several others, GLRC participated in a Celebrate Our Rivers event on the **Michigan Princess Riverboat**. The GLRC Coordinator shared the message about the work our municipalities are doing to protect stormwater water and our local rivers. Over **130 people** attended.

Nov. 19, 2015

REACH Storm drain Awareness Project presented to TCRPC Commission: Shared the **REACH Studio Art Center** storm drain awareness project video with the **TCRPC Commissioners**. The teen participants were presented with a resolution of recognition for their efforts.



Others



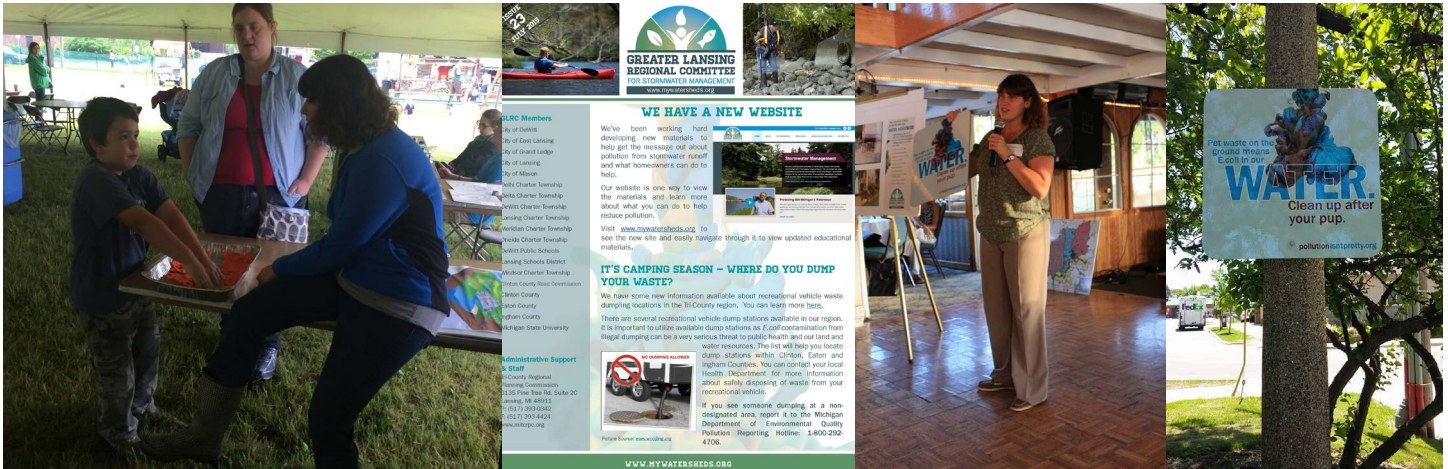
Movie Theater Ads

The GLRC worked with Clear Water Media to develop four 15-second public service announcements (<http://bit.ly/1SQoIVM>). The ads are used on social media, websites, and were shown at local movie theaters (Studio C, Celebration Cinema, and Regal Cinemas in the Lansing Mall) in October and November of 2015. In addition, the Charlotte Allive Center and Charlotte Public Schools Public Access channel shared the videos.



Tim Barron Radio Show

The GLRC Coordinator was on the local 92.9 FM WLMI Tim Barron morning show on March 16, 2015. Topics discussed included septic tanks, fertilizer use, leaf pick up, reporting spills, and overall awareness of our rivers and streams.



Pet Waste Signs

In partnership with MGROW and the ECD, the GLRC distributed 46 aluminum pet waste signs. The ECD distributed nearly 250 signs. Several signs have posted in parks, including the Lansing River Trail.

Fact Sheets

An RV Sewage Waste Disposal fact sheet (<http://bit.ly/10Azvt9>) describing locations for campers to dump their travel trailer waste was developed. In addition, the GLRC general fact sheet (<http://bit.ly/1g8hxTp>) provides an overview of the group and the six minimum measures required for compliance. The fact sheet was updated to utilize the PIP campaign.

GLRC Quarterly Newsletter

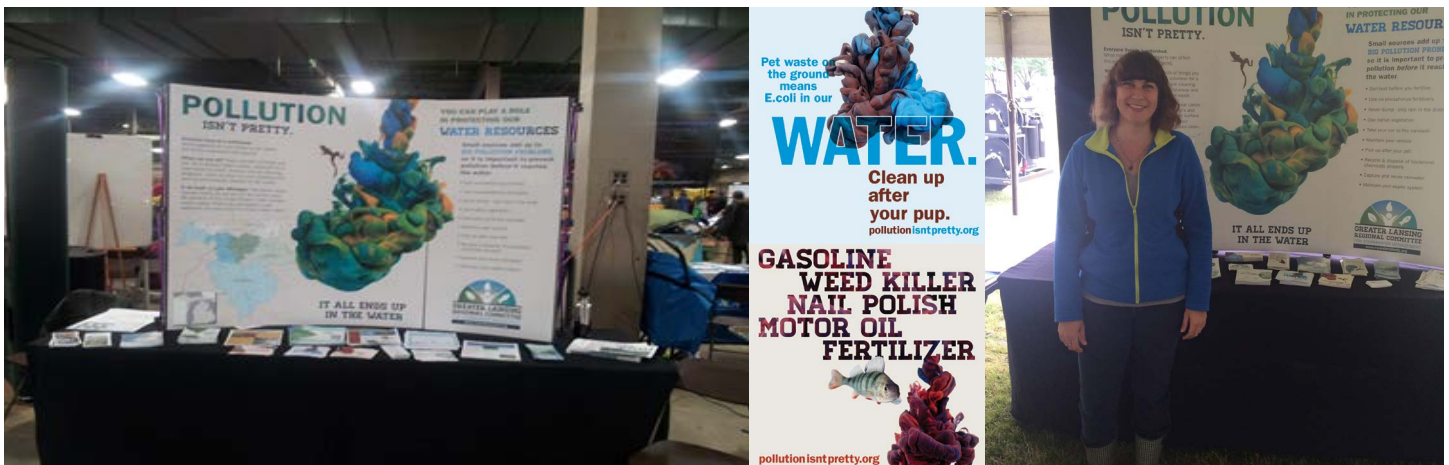
The GLRC began publishing quarterly newsletters in January 2010 and continues to do so. The newsletters are posted on the GLRC and TCRPC websites and are shared through email distribution to over 150 stakeholders. It is recommended that GLRC members share the newsletters with elected officials, appropriate boards, councils, and commissions.

GLRC Display

The GLRC utilizes a traveling watershed display for local workshops, conferences, and more. When the display is not in use for an event, it circulates throughout the region to GLRC member offices. Look for it at your local city hall, public works, and various locations around the region!

“Erin Campbell rocks!”

-PAUL PRATT
DEPUTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER
INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN
COMMISSIONER’S OFFICE



Working Together for Improved Water Quality

There are several watershed management efforts currently underway by local watershed groups. Each group has their own specific priorities, but the overall missions of these organizations are overlapping and related to working to improve regional water quality and management. The watershed groups collaborate on several different projects and efforts related to water quality improvements, recreational opportunities, pollution prevention and in general regional water resource management.

Watershed Management Plans

The Eaton Conservation District (ECD) and Michigan State University Institute of Water Research led the efforts in developing watershed management plans (WMPs) for the Middle Grand (<http://bit.ly/1nLPfAZ>) and Red Cedar (<http://bit.ly/1QV7dvn>) River Watersheds, respectively. These efforts are funded through federal 319 non-point source grants from the MDEQ. Both WMPs were approved by MDEQ and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2015. The WMPs focus on improving the quality of impaired water bodies. Both the Middle Grand and Red Cedar Rivers are not meeting water quality standards for *E.coli* and Dissolved Oxygen levels. Grant applications to implement the WMPs were submitted to MDEQ in the fall of 2015. The Eaton Conservation District will lead the Middle Grand WMP effort and the TCRPC will lead the Red Cedar River WMP implementation.

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission: Environmental Department Collaboration

In September of 2015, the TCRPC released the *Tri-County Water Policies & Program Guide* (<http://bit.ly/1MkM89w>). It is a unique effort that for the first time brought together experts in groundwater, drinking water, land use, surface water, and wastewater from Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties to examine in-depth how well the counties are working together to protect mid-Michigan's water resources. Experts reviewed everything from agriculture to wetlands and considered how each system and program is interconnected and interdependent. It is intended as an informational tool and guidance document for decision makers and the citizens of the Tri-County Region. Please visit <http://mitcrpc.org/env.htm> to download a copy of the *Tri-County Water Policies and Programs Guide*.

“The **GLRC** is our stormwater consultant and cost a lot less than a private firm. The uniformity in work products **from community to community** helps significantly when dealing with developers who work in several communities. GLRC has a better sense of what is required and **keeps the communities on par with each other.**”

-BOB SCHEUERMAN
ENGINEERING ADMINISTRATOR
CITY OF EAST LANSING



TRI-COUNTY WATER POLICIES & PROGRAMS GUIDE

www.mywatersheds.org

The website includes a significant amount of information relating to watersheds, stormwater stewardship, GLRC reports, educational information, links to other environmental organizations, local projects, recreational opportunities and much more. The website is maintained and updated on a regular basis. All public education outreach materials direct the viewer to our website so we can further educate them about pollution prevention.

The **website was updated** in the spring of 2015 with a new look and an user friendly design. The new website also utilizes the **Pollution Isn't Pretty (PIP)** campaign.

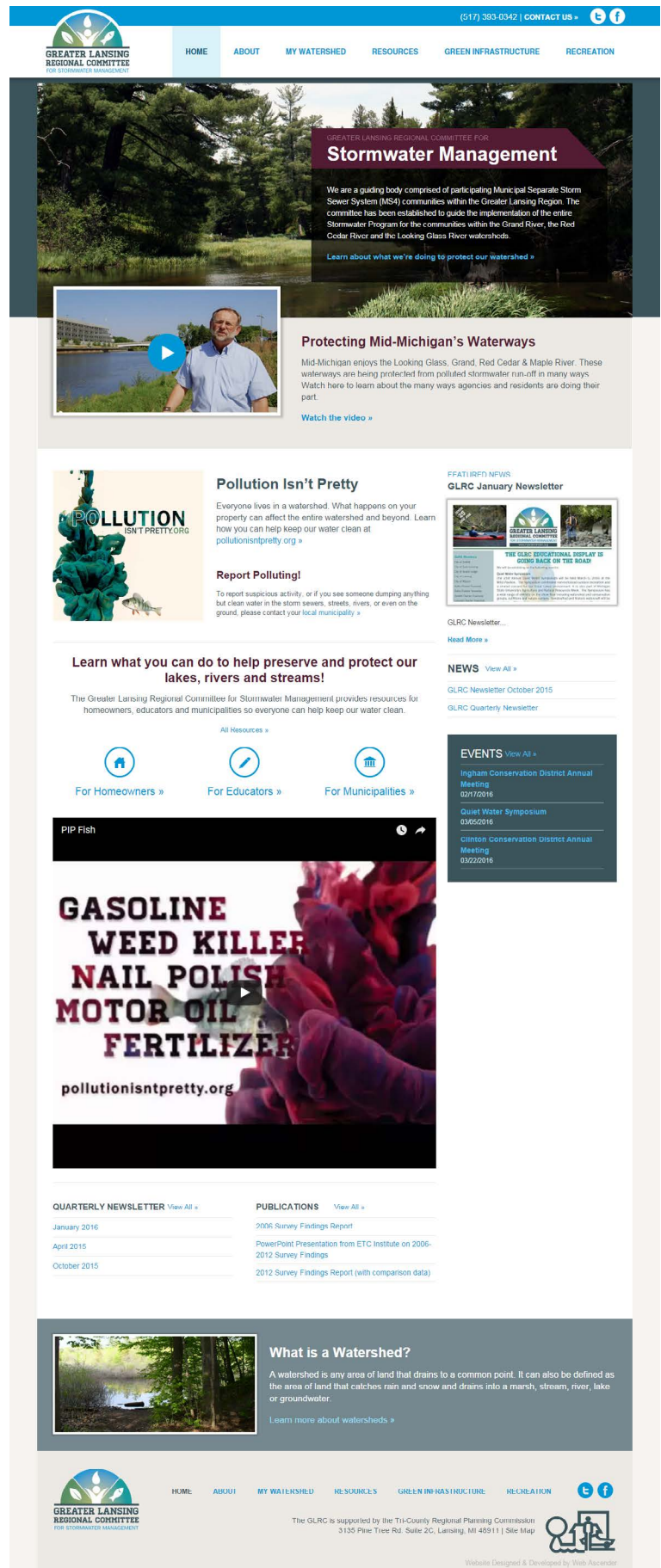
The PEP Committee reviews the website stats on a regular basis. In 2015, the website had **7,115 page views (and increase of 3,254 from 2014)** and **4,412 users (and increase of 2,674 from 2014)**. There has been a significant increase in website traffic with the new website re-design and our continued multimedia approach.

On July 30, 2015, a Website Workshop was held for GLRC members and their communication staff. The workshop provided information about what members should have on their websites for compliance and how the GLRC and community websites can link with each other and share in social media efforts.

Social Media Efforts

The GLRC joined Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GLRC4stormwater/>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/GLRC4stormwater>) in December 2009. Regular posts/updates are related to watershed stewardship, public involvement and participation. GLRC and partner events are also posted frequently. Currently, **113 people "like" the GLRC on Facebook (an increase of since 67 since 2013)** and we have **229 followers on Twitter (an increase of 212 since 2013)**.

The committee hopes to strengthen its presence through these avenues in the future. GLRC has started purchasing Facebook ads to boost messages directing people to the website.





“We can use **art** to help the environment.”

-JOY BALDWIN
PROGRAM DIRECTOR &
CREATIVE CONNECTIONS COORDINATOR
REACH ART STUDIO



Bringing Pollution Isn't Pretty to the Street...Literally

The GLRC and ECD partnered with the City of Lansing and the REACH Studio Art Center Teen Open Studio to complete four murals around storm drains in the urbanized area, near the Grand River. The GLRC Coordinator educated the teen artists on stormwater, how it is managed through the MS4, and why it is important to protect our rivers. There were many lessons learned as the GLRC has never been involved in a public art project before. Coordination between city staff, downtown groups, parks departments, and local businesses was a welcome challenge. The teens pushed through to complete the murals even while dealing with weather issues, public curiosity, and a host of logistical issues.

A video was developed to share the project (<https://youtu.be/HHU1VsXxnJ4>). The murals are expected to last approximately five to seven years with re-sealing. The teens were honored by the TCRPC with a special resolution of recognition for the project. Interest from other local municipalities is encouraging and the GLRC hopes to help create more storm drain awareness through public art in the future.



“The GLRC continues to demonstrate a successful **collaborative partnership** to address the impact of **urban stormwater pollution**.”

-CHRISTE ALWIN

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION-LANSING DISTRICT OFFICE



What it Took to Make This Happen

The REACH storm drain awareness project brought together over twenty teen artists, program coordinators, six agencies and departments, and elected officials.

The project has reached the public in a profound way. Anyone utilizing the Lansing River Trail from Old Town to downtown Lansing cannot miss these beautiful murals. One cannot help but to stop and admire the artwork, while gaining a message about protecting our land to reduce pollution from stormwater. Storm drains are a direct conduit to our rivers and the murals help the public understand that connection.

To learn more about REACH Studio Art Center and their upcoming projects and opportunities, visit their website, <http://www.reachstudioart.org>.



GLRC Plans for 2016...

- Continue to do radio interviews, public presentations, and quarterly newsletters, utilizing the Pollution Isn't Pretty campaign
- Final MS4 permits to be issued for all members
- Progress report will be submitted to MDEQ April 1, 2016
- Plan to address the *E.coli* water quality standards requirements for 2017
- Prepare for MS4 permit re-issuance; due the beginning of 2017
- Continue GLRC display use throughout the region
- Continue to conduct public education and collaborate with partners
- Coordinate efforts to celebrate the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's 60th year