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Joint conference on water shed problems to be held in the fall

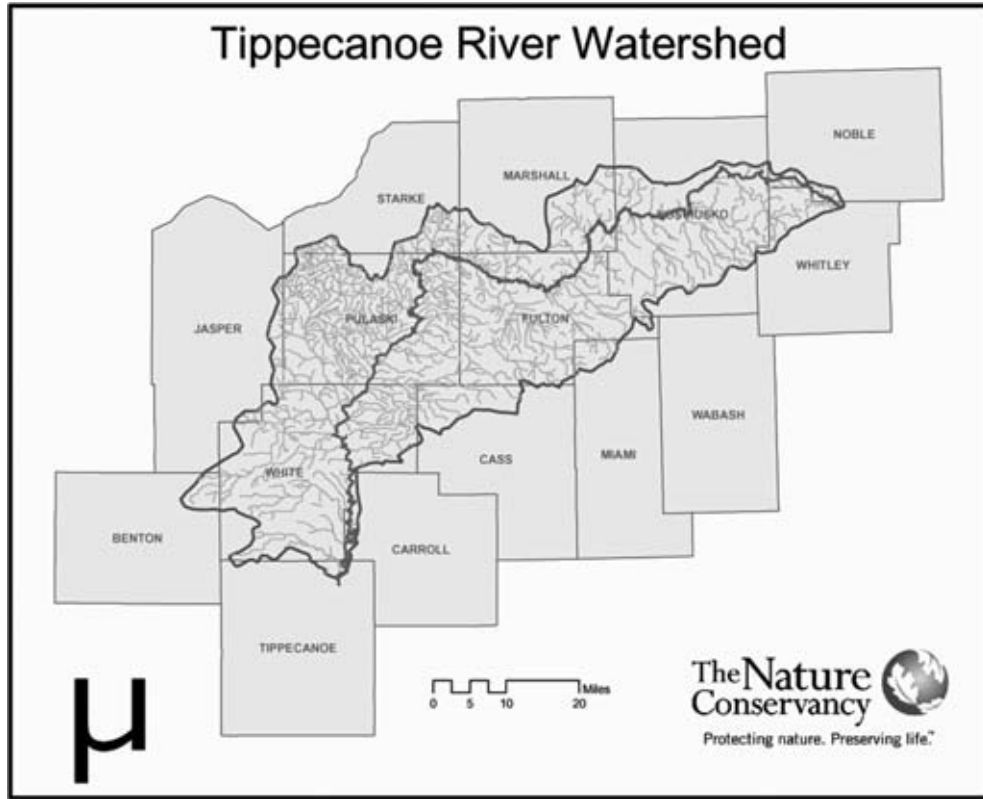
Comet staff report

Twelve representatives from five regional water and soil conservation environmental groups met recently in Monticello to discuss joint concerns related to the present and future state of the Tippecanoe River watershed and explore areas for cooperation. The meeting was organized and hosted by the Shafer and Freeman Lakes Environmental Conservation Corporation (SFLECC) and facilitated by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).

Also in attendance were representative from the Nature Conservancy, Arrowhead RC&D, Kosciusko County Lakes and Streams.

According to SFLECC President John Shellcrosslee, "We have several environmental organizations in the ten-county area that comprises the Tippecanoe River Watershed. Essentially they are all trying to do the same thing: protect and preserve our wonderful Tippecanoe River and its tributaries, Lakes Shafer and Freeman, and smaller lakes in the area. We engage in such activities as soil conservation to reduce runoff to the watershed, protection of the land from erosion, conservation of our forests and wildlife, removal of silt, and other programs to maintain our water quality. We at SFLECC felt it was high time that we at least find out who our counterparts in these organizations are, meet with them, and look at possibilities for cooperation, networking opportunities, future partnerships, data sharing and funding sources for innovative projects."

Chad Watts of the Nature Conservancy remarked that the Tippecanoe River is the eighth most important sys-



tem in the U.S. for its great diversity of aquatic species. The unique range of species of the mussel population in the river serves as an important barometer of water quality and should be protected, he said.

According to Watts "Certain species of mussels react differently to changing levels of water quality. Mussels need clean water to grow."

The meeting in Monticello was essentially an exploratory meeting to find out if furthering contact among the many regional organizations and other environmental organizations was warranted and of interest to those organizations present. After hearing presentations on the missions, goals, and present programs of the five organizations, the group discussed the many problems facing the ten-county watershed.

Among the problems and needs cited were: flood plain protection along ditches feeding into the

main watershed; forest cover to hold soil along the rivers; the need for more filter strips on farmland to reduce runoff; reducing the entrance of e-coli from poorly maintained septic systems, aquatic birds, and confined animal feeding operations; storm sewer overflows from large cities along the river; siltation of river and lake channels; trash and chemical pollution; and the need for more conservation education for young people.

The consensus from the meeting was that a survey to determine the missions, programs, networks, and concerns of those organizations present and other interested regional and state organizations should be completed and an initial, day long, conference to explore cooperation among the entities should take place. IDEM's NW Indiana Watershed Specialist Linda Schmidt agreed to develop and send out the survey. SFLECC volunteered to host a day-long

conference on Sept. 17 in Monticello.

The Tippecanoe River Watershed the following contiguous counties - Benton, Carroll, Cass, Fulton, Jasper, Kosciusko, Marshall, Miami, Noble, Pulaski, Starke, Tippecanoe, Wabash, White, Whitley. It includes several tributary rivers, Lakes Shafer and Freeman, and many smaller lakes.

The Shafer & Freeman Lakes Environmental Conservation Corporation was formed in 1992. It is a non-profit corporation whose mission is "to promote the welfare and enhancement of the Shafer and Freeman Lakes; the propagation of consistent and prosperous shore front management; and the reduction of siltation entering the lakes and accumulated siltation." The SFLECC Board of Directors meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the White County REMC except in January and February. Meetings are open to the public.



Timothy Banter to oppose McClain

Timothy J. Banter, Jr. filed to run as Democratic candidate for State Representative District 24. He will oppose incumbent Rich McClain in the fall general election.

Banter attended Stephen Decatur High School, a Department of Defense Dependent School, in Sicily, Italy, and graduated in 1993. He

graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science with a minor in law and society in 1998. He earned a bachelor's degree in social studies education in 2002.

He is an alumnus of Alpha Phi Omega (work service fraternity), Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society, Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, and a

Founding Father of the Purdue Chapter of Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity.

Banter served on the West Lafayette Traffic Committee and the Housing Appeals Board and worked as a Family Case Manager Investigator for the State of Indiana in Child Protective Services.

He was most recently paid staff for the Elect Hillary Clinton for President Cam-

paign. As field organizer he worked with and listened to voters in Cass, Grant, Howard, Huntington, Miami, Tipton and Wabash counties.

Banter says he understands the difficulties in trying to support a family, rising property taxes, the need for high paying jobs, rising gas prices, home foreclosures and affordable health care.

Looking Back

From the files of Hoosier Democrat, Delphi Journal, Journal-Citizen and Carroll County Comet. Photo provided by Carroll County Historical Museum.

10 YEARS AGO

Officials from the Town of Camden were in Indianapolis recently where they were awarded a Community Focus fund grant. The grant in the amount of \$500,000 will be used to construct a new water tower and a new water treatment facility. The new tower will hold 150 thousand gallons of water, which is three times the capacity of the current tower which is 72 years old.

Habitat for Humanity signs are rotating around the county to inform residents that committees are now forming.

Jay Dee Cree, Carroll County Coroner, has been elected president of the Indiana State Coroner's Association.

The Canal Days Festival took visitors back to an earlier time. Saturday's crowd was estimated as the biggest ever, in the 10-year history of the festival.

25 YEARS AGO

A sink hole was discovered on Lincoln Street in Flora as the street began sinking approximately two weeks ago. After four days of digging, it was determined that the sewer line has been gradually sinking due to quicksand, and a flowing well. The hole measures 17' deep and 30' wide. A new sewer line will be laid on a bed of stone to eliminate any future sinking problem.

An early morning fire destroyed a building in a quarter block area of downtown Delphi.

The building housed the



County officials, Delphi, 1907

Monroe Laundry and Cleaners, Farmer's Home Administration, Young's Culligan and Carroll County Soil and Water District Office. There were four apartments upstairs, three of which were occupied.

Origin of the fire is undetermined but reportedly is believed to have started by a window fan in the upper southwest apartment.

50 YEARS AGO

Eight hundred fourteen boys and girls have enrolled in the 1958 4-H Club program and are working on their projects to be completed for the 4-H Fair to be held at the Flora Community Park on July 28 to August 2.

Three hundred thirty-four have enrolled in agriculture and four hundred eighty in Home Economics. The Flora Community Club is now actually making plans for the annual 4-H Fair, selling space for the commercial exhibits

and making other plans.

75 YEARS AGO

The Great Western canning factory in Delphi started canning peas Tuesday. Because of the loss of peas in the flood in May which had been planted for the factory, it is thought the canning season here will last but about a week. The full force of workers hired during former seasons has not been employed his year.

Mrs. George Zimmerman, Lafayette, well known here, had an unusual experience when passing through Lebanon in her automobile. A snake thrown into the car by the wheels of a passing automobile, wrapped itself around her arm and sinking its fangs deep into her flesh. She stopped the machine, pulled off the snake, applied a tourniquet and drove to a Lebanon hospital.

Beer is now being sold at all places in Delphi, Pittsburg

and Cutler where licensed at 15 cents. Cutler offers two cold ones for a quarter.

100 YEARS AGO

A big celebration and horse show will be given on the streets of Burlington, Indiana, July 4th. There will be \$500 in premiums; plenty of fun and amusement all day, for both old and young; pie-eating contest; Teddy Bear balloon ascension at night. Exciting burro race; slow automobile race; band festival, fireworks and many minor amusements that will appear on the programs.

Horse show is open to all classes of horses, colts, light and heavy draft and general purpose horses. Spring colts will be shown in the forenoon. Judging guaranteed. Special premium for the bummiest turnout. Big attractions all day. Square deal for all competitors. Everybody invited.