(7/16/04 version)
WATERSHED ACTION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION: 2000
WATERSHED ORGANIZATION SURVEY RESULTS

This **survey (hyperlink to http://ecarp.osu.edu/**) was conducted as part of an OSU Environmental Communication, Analysis, and Research for Policy Working Group project (Report Series #EM2002) to explore the role of Ohio watershed groups in policy-making.   A questionnaire was sent to 136 self-identified watershed groups and 69 groups responded. The 69 respondents provided the following data.

Range of years in existence: 1 to 4 years (38% of groups); 5 to 10 years (28% of groups); 11 to 45 years (34% of groups)

Reason for group formation: area threatened by use/development (28 groups); agency/program encouragement (21 groups), public interest/pressure (9 groups); need for collaboration (6), uniqueness of area/to protect area (4 groups)

Who formed the groups: citizens/activists (25 groups); state or federal agency (16 groups); non-profit organization (9 groups); local government (8 groups), state legislature (1 group), and other (7 groups)

Who is participating in the groups: in order of decreasing frequency, citizens, state agencies, local agencies, federal agencies, environmental organizations, local businesses, local industries, non-governmental organizations, and other; types of stakeholders ranged from one stakeholder type in 15% of the groups to nine or more in 5% of the groups. 38% are composed primarily of citizens, 46% are a mix of public and private representatives, and 14% are composed primarily of agency representatives.

Geographic size of focus area: 1 to 299 square miles (36 groups); 300 to 999 square miles (14 groups); > 1000 square miles (5 groups)

Annual Budget: no budget (25 groups), less than $20,000 (16 groups), $20,000-75,000 (9 groups), and more than $75,000 (15 groups)

Annual Income Sources: local agencies and programs (55% of groups); state agencies and programs (51% of groups); federal agencies and programs (32% of groups); other (e.g.-membership dues, fundraisers, and donations; 50% of groups)

Issues and Problems of Concern: in order of decreasing frequency, water quality, private land use and/or management, general environmental degradation, urban/rural land use planning, public land use and/or management, fish and wildlife management/protection, lack of local

involvement, water supply/flow regimes, inadequate interagency coordination, ineffective management programs/laws, inadequate attention/funding given to problem, external impacts, and other

Goals: in order of decreasing frequency, education and outreach, **restoration, preservation/protection (hyperlink to applicable terms in definitions.html)**, group development/sustainability, promote/implement appropriate land use practices, develop/implement watershed action plan, stakeholder collaboration, research, recreational opportunities/access to resource, land acquisition, develop policy and regulations, watchdog, community development, and agriculture

Strategies to achieve goals (used either regularly or sometimes): in decreasing order of frequency, publication of newsletters, education, **stakeholder (hyperlink to applicable term in definitions.html)** involvement, monitoring, research, **restoration (hyperlink to applicable term in definitions.html)**, setting land aside, lobbying, letter campaigns, lawsuits/administrative appeals, initiatives/referendums

Barriers to achieving goals (ranked as significant or major): in decreasing order of frequency, **land use (hyperlink to landusejumppage.html)** practices, lack of financial resources, lack of time, lack of human resources, lack of awareness about watershed, inadequate **stakeholder (hyperlink to applicable term in definitions.html)** involvement, agency resource allocation/priorities, federal, state, or local laws, opposition from public/private sources, lack of technical resources, lack of data about resources, scientific uncertainty

Outcomes: in decreasing order of frequency, group development/survival, education and outreach, increased public awareness, improved communication/collaboration, development of management/action plan, changes in policy/regulations, lobbying/petitioning, land acquisition, research, **restoration (hyperlink to applicable term in definitions.html),** identifying issues, changes in land use practices, **protection/preservation (hyperlink to applicable term in definitions.html)**