

Focus Group Meetings

Compilation of Results

- **Property Owners** (11 participants)—March 19, 2007, from 7–9 PM at the Onekama Farr Center
- **Educators** (4 participants)—March 20, 2007, from 11 AM–12 PM at Onekama School
- **Agriculture and Land Developers/Managers** (13 participants)—March 26, 2007, from 9–11 AM at the Manistee County Road Commission Office
- **Natural Resource Managers** (14 participants)—March 26, 2007, from 2–4 PM at the Manistee County Road Commission Office
- **Local Government** (9 participants)—March 26, 2007, from 7–9 PM at the Manistee County Road Commission Office
- **Recreation, Tourism, Business and Civic Organizations** (7 participants)—March 27, 2007, from 9–11 AM at the Onekama Farr Center
- **Youth/Students** (15 participants)—May 22, 2007, from 10:30–11:30 AM at Onekama School (Mr. Hunter’s Earth Science class).
- **Community Forum** (38 participants)—May 29, 2007, from 7-9 PM at the Onekama Farr Center
- **Seasonal Residents** (35 participants)—June 28, 2007, from 7-9 PM at the Onekama Farr Center

Question 1: What are some of the things that you do in the watershed?

Property Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunt • Fish • Swim • Boat • Pick up garbage • Irrigate • Bird watch • Artesian wells • Cross-country ski • Camp fire • Recreate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden • Farm • Sail • Drink water • Plumbing/wells • Youth recreate • Sightsee • Golf • Drive • Snowmobile • Bicycle tours
Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach • Monitor water quality • Salmon in the Classroom • Service learning • School forests • Fish • Swim • Boat/sail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snowshoe • Cross-country ski • Farm • Hunt (deer, upland bird, ducks) • Wildlife viewing • Birders • Timber management

Question 1: What are some of the things that you do in the watershed?

Agriculture & Land Developers/Managers

- Recreate
- Farm/fruit farming
- Everything in the watershed has an impact
- Excavate
- Manage timber
- Alter the land
- Drink water
- Use septic systems
- Irrigate
- Use groundwater
- Swim
- Fish
- Boat
- Hunt
- Promote tourism
- Bike tours
- Hunt morel mushrooms
- Fertilize
- Apply pesticides and fungicides
- Gas and oil drilling and exploration
- Raise families
- Transportation
- Road maintenance
- Sewage disposal
- Commercial businesses

Natural Resource Managers

- Live here
- Regulate certain elements of it
- Boat
- Fish
- Swim
- Maintain roads and related structures (culverts, bridges, spillways, etc.)
- Dispose of waste
- Stock fish
- Get our water supply
- Drink it
- Award grants
- Enjoy aesthetics
- Send our kids to school
- Implement local zoning
- Implement state regulatory programs
- Store fuel
- Marinas
- Brine injection
- Pave
- Salt and brine roads
- Work/business
- Agriculture/farming
- Bird watch
- Hunt
- Raise livestock
- Educate
- Oil production
- Forestry practices
- Golf
- Development
- Fertilize/apply chemicals

Local Government

- Recreate
- Swim
- Fish
- Keep the water clean
- Agriculture/farming
- Fish reproduction
- Golf
- Schools/education
- Hunt
- Live
- Work
- Walk
- Exercise
- Look for mushrooms
- Boat
- Enjoy the natural beauty
- Color tour
- Go to Portage Point Inn
- Eat
- Real estate development
- Enjoy history of the area
- Volunteer
- Use beaches
- Cross-country ski
- Snowmobile

Recreation, Tourism, Business & Civic Organizations

- Boat
- Swim
- Watch sunsets
- Run businesses
- Beach walk
- Enjoy views
- Go to school
- Camp
- Cross-country ski
- Fish
- Ice skate
- Picnic
- Real estate sales/development
- Farming/agriculture
- Eat local produce and fruit
- Garden
- Get inspiration
- Bonfires
- Fireworks
- Use public access
- Enjoy music and other entertainment
- Paint lake scenes
- Photography
- Make a living
- Drink water
- Dispose of waste water
- Heat and cool houses/buildings
- Hunt

Question 1: What are some of the things that you do in the watershed?

Youth/Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm • Fish • Golf • Boat • Tube • Swim • Hunt deer and ducks • Garden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive • Go to school • Work • Drink water • Live • Snowmobile • Sled
Seasonal Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swim • Boat • Fish • Water ski • Jet ski • Snorkel • Walk beach • Enjoy woods and variety of trees • Enjoy views • Pick fruit and eat fresh produce • Bird watch • View wildlife • Go to Camp Tosebo • Go to Portage Point Inn • Refresh spirit • Keep coming back • Bike 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hike • Golf • Cross-country ski • Farm (organic) • Garden • Go to pier • Access Lake Michigan • Drink spring water • Watch stars • Appreciate clean air • Drive scenic roads • Enjoy small, safe, friendly community • Enjoy connection to arts • Go to hardware store • Eat out • Visit library
Additions from Community Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use wetlands to clean water 	

Question 2: What do you consider to be some of the biggest problems facing the Portage Lake Watershed right now?

Property Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution • Lawn fertilizer • Fertilizer and pesticides from agriculture • Septic tanks (potentially) • Road erosion • Erosion in general • Road salt • Overuse by fisherman and boaters • Past restorations gone bad (road repairs) • Deforestation • Population growth • Inability of aquifers to filter water as fast as the population is growing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemicals that enter aquifers without being filtered • Blight/garbage • Invasive species (zebra mussels) • Filling in wetlands • Storm sewer overflow • Government entities/regulations • Leaf burning • No public water system (potentially) • Beach garbage/cinders/broken concrete
Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population expansion • Old septic systems/those not maintained • Lack of sewer around lake • Total phosphorus • Farm runoff from manure and fertilizer (potentially) • Some cherry & apple farm fertilizers/pesticides (potentially) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of exotic species (increased clarity of lake) • Avian predators (cormorants) • Limited public access • Slant drilling under Portage Lake
Agriculture & Land Developers/Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well water quality (mud) • Suspected impacts of oil wells on water well • Unknown septic system conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unmanaged/mismanaged public access • Lack of enforcement resources (police) • Loss of public lands • Invasive weeds in lake

Question 2: What do you consider to be some of the biggest problems facing the Portage Lake Watershed right now?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive species • Aging of the lake • Building on wetlands • Lack of care for beaches • Low water levels • Not enough water quality monitoring • Shallow channel depth • Lack of understanding of hydrology leads to misuse of water • Uncapped wells • Lack of unity among lake property owners on goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertilizing (lawns, etc.) • Historical change in fish populations and increased weeds • Lack of job opportunities for youth and others • Lack of support for economic development in the watershed • Increasing barriers to access and views • Losing trees on ridge lines • Swans
Natural Resource Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Septic systems • Excess nutrients, fertilizers, pesticides • Exotic species • Fish disease • Shoreline development • Invasive species • Weed growth • Sustainable access through the channel • Lack of knowledge about impact of activities on water quality • Impact of land development/subdivisions on surface water runoff • Loss of wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development pressures to block views of lake • Quantity of storm water runoff • Atmospheric deposition • Lack of jobs • Need to manage tourism • Boater stewardship • Lack of land use management capacity • Increased boating • Reaching/educating tourists and seasonal residents • Abandoned wells • Potential for water withdrawal
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to dredge channel • Not enough/changes in fish stocking • Invasive species • Alteration of food chain by invasive species • Low water level • Development too close to lake • Development on wetlands • Waste disposal and septic systems • Run off • Not enough communication/collaboration among various local government agencies • Fertilizers • Boat/ship waste • Human abuse of environment • Threats to views of lake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough/adequate boater access • Lack of parking for access/boaters/users • No central water supply • Threat of water withdrawal • Uncapped wells • Overuse of lake • Over-harvest of fish • Overdevelopment • Rising taxes make it difficult for average people to live here • Change in demographics to an aging population and fewer young families • Some seasonal residents don't care • Lack of education • Some residents aren't open to change • Apathy
Recreation, Tourism, Business & Civic Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough public access • Exotic species • Lack of affordability • Need more families living here • Lack of economic opportunity • Lack of diversity • Weeds in the lake • Keeping the channel dredged • Complex/confusing multi-government regulations • Unknown future of school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete/accurate water quality data • Lack of resources and money • Lack of management of hydrology • Building on fragile environments • Lack of education for children and transplants • Lack of family-oriented facilities and access • Golf courses • Pesticides and herbicides
Youth/Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population growth • Development pressures • Waste entering watershed • Phosphorus levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive species • Presence of <i>E. coli</i> • Erosion (general and stream bank) • Lower water levels

Question 2: What do you consider to be some of the biggest problems facing the Portage Lake Watershed right now?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed growth • Fish disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of good jobs
Seasonal Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewage/E. coli • Invasive species (zebra mussels) • Weeds • Old trash in gulleys (abandoned cars, appliances, fuel tanks) • Oil and gas drilling • Uncontrolled development • Lack of enforcement • Lack of population diversity (age, race) • Not enough water quality monitoring • Lack of a single source of factual information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling “out of the loop” when not living in area • Lack of control because can’t vote • Communication challenges between community and seasonal residents • Not dredging/channel filling • Low lake levels • Lack of community drug store and gathering place • Unsightly building/blight • Runoff that carries nutrients and sediment
Additions from Community Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog waste on beaches and near lake 	

Question 3: What are some possible solutions to these problems?

Property Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulate boat launches for invasive species Use phosphorus-free/organic lawn fertilizer Educate public/watershed users/landowners Sewers Alternatives to road salt More people volunteering to help clean up roads/watershed in general Adopt forest management practices Zoning Ordinances Regulation Enforcement Apply for grants to assist with road repairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fix storm sewers to help with overflow Expand trash options—days and locations Recycle (encourage more people to do so) Leaf/branches/grass drop off (to be used in compost) Take advantage of hazardous waste disposal days Additional air and water quality monitoring Increase awareness of governmental regulations Beach maintenance/cleanup Water tower (what is the cost)? Clean Marine Program Paving eroding roads Additional, sensible zoning (township and village)
Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New/expanded/mandated hookup to sewer system Identification of problems Educating the public about identified problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional zoning and land use planning Use of the political process/legislation (federal, state, and local level)
Agriculture & Land Developers/Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update/develop township master plans Money Endowment(s) Community involvement Accurate facts and fact-based solutions Accurate information sharing with everyone Get information from MSU Extension/Conservation District-Agricultural (specific facts) Sharing information/educating community Organization/leadership/facilitation Outreach to stakeholders Conservation District Assist those interested in land protection efforts Lake-friendly lawn fertilizing Septic system ordinance Responsible development—maintain trees Options for sewage treatment needs Kill swans Land use planning/planned growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cluster developments Vibrant economy with jobs to support young families Increased and universal access to the watershed Predictive modeling (to determine impacts of land use on watershed) Enforcement Consistent application/enforcement of various regulations (especially wetlands) More/continued water quality monitoring Inventory uncapped wells Leveraging school resources Manage access Explore costs and benefits of alternative sources of energy (i.e., wind power vs. views) Economic development planning Messaging/branding Public marina Protect public lands Develop strategy for public lands and access Make best use of watershed for youth Manage for “total health” of the watershed
Natural Resource Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beet juice as an alternative to road salt Soy-based product as an alternative to road brine Reduce runoff from agriculture through education and voluntary Best Management Practices (BMPs) More land owner education through Groundwater Stewardship program (AmeriCorps) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of phosphorus-free fertilizer Citizen planner program/land use education Household hazardous waste collection Leverage and engage schools Monitor watershed Educate boaters about invasive species More marinas Educate visitors and seasonal residents

Question 3: What are some possible solutions to these problems?

Natural Resource Managers

- Zoning ordinance(s) with strict BMPs
- Central sewer system around the lake and/or clustered septic systems
- Storm water retention ponds
- Identify inadequate septic systems
- Increased boater stewardship education
- Clean Marina Program
- Maintain a riparian buffer strip along lake and streams
- Support state and federal legislation
- Invasive species management programs
- Develop a central hub for watershed information
- Continued/increased monitoring within the watershed
- Restoration of critical lake habitat
- Protect biodiversity

Local Government

- Fish stocking
- Effective zoning and enforcement
- Expand sewer system
- Protect feeder creeks and groundwater
- Have riparian owners leave/install buffer strips on riparian zones
- Community education
- Increase/continue use of local resources (Conservation District, Little River Band, MSU Extension, etc.)
- Money to support local government capacities
- Resources to enforce regulations
- Convene local units of government (provide food!) to discuss unifying goals
- County summits
- Attitude and behavioral change
- Educate seasonal population
- Fact-based communication
- Develop a “source” of good information
- More jobs
- Land protection and strategy
- Affordable housing
- Article in Michigan Township Association newsletter

Question 3: What are some possible solutions to these problems?

Recreation, Tourism, Business & Civic Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get money/resources • Come to consensus on goals and actions • Increase communication among stakeholders in the community • Community education—including adults • More community involvement • Political pressure (i.e., invasive species) • Positive social pressure to be a good watershed steward • Leverage existing communication opportunities • Provide family-friendly vacations/visits • Integrate water into school curriculum • Develop a paid summer student program and/or after-school program around water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a website • Planned growth • Establish an environmental ombudsman • Identify and follow best practices • Develop practical solutions • Develop effective/focused regulations to support the watershed • Establish a single source of factual information • Develop unifying, responsive plans among various units of local government (county, townships, tribe, village) • Dredge the channel • Provide accurate data/information
Youth/Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrading septic and/or sewer systems • Use alternatives to current land use practices (i.e.: use phosphorus free fertilizer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning ahead for population increase • Educating residents and visitors about watershed issues • Pick up waste and litter
Seasonal Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed control • Install buffer strips along shore and streams • Education about impacts of septic systems and fertilizer practices • Study current status of and options for sewage treatment (pros, cons, cost) • Promote low impact activities like canoeing, sailing, kayaking • Explore expanding mailing of “Grapevine” • Planned development/smart growth • Protect wetlands • Promote relationships to various watersheds (subwatersheds, Lake MI, Great Lakes Basin) • Clean up waste (use magnet) • Develop comprehensive web site including a web based composite of the health of the watershed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use tax bills to disseminate information • Build communication and collaboration among various groups working within watershed • Increase awareness of local amenities such as walk-in health clinic • Expand Onekama School’s water quality monitoring efforts • Build citizen capacity through periodic meetings related to watershed plan • Involve residents in water quality monitoring • Clean streets and storm drains in Village • Develop a plan to control oil and gas drilling and cap abandoned wells • Promote Monday night music program • Offer summer boat and bike rentals

Question 4: Have you ever had a conflict with other people who use the watershed differently than you do?

Property Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jet skiers and other water users • Sewer project (primarily cost concern, seasonal vs. permanent residents) • Clear cutting • Snowmobilers and other users • Private property rights vs. the greater good • Disagreement with certain development projects (those that block public views of lake) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor wood stoves • Noise pollution (car races) • Road ends as public access sites • Bicyclists and drivers (no bike lane) • With some governmental agencies (MDEQ critical dune designation and beach grooming)
Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisherman and other recreational users • Native American fishing rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewer (primarily cost concerns, those that have an existing functioning system, fears of population increasing if sewers are expanded)
Agriculture & Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind energy/aesthetics or views 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land developer/community relationship

Question 4: Have you ever had a conflict with other people who use the watershed differently than you do?

Developers/Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portage Point Inn and residents (complicated) Oil drilling and impact on well water (muddy) Agricultural practices and other uses (spraying, etc.) Interruption of well water supply (dry) Road use and maintenance Vandalism to land developer signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competing land use interests Enforcement issues/lack of capacity Need for building unity around community proposals Loss of trees due to development Guidelines for trees, etc., for developments (covenants)
Natural Resource Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sewers and septic systems Managing growth Wetland development/filling Property rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perceptions about water quality and problem sources Boating conflicts with jet skis Complexity/various/layers of government and regulations
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sewer and septic issue Personal water crafts (jet skis) and other lake users Boaters and no wake zones Seasonal users and permanent residents Trespassing on private property/public access adjacent to private property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of angler stewardship (keeping over limit, keeping undersized fish, disposing of unwanted species/size) Boaters/personal water crafts and swimmers People pressure—increasing population and use
Recreation, Tourism, Business & Civic Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Septic vs. sewer issue Growth vs. no growth Property rights vs. property regulations Regulatory conflicts and inconsistencies Misguided regulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public access and use Season residents and permanent residents Lack of factual information Agricultural practices that don't promote sustainable agriculture Golf courses as sources of pollutants
Youth/Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing vs. water skiing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water sports and water fowl hunting
Seasonal Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wounded water fowl Duck season/disruptive (sound, safety) Hunting season/difficult to walk and feel safe Large power boats/quiet time 4th of July activities start sooner and last longer Road end use for accessing the lake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over fertilization of property Projects that remain unfinished Commercial vs. private interests Wake in the no wake zone Public parking on private property Kids jumping off channel wall (drugs, drinking, no security or life jackets)
Additions from Community Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog waste and beach users Littering and beach users MDEQ Critical Dune designation and need to clear sand from parking lot and public access sites (Captain Langland Park) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not abiding by no wake zone in channel and other users Real estate development and trout streams

Question 5: Are there certain cultural, historic, or environmental sites or resources that you think should be protected?

Property Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little Eden well ALL parks Public access sites Views of the lake Farming/agriculture Centennial farms Beaches Gazebo at Portage Point Beach Marshes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creeks and streams Aesthetic quality of watershed Arts and culture (perhaps a museum in the future) Five registered historical sites in the watershed Historic homes Portage Point Inn Wildlife
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Question 5: Are there certain cultural, historic, or environmental sites or resources that you think should be protected?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality Health of EVERYTHING in the watershed (natural resources, people, economy, etc.)
Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Channel to Lake Michigan (dredge) Maintain Channel break walls North Point Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All parks and boat launches maintained and enhanced Maintain current or similar population densities
Agriculture & Land Developers/Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands Feeder streams Morals and values of community Access (both public and private (neighbors)) Lake water quality Beaches Channel Open space/agriculture Development density Portage Point Inn County fair grounds Artesian well Glen Park All parks and public access sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwater Historical artifacts Fisheries Fish stocking Sailing (and races) Charter boat industry Tribal resources City park and boat launch Rights of all people in the watershed Views and access Conservancy-owned land and access Schools General economy Commercial development/properties
Natural Resource Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands Feeder creeks Springs Artesian wells Groundwater Fish and wildlife/nature Lake (don't accelerate aging process) Dunes Aesthetics/views 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public access—all parks/beaches/boater access Fish stocking Fish and wildlife for consumption Schools Fair grounds Existing economic base Historical sites Water clarity
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portage Point Inn Glen Park All parks Beaches Public access locations Views Historic resources/places Registered historic places Centennial farms Fishery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeder streams Groundwater School Dunes Open space Orchards Agriculture Wetlands Access to lake Michigan through the channel
Recreation, Tourism, Business & Civic Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glen Park All parks Public access Fishery Feeder creeks Access to Lake Michigan through the channel Trails Historic buildings (including those that aren't officially historical) Groundwater Green space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees Air quality Surface water quality Wetlands Wildlife Tourism Schools Library Camps County fair grounds
Youth/Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public access Farms/agriculture Timber 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishery Clean water Green space

Question 5: Are there certain cultural, historic, or environmental sites or resources that you think should be protected?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views of lake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water level
Seasonal Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the remaining sand roads as sand (rural character) Artesian wells Springs and wetlands Green space along lake Glen Park, Village Park, all parks Lake water quality Views 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beaches Items listed in Question 1 (How do use the watershed?) Fair grounds Walk-in health clinic Eagle nests (not sure where located)
Additions from Community Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timber line around watershed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of historic and ancient shorelines of Portage Lake and Lake Michigan

Question 6: How do you get most of your information about the Portage Lake Watershed?

Property Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many people do not read the paper or listen to the radio (could include something with tax bills) Newsletters (<i>Portage Point Grapevine</i>) Portage Lake Association website and links Internet (everyone at meeting used Internet) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA website Word of mouth DNR
Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Past studies of Portage Lake and its watershed Data the school/students collected (water quality monitoring) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village and Township meetings Word of mouth DNR DEQ
Agriculture & Land Developers/Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rumor Innuendo Township minutes <i>Grapevine</i> (should adopt concept to whole community) Mike Acton Portage Lake Association and website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Onkama Township Planning Commission/Master Plan Manistee Conservation District MDEQ NOAA Onkama School water quality monitoring reports
Natural Resource Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MDEQ Little River Band of Ottawa Indians MDNR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manistee Conservation District People who use the watershed Soil mapping (USDA)
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community meetings Local government meeting minutes Mike Acton Conservation District MSU Extension DNR DEQ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA NOAA <i>Manistee News Advocate</i> Other ideas on how to reach people (mailings, brochures, contact with property owners, other townships, media/newspaper relations, public access channel, websites, radio, thematic signage ["Entering Portage Lake Watershed"])
Recreation, Tourism, Business & Civic Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mike Acton Public meetings Newspaper Bulletin boards Internet/community websites Library Local government meeting minutes Michigan Land Use Institute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy Portage Lake Association <i>Grapevine</i> Realtors MDEQ Township offices Manistee County offices

Question 6: How do you get most of your information about the Portage Lake Watershed?

Youth/Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water quality monitoring• Past reports and studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Hunter and other teachers• Internet and web sites
Seasonal Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portage Point Summer Resort Corporation "Grapevine"• Word of mouth (hardware store)• Library• Portage Lake Association newsletter and web site• Mike Acton• Email• Portage Lake Garden Club• Homeowner/subdivision meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• News Advocate• Health Department• Township and Village meetings and minutes• Tosebo News Chain• Other ideas on how to reach people (a web site is needed, enclosure with tax bills, extend cable internet, Village posting board, post office)

Question 7: Are there certain sources of information you consider more trustworthy than others?

Property Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Acton • US Army Corps of Engineers • DNR • DEQ (Mike Stifler, Brian Myers, Brad Slater) • Manistee Conservation District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colleges/universities • Fisheries researchers • Health department • Avid fishermen
Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past studies • Data the school/students collected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNR • DEQ
Agriculture & Land Developers/Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking for info that is relevant and complete, not obsolete or conflicting • <i>Grapevine</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDEQ, MSU Extension, Conservation District (but there are limitations based on money/resources)
Natural Resource Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All are trusted, but there is no central source for fact-based information 	
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All are trusted, but there is no central source for fact-based information 	
Recreation, Tourism, Business & Civic Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All are trusted, but there is no central source for fact-based information 	
Youth/Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All are trusted, but there is no central source for fact-based information 	
Seasonal Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All are trusted, but there is no central source for fact-based information 	
Additions from Community Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All are trusted, but there is no central source for fact-based information 	

Question 8: Imagine the Portage Lake Watershed 50 years from now (2057)—what do you want it to look like?

Property Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer weeds • Not a lot different • Same or higher water levels • Improved property values • More parks/public access • Want to be able to view the lake as drive around • More trails (bicycle tours/walking/hiking) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still has trees • More paved roads (less clay, dirt, erosion) • Better zoning • Lake still takes on colors of the sky • Keep abundant wildlife • Economic opportunities—place for future generations to work and live • Proper/sufficient infrastructure
Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot like it is right now 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned growth and development including green space, views of the lake, all interests are engaged and benefit
Agriculture & Land Developers/Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress • Unity • Lake aging at a natural pace • Sewers • Stakeholders focused on common good of lake • Land preservation plans • Thriving fishery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs (diverse) • Entrepreneurs • Protected and wisely planned community • Good neighbors • Good views • Support for businesses that fit watershed goals
Natural Resource Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public access is sustained • Views of the lake • The habitat supports fish and wildlife • A universal access boardwalk • Access for all types of activities • Excellent fishery • Clean, fresh drinking water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open space • Central sewer system • Enforcement • High water quality • Strict, enforced zoning ordinance(s) • Healthy, outstanding schools with water curriculum

Question 8: Imagine the Portage Lake Watershed 50 years from now (2057)—what do you want it to look like?

<p>Local Government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like it is • Clean water • Natural setting • Protected fragile environments • Quality fishing • Quality swimming • Sustainable community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools • Families • Forests/woods • Not over-populated/developed • Open space protection • Protected parks
<p>Recreation, Tourism, Business & Civic Organizations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar landscape • Abundant water • Healthy water quality • Jumping fish (but no Asian carp) • Views of the lake—not blocked by condos • Lots of condos • Vistas • More trees • Enhanced parks • Enhanced streetscapes • First-class school • Multi-generations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-generational activities • Deep channel to Lake Michigan • Viable, year-round businesses • Continued fish stocking • Lack of exotic species • Big yachts in Portage Lake • Healthy, vibrant tourism economy • Vibrant cultural focus • Bible camps • Jobs • Attractive lighthouse
<p>Youth/Students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better than now • Safe for swimming • Better fish populations • Good plans in place • Sewer system around lake • Farms and agriculture still present • More entertainment for youth • Well paying jobs • Timber industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No litter or waste • Clean water • More greenspace • Maintained water level • Same amount or more public access sites • Keep the woods that we have now • Views of the lake – not blocked by condos
<p>Seasonal Residents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open space • No dilapidated buildings • Universal access • Rural feel (farms, orchards) • Historic restoration • Thriving business community • Affordable housing • Young families • More enticing employment for young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good schools • Emergency first aid • Clean lake • Village has progressed with planning • Safer bike and walking paths along roads • More bicycles and fewer cars • Future generations hold community meetings to discuss managing growth and development
<p>Additions from Community Forum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good air quality 	