1st Quarter Update Sara Peel

The first draft of the Upper Sugar Creek watershed management plan (WMP) was submitted to IDEM on February 16, 2022. The draft was sent to the steering committee for review concurrent with this submission and will be posted to the project website. Watershed inventory efforts began this quarter with steering committee members completing 4 of 29 targeted inventory areas. Additionally, targeted discussions with county surveyors regarding legal drains and with the Lebanon MS4 coordinator about stormwater impacts to the Upper Sugar Creek Watershed occurred this quarter.

The Quality Assurance Project Plan, or QAPP, (report required before chemical water testing can be started) was submitted to IDEM on December 13, 2021 and approved on January 7, 2022. Water chemistry monitoring occurred on January 26, 2022 and will occur monthly thereafter. Biological monitoring is scheduled to start in July 2022.

The Upper Sugar Creek steering committee met on January 19, 2022, with the goal of kicking off the project and engaging stakeholders in all aspects of the project. The first public meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2022 - promotion of this meeting occurred this quarter and will continue into the next quarter. The project website was created on the Montgomery County SWCD website and has been updated several times since its creation. The Montgomery County SWCD social media will be used to promote the project and has been updated eight times with information relevant to the project. The Upper Sugar Creek informational brochure has been reviewed by the steering committee and was printed this quarter. Distribution will occur in subsequent quarters. Hoosier Riverwatch training is scheduled for the next quarter.