

Upper Sugar Creek Watershed Project  
5th Quarter Update: November 18<sup>th</sup>- February 17<sup>th</sup>  
Sara Peel, Arion Consultants

The third draft of the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) was submitted to IDEM on February 13, 2023. Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF) preliminary runs are complete. The data needs to be field checked and pushed out to conservation partners. These activities will occur in the next quarter.

Water chemistry monitoring occurred on December 21, 2022, this quarter and was the final session. Macroinvertebrate community identification is complete and the species list and IBI, mIBI, and QHEI data are included in the most recent draft of the Watershed Management Plan.

The Upper Sugar Creek steering committee met on January 24, 2023, and reviewed stakeholder concerns then discussed problems, causes, and sources. The Recreation Listening Session occurred on January 24, 2023, with 38 people in attendance. Comments and responses are being compiled and will be incorporated into the WMP. The project website was updated within 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 22 times with information relevant to the project during this quarter. The Upper Sugar Creek informational brochure continues to be distributed including at the farmer listening session and at high profile locations. The SWCD newsletter was distributed in December 2022 and contained an update on the Sugar Creek project. A press release promoting the Recreational Listening Session was sent December 10, 2022. The social survey mailing occurred this quarter and will continue into the next with the first letter mailed January 3, the first survey mailed January 10 and the postcard mailed January 24, 2023. The second survey mailing occurred on February 7 and the final reminder letter will be mailed February 21, 2023. As of February 5, 2023, 108 survey responses have been received from 459 sent with quality addresses for a response rate of 24%. Boone County SWCD held a cover crop/regenerative ag workshop on February 1, 2023. Plans to launch farmer meetings revolving around ACPF data outputs are underway - this will occur in the next quarter.