

Mission Statement:

To increase awareness that water quality is directly linked to the use of appropriate wastewater systems and their management.



2006 Annual Report

Northwest Michigan Onsite Wastewater Task Force 501(c)3

www.michigan-onsitewastewater.org

William Crawford, Chair

Dendra J. Best, Executive Director

PO Box 792, Traverse City MI 49685-0792

Tel: (231)233-1806



It is with great appreciation of all those organizations and individuals who have contributed to this Northwest Michigan Onsite Wastewater Task Force collaborative that I present our 2006 Annual Report.

During 2006, we continued to operate under the generous auspices of the Joyce Foundation. Through their support we were able to undertake initiatives which strengthened both our organization and awareness of the importance of appropriate water resource management and education within this region.

Building awareness of the integral inter-relationship of our pristine northwest Michigan natural environment with our immediate need to plan for, and manage, growth and water resources is our purpose.

“Water For Life” is USEPA’s mantra. The choices we make of the footprint we leave impact both present and future quality of life for this region. The goal of Northwest Michigan Onsite Wastewater Task Force is to provide and promote education; to create an informed citizenry; to present the many options for utilizing new wastewater technology; to disseminate knowledge of system operations and maintenance; to publicize community infrastructure options; to imprint that water is a renewable, recyclable resource and should never be wasted.

William Crawford, R.S. Board Chair

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2007 Board

- **Chair:** William Crawford.
Director Benzie-Leelanau Health Department
- **Vice Chair:** Peter Read. Century 21 Real Estate.
Traverse Area Association of Realtors
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** Krysti Baker.
Zoning Administrator Green Lake Township
- **2007 Board Members**
 - Scott Kendzierski. M.S., R.E.H.S. .Director of Environmental Health Services The Health Department of Northwest Michigan
 - Madeline Houdek - Secretary Michigan Septic Tank Association
 - Richard Courson R.S. - District Health Department #10, Kalkaska,
 - Patrick Donovan R.S. - MDEQ Field Specialist, Environmental Science and Services Division, Cadillac District Office.
 - John C. Sych, AICP Planning Director Grand Traverse County
 - Grenetta Thomassey. Policy Director
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

Staff

- Executive Director: Dendra J. Best.

In 2006 the Board reluctantly accepted the resignation of Past Chair John Kelley who has left the State, and Kelly Hon Michigan Rural Water Association who has moved to Lansing.

We Serve

The area covered by four regional health departments



The Vision of this 501(c)3 Task Force is that through our leadership in wastewater education and community partnership creation, every individual in NW Michigan will want to accept responsibility to be an informed steward of regional water resources.

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During 2006 NWMOWTF engaged in lengthy organization strategic planning.

Founded originally to press for wider regulatory acceptance of advanced technology onsite wastewater systems, we have found our regional collaborative service approach increasingly requested for education activities at all levels.

The real barrier to widespread acceptance of onsite wastewater solutions for business, community and individual homeowner lies in the need to provide consistent and credible evidence to support the position of:



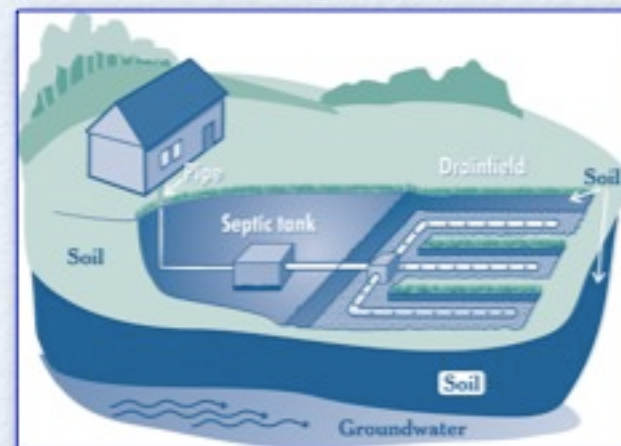
EPA's VISION

Decentralized wastewater treatment systems are appropriately managed, perform effectively, protect human health and the environment, and are a key component of our nation's wastewater infrastructure. [Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems: A Program Strategy. EPA 832-R-05-002, January 2005]



Identified Education Goals

- ▲ General Public
- ▲ Local Government
- ▲ Regional stakeholders
- ▲ Regional partners
- ▲ Builders and Developers
- ▲ Waste Service Providers
- ▲ Community environmental groups
- ▲ Engineering industry



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• General Public Education

In 2006, NWMOWTF served 6,728 unique visitors to our web site with 63,012 page views.

We published the first of a planned annual magazine inserted into 17 county regional newspapers. The 12 page "Water To Waste", had a 135,000 print run.

Purpose:

i) to create a reference publication providing a broad range of water/wastewater education articles aimed at all sectors of our service area, and
ii) to create a publication which focuses attention on watershed based, regional management of all water and wastewater resources as part and parcel of sustainable environmental protection for northwest Michigan.

2006 edition is available as a PDF from our web site.

2007 edition is set for publication in May:
"Saving \$ = Making Sense."

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**Published in part with support from
The Joyce Foundation**

Water To Waste

Water is
our most precious resource -
the basis of all life on Earth.
Every day we consume, and waste
more - especially in the USA.

Here in Northwest Michigan
this collaborative Task Force
seeks to ensure that water is not **'wasted'!**

Plain common sense, a small change in how we use water, and some basic knowledge
of the technologies available can return clean, recycled water to the environment.

Are you a property owner, a developer or a community leader?
In this Annual publication our goal is to create an awareness of the connection
between clean drinking water, safe recreational and surface waters with appropriate
application and implementation of sound wastewater treatment solutions.

Image courtesy of
Angela Langley ©2006

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• K-12 Education

During March Ground Water Awareness Week, NWMOWTF partnered with Village of Bear Lake Wellhead Protection to present materials and programming to Bear Lake Schools. Funded in part through a grant from Manistee County Community Foundation, students learned the connections which form the Water Cycle and how all water on the planet is recycled.

A series of hands-on experiments lead students through seeing the difference in soils, porosity and permeability; how storm water runoff impacts water quality downstream; rain gardens and wetlands; nonpoint source pollution; what an aquifer and groundwater is; where drinking water comes from and how it gets to the tap; ways to conserve water use; how a septic system works; how a modern toilet works.

After learning the connection between drinking water, storm water and wastewater, students spent a half day becoming planning and zoning officials; brainstorming the proposed development of "Dragonfly Pond" [a MSU Junior Citizen Planner exercise.] And the Junior Class participated in the EPA Tabletop exercise "Disaster Preparedness for a Water Emergency."

Each student had the opportunity to enter a poster competition and to draw a placemat which was then distributed to local restaurants.



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• Local Government Education

Distributed a comprehensive education package of onsite system resource materials to all units of government in Manistee County through a matching grant from Manistee County Community Foundation. Manistee County has now formed a committee to develop a Point of Sale Septic Inspection Ordinance.

Named as stakeholder for realizing enVision Manistee County.

Hosted a MDEQ workshop on the availability of S2 Strategic Water Quality Initiative Grant funds and the process for application.

Benzie County Responsible Management Project translated to a MI DEQ S2 grant award of \$45,000.00.

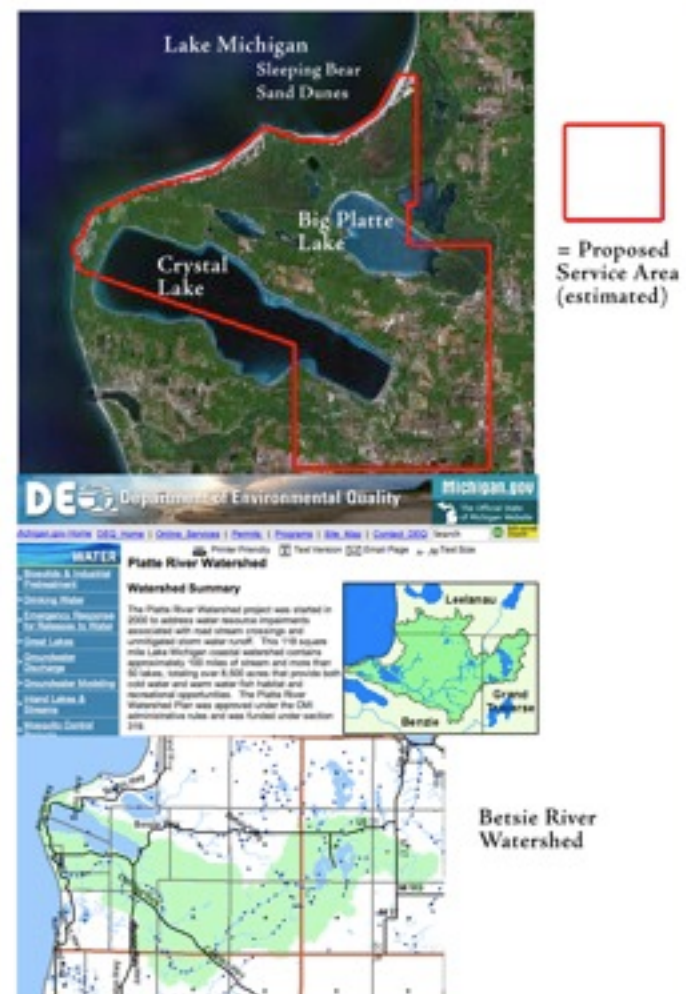
Benzonia and Lake Township, in Benzie County, entered into an Interlocal Government Agreement to create a Project Plan for replacement, repair or upgrade of onsite systems for up to 2400 properties.

Thus far 171 property owners have expressed an interest in participating.

*Community options for better living on
Crystal & Platte Lake*

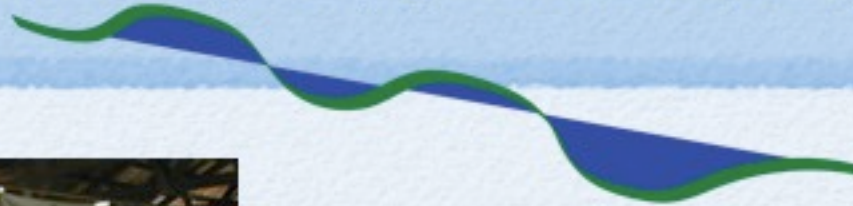
*Benzie-Leelanau District Health Dept. &
NW MI Onsite Wastewater Task Force*

(231)233-1806 for more information



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2006 Board Chair William Crawford (seated right)
Director Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department
at the Michigan Energy Fair



• Regional Stakeholders and Partners

- Participated in League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Forum, held at Benzie Central High School.
- Executive Director Dendra Best has been appointed as MI delegate to LWV Lake Michigan InterLeague Organization - a collaborative of Leagues from Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois and Indiana.
- Region V EPA Collaborative Onsite Wastewater Team Member.
- Continued progress on conducting a regional wastewater infrastructure survey and cost-benefit analysis comparison in partnership with Northwest Michigan Council of Governments.
- Planning committee and exhibitor of the first MI Energy Fair.
- Purchased Elluminate web conferencing 22 Seat License.
- Produced webinar in conjunction with National Wildlife Federation.
Available as a recording on www.michigan-onsitewastewater.org

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• Professional Community

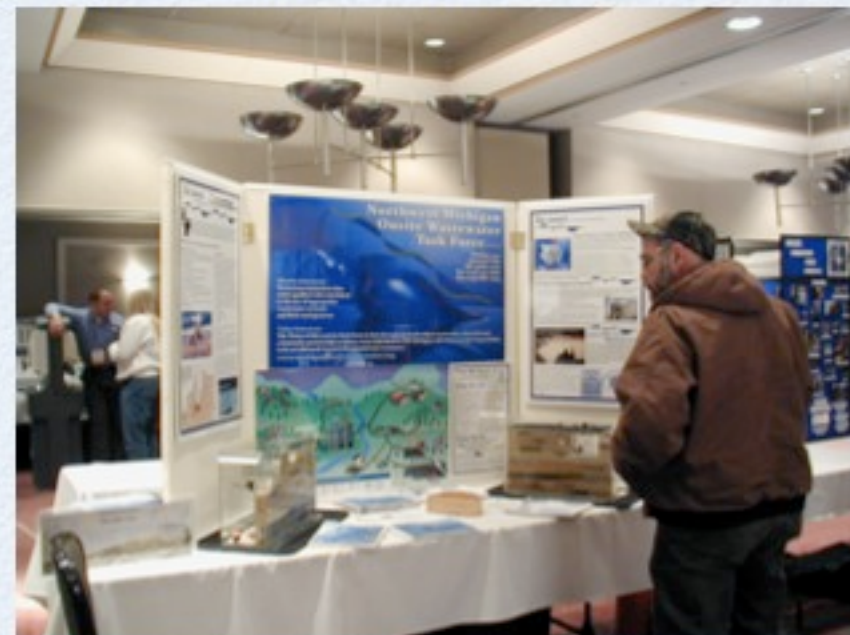


Executive Director attended National Environmental Services Center at West Virginia University Environmental Training Institute for Small Communities© in Morgantown, West Virginia; taking the following courses;

- **Assessing Wastewater Options:** an overview of wastewater treatment options for communities with 10,000 or fewer people; to assess community needs and resources, select and work with consulting engineers, understand regulatory requirements, choose appropriate wastewater technologies, identify financing options, and ensure on-going system viability.
- **Working Effectively in Small Communities:** encourages successful relationships between consulting engineers and small community personnel; making engineers aware of the social, political, and economic challenges of small communities; strategies for managing small community projects, the concept of appropriate small community technologies, potential funding sources, and maintaining project viability.
- **Measuring Impact/Outcomes:** to document the effectiveness of their work, this course for assistance providers outlines strategies and procedures to document the outcome and long-term impact of their projects and programs. It also provides an overview of the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART)



Paper presented by Board Chair, on Benzie County community education and wastewater management project, to 2006 National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association Denver conference.



Paper presented by Board Chair, and Exhibit at 2006 Michigan Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association conference.

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• Organization Development

During 2006, NWMOWTF undertook a comprehensive strategic planning process facilitated by Wanda Joseph. Utilizing Michigan Nonprofit Association capacity building templates, our organization identified both opportunities and obstacles to sustainability.

2006 created a framework for long term viability. A match was achieved for \$25,000 in operating support from the Joyce Foundation.

NWMOWTF was able to appoint its first Executive Director - Dendra Best - who has been the organization administrative anchor and nonprofit manager from 2003. While acting as Board Secretary, Best ensured an Annual Audit and IRS990 filing, developed and managed programming, wrote successful grant applications. As our new Executive Director, Best has now left the Board.

2007 is the 5th. year of operation and the end of our 501(c)3 probationary period. A series of Goals and Objectives will fulfill the redefined Mission Statement:

To increase awareness that water quality is directly linked to the use of appropriate wastewater systems and their management.



Wanda Joseph

Northwest Michigan Onsite Wastewater Task Force

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	A	B	C
1		2006 BUDGET	
2	INCOME 2006	Current Balance on Account 01/01	
3		General Operating	\$9,901.00
4		MCCF Grant	\$1,181.00
5		Joyce Deliverables	\$60,886.61
6		Joyce Restricted	\$25,099.00
7		TOTAL Income 2006	\$97,067.61
8			

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
8								
9	Expenses							
10	General Operating							
11	701	General Administration Services			JOYCE	Grant ID#27430	2006 BUDGET	
12	701:001	Board per diem	\$1,899.00		701	General Administration Services		
13	701:001.1	Admin stipend Secretary(review quarterly)	\$3,000.00		701:004	Conference Fees	\$565.04	
14	701:001:2	FICA, MESC, FUTA	\$402.00		727	Office Supplies		
15	701:002	Telephone	\$1,000.00		727	Office Supplies	\$219.23	
16	701:003	Memberships	\$750.00		727:001	Equipment	\$597.00	
17	701:004	Conference Fees	\$650.00			TOTAL	\$816.23	
18	701:005	Lodging	\$1,000.00		728	Postage	\$568.94	
19	701:006	Meals			801	Professional /Contractual		
20	701:007	Misc. (parking fees etc.)			801:003	Insurances	\$1,100.00	
21		727 Office Supplies			801:004	Legal	\$2,432.02	
22		728 Postage				TOTAL	\$3,532.02	
23		801 Professional /Contractual			802	Program Expenses		
24	801:002	Audit	\$1,200.00		802:001	Technical Services	\$11,400.00	
25		TOTAL	\$9,901.00		802:002	Public Outreach workshops	\$1,138.19	
26	GRANTS				802:003	Onsite Education	\$1,869.31	
27		MCCF	\$1,181.00		802:004	Community water well tests	\$7,835.00	
28					802:005	Web site development	\$1,553.14	
29					802:006	Monitoring of Benzle advanced systems	\$2,364.00	
30					802:007	NWMCOG Infrastructure Report	\$14,942.06	
31					802:010	On Line webcasts	\$6,750.00	
32					802:011	RME Community Planning	\$2,252.68	
33						TOTAL	\$50,104.38	
34					900	Printing and Publishing		
35					900	Printing	\$1,000.00	
36					900:002	Printing and Publishing - Co-Ops	\$4,300.00	
37						TOTAL	\$5,300.00	
38						TOTAL Deliverables JOYCE GRANT	\$60,886.61	
39								
40					972	Reserve Contingency		
41					972:001	Restricted matching Joyce Funds	\$25,099.00	remaining match
42								
43						TOTAL 2006 EXPENSES	\$97,067.61	