**Lake Bloomington/Evergreen Lake Oversight Committee Meeting** 9/10/2015

Attendees: Kent Bohnhoff, Krista Kirkham, Marcus Ricci, Mike Hall, Mike Garthaus, Rick Twait, Rick Nolan, Randy Stein , Ashley Maybanks

Kent Bohnhoff read the minutes from the last meeting

Biological Committee update:

Newly installed CP-39 wetlands had extensive flood damage this summer; but monitoring equipment was salvageable and will be reinstalled this fall. Coke-sponsored wetland on City property near Towanda has monitoring is in place. A new landowner near the headwaters of the Money Creek watershed has committed to 3 CP-39 wetlands, fulfilling the Conservation Innovation Grant (partners with McLean County SWCD and NRCS). Monitoring equipment will be installed after harvest or early next spring at one of these wetlands.

TNC, IDNR, McLean SWCD, and Midwest Streams are applying for two stream habitat grants through Fishers and Farmers Partnership (under the National Fish Habitat Partnership). Grants will be for riffle and lunker structures in Six Mile Creek and the Mackinaw River to reduce sedimentation and improve fish habitat. Grant requires 1:1 match; Six Mile Creek match will come from the City, Mackinaw grant match will come from TNC. Applications due October 3.

McLean Co SWCD has been receiving complaints from landowners affected by the soil disturbance by the Enbridge pipeline and inquired to TNC for assistance. Through TNC’s North American Agriculture program, a request was made to Syngenta, who agreed to offer cost share (up to 25K), and at a rate of $35/acre for cover crops on the affected farm ground. This will require a quick turnaround for applications, but should be able to get many more acres of cover crops on the ground this fall, particularly to affected landowners.

Aquatic vegetation survey was completed this summer by Mike Garthaus, but no report yet. The Bloomington shoreline project starts next week (1700 feet at north side of Lake Bloomington; sponsored by Blooming Water Dept.). Lunker structures will be installed as well through funds from the Friends of Reservoirs. Trent Thomas (IDRN) has been working on Mackinaw basin surveys all summer and fall.

Two eagles have returned to Mary Jo’s area on the Mackinaw River, and they have also been observed at Evergreen Lake.  Mary Jo has also spotted one 2-3 yr. bird. Too early to tell if they will occupy the old nest yet.

Angelo Capparella is working through Sen. Durbin’s office to try and get lower Buck Creek designated as a High Consequence Area.

Urban Committee update:

City is moving forward in getting water quality monitoring set up off of Pipeline Road; a proposal for the monitoring was sent via Dr. Catherine O’Reilly at Illinois State University. Rick is currently trying to get approval for the funding. Town of Normal has some funding for this as well, but would need to get agreement in place, and would prefer to fund the installation of equipment. BNWRD is funding the 10K for the monitoring.

Agriculture Committee Update:

An agreement with McLean County and the City of Bloomington has been reached, which funds Jackie Kraft’s position at SWCD for the next three years.

Unfortunately, McLean County SWCD is funded by the state, and their budget is zeroed out right now, along with many other districts. McLean SWCD has a rainy day fund, but health insurance will end at the end of the month. It will likely be December or January before anything gets settled. In addition, SWCD has been promoting CRP floodplain programs through CREP (which compares favorably to current crop prices), but due to budget issues, no applications can occur through FSA to enroll CRP programs as CREP, even though there are 1000 older contracts coming due, with 600 reapplying.

Illinois NRCS is reorganizing area boundaries in the state. Many counties will be combined, creating new leadership. There are currently 85 District Conservationists, and will likely go down to 45. McLean and Livingston counties will be combined.

SWCD (Jackie) has put in for an IEPA 319 grant to shift 3000 acres from fall nitrogen application to spring application. The Adapt Network still going on, with 80 acres enrolled for N testing and soil monitoring.

Other updates:

Rick Twait: Resaturation buffer at T3 site is set up. Working with ISU graduate student to install wells in a transect line to monitor flow and water quality. It is planned to put in another transect, but preliminary results show some significant reduction of nutrients.

Rick Nolan: Continuing preliminary talks about incorporating conservation at a regional level (McLean County). There will likely be more McLean County employees attending more Oversight meetings to see how we function, and also talk with individual members for insight.

Goal for next meeting: append Lake Evergreen watershed plan with subcommittee reports.

**Next meeting: December 3, 2015**