

Watershed Oversight Committee Meeting minutes:

5/28/15

Meeting called to order 10:05 at by Jackie Kraft at SWCD office, Normal, IL

Attendees:

Jackie Kraft, Janet Beach Davis, Rick Nolan, Krista Kirkland, Mike Garthaus, Phil Dick, Mike Hall, Kent Bohnhoff, Michael Brown, Rick Nolan, Mercy Davidson, Randy Stein, Wayne Aldrich, Angelo Caparella, Jill Mayes

Committee reports:

Biological Committee: Krista- Updates

There are no more planting plans for this year at the lakes, but remediation will continue next year when water levels reduce. Fish surveys were completed in May and bow fishing is being investigated at Lake Bloomington. Over the past two years 50 fish habitat structures have been completed at Lake Evergreen by local volunteers. In the coming season, 24-26 water sites will be monitored on the Mackinaw. Angelo is working on mudpuppy studies on the Mackinaw and Chinquapin. Wetlands have also been good breeding areas for amphibians (especially smallmouth salamanders). Small areas without fish seem to be very productive for salamanders. One eaglet has hatched at Lake Bloomington, and another pair has been around and may nest. Two more wetland have been constructed north of Towanda and one funded by Coke was built south of the other Towanda sites. There are now 4 grant funded wetlands constructed in the watershed. Another land owner along Money Creek may put up to three on his property.

Urban Committee: Phil-

The Town of Normal is working on putting in stream monitoring station north of Normal. They are working on an intergovernmental agreement and the goal is to install it this summer. BNWRD will help fund monitoring through ISU as well. The intergovernmental committee is looking at Sugar Creek and Kickapoo Creek watersheds as potential watershed that should also have plans. It might be good for this group to start looking at other watersheds as well. Funding for these plans and committees is under discussion. Initial meetings are being investigated as to who should be included in the meetings (individuals and cities). EAC has been doing storm water stenciling, rain barrel workshops and Yard Smart is still popular and ongoing. EAC assisted with a 319 social survey at Lake Bloomington, Hudson, Towanda, and is now moving into Normal. There is a 65% reply rate in Hudson and 50% in Towanda.

Jackie: Watershed activities

Lake Bloomington- 1750 Feet of shoreline is prepared to start lunkers after Labor Day. T2 riffle area has been prepared and is awaiting final funding. SWCD has applied for funds to help repair an old cattle area that caused stream bank damage. Illinois Corn Growers have given SWCD a portable nitrate tester. Implementation of nitrate testing program is being investigated.

AG: There is a nutrient loss plan in the state to encourage less nitrate loading in the water. Several state watersheds are part of an initial plan area. The Farm Bureau is promoting the plan to growers this summer and fall. There is a meeting June 24 for producers to be introduced to the plan. This is the last year of the ADAPT Network. The goal is still the current 88 fields that are working with varying the rate or timing of application. There will be 5 years of good data after this year.

Coming up:

Friends of Everbloom will be doing stream monitoring with the River Watch Program along 5 streams in the watershed.

July National Soil and Water Conference is coming up. TNC will be highlighting the work done in the watershed- wetlands, stream banks and other sites along the watershed

Jackie asked that a summary from each group be compiled to add to the Evergreen Lake Plan as an addendum. Then we can address the activities in and around Lake Bloomington.

Next Meeting:

August 27th at 10:00 am at Uptown Station, 3rd floor Ron Hillman room

Meeting adjourned at 10:58am.