

Watershed Oversight Committee Meeting minutes:

6/16/14 Meeting called to order 10:10 at by Jackie Kraft at SWCD office, Normal, IL

Attendees:

Jackie Kraft, Angelo Caparella, Janet Beach Davis, Mike Hall, Rick Nolan, Ashley Maybanks, Brian Lambert, Michael Brown, Trent Tolliver, MaryJo Adams,

Committee reports:

AG: Has not met since the last meeting, but has completed livestock assessment: cattle numbers are down, horses and chickens up. Everything is being mapped for the report. Tillage transect: Study has been completed by USDA-reports are being completed and have been requested. CRP has opened up, and promotion is starting. Re-enrollments start in July. There are 350 parcels available to be re-enrolled, and 180 expired last year. Angelo asked if they are being tracked year to year so we could see if that is something we can encourage when numbers drop. It was suggested that the parcels be mapped. It might be protected information, so it could be difficult to get parcel numbers to map. The Environmental Working Group may already have it. Angelo will contact them and find out.

Technical committee:

Report has been completed for Evergreen Lake on frequency and location of water sample collection points. Will update the lake aquatic planting restoration project. Friends of EverBloom have been planting in pots. Ill EPA 319 grants are due August 1. Lake plans including stone toe or other protection plans could be submitted.

Urban Committee:

The Urban Committee had a field trip for potential stream gauge sampling along pipeline road. EAC has completed a septic system maintenance mailing. It has gone to 400 households in both lake watersheds to help homeowners find information to maintain a safe septic system. Every spring and summer the EAC does stormwater educational items (rain gardens, rain barrels, stenciling). Watershed website is being addressed to get more traffic. A question was raised about having signage to inform people about what watershed they were entering/leaving on major highways and roads. Could IDOT help with watershed signage? It could be done just within the county by the county. A 319 grant could cover this. Urban Committee will look into this. Urban committee is meeting again in the next two weeks.

Biological Committee:

Bathymetric mapping started and volumetric mapping will start this fall. It would be great to see if anything we have done so far has made any change in the water quality.

In the watershed: First wetland completed in the Lake Bloomington watershed near Towanda- it's a quarter acre. There will be a second one coming-1/3 acre. There are two more sites in the works. The Lake Bloomington shoreline along the east side-1700 feet of shoreline- will have erosion control done with a Friends of Reservoirs grant applied for. Because of the area is suitable for the endangered long-eared bat, the study of the area will be completed. Even if the bats were present, they leave September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> the project can start. 319 grant was awarded with ISU to do an urban survey. (\$90,000 grant)

Events in the watershed:

Conservation Family Day June 21st at Comlara Park

Friends of Everbloom- June 26 at Davis Lodge- Ice cream social

Annual Garden Walk June 28<sup>th</sup>

Master Nats hike on Wednesday at 5:30pm 6/18/14 at the Pheasant Run Interpretive Trail. Plants and shrubs will be planted along the trail.

ParkLands has had a large land and water reserve area designated. ParkLands was also awarded a stewardship grant from Illinois Clean Energy Foundation in Sweeny Preserve. It's a matching grant that runs 18 months. It could be a \$35,000, depending on matching. Mike is expecting to meet that number.

National Great Rivers is having a symposium in November [www.Ngrcc.org](http://www.Ngrcc.org)

Rick Nolan will be compiling membership for the City of Bloomington Environmental Education working group. Anyone who would like to be involved, as long as the group is based in Bloomington, or the person attending lives in Bloomington. Other working groups will be forming.

Meeting July 23-24- Fisherman And Farmers group will be meeting to discuss a grant concentrating on the Upper Mackinaw area. They have \$90,000 they are looking to spend in the state. Several people are interested in attending.

Next Meeting:

It was suggested that we meet quarterly. The next meeting on Thursday morning- September 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am

Meeting adjourned at 11:12