

Watershed Oversight Committee Meeting minutes:

9/18/14

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

Attendees:

Jackie Kraft, Angelo Caparella, Janet Beach Davis, Rick Nolan, Mike Steffa, Mike Garthaus, Krista Kirkland, Terri Giannoni, Ashley Maybanks, Trent Tolliver, Rick Twait, Brian Lambert, Julie Weber, Mike Hall, Michael Brown, Phil Dick, Kent Bohnhoff, Catherine O'Reilly

Committee reports:

Biological Committee: Krista- Updates:

Money Creek sampling points (historical and current) have been GPS located on a map by Crystal Williams at ISU. What was sampled and when will eventually be added to this information. More information has been added to the sampling map in Evergreen Lake watershed. There is a newly finished wetland on Money Creek. Wetland vegetation has already filled in, a second wetland by Ellsworth was finished yesterday. Another is scheduled for this fall in partnership with TNC and ISU. Aquatic surveys have been completed on both lakes, and fish surveys were completed on T2 and T3 in Evergreen watershed. Friends of EverBloom has submitted a grant for a riffle on Evergreen T2. Invasive species inventory on both lakes are planned.

Rick- Restoration of riparian buffers at the T3-Evergreen site will be installed in the next week, including monitoring, to see if it would be an effective program for removing more nitrates before the water leaves the field.

AG: Kent- updates: A farm bill was passed relating to CRP and reenrollments for filter strips and waterways have been underway. Some of the parameters on whole fields have been changed, so there will be some changes to cover expiring habitat areas. There are other programs these areas may be covered under to maintain the habitat. CREP is still available, but isn't fully utilized here due to larger wetland acreage requirements. There were 150 re-enrolls into CRP this year. There are about 1500 total contracts in the county.

Urban Committee: Phil- Studying how to implement monitoring station in north Normal on Six Mile Creek. They are planning to be consistent with the downstream Six Mile station. Randy Stein has come up with partial funding, and Town of Normal has budgeted the rest. There will be a meeting next week to firm up plans. Kathleen has met with Randy as well to discuss costs and protocols to upgrade Money Creek and Six Mile as needed. Terry asked if there can be any pressure put on Enbridge to install monitoring as they cross the Mackinaw and Money Creek with the pipeline. They will be crossing the county at 2100N. Phil doesn't think that falls under the purview of the Urban Committee.

Jackie asked if there would be a way to make additions to the plan to keep it current.

Studies in the watershed:

The Guided Stalk Samples program- 92 fields were enrolled, and samples are being taken now. Results should be available in January or February. Information is confidential, but enrollees can choose to share the information.

There are 10 strip trials for nitrogen rates. Timing may be addressed soon by 4 or 5 farmers who are willing to change to a different monitoring timeframe.

The Women Food and Agriculture Network have gotten a grant to expand their support network for women landowners in IL, IN, IA. There were about 20 women landowners at the McLean County meeting. They saw current field tile monitoring and shared cover crop information.

EPA 319 grant was awarded to SWCD. ISU students are going to begin interviews and focus groups to distribute surveys on social indicator studies and watershed knowledge/awareness of the public in both watersheds and Bloomington/Normal (including Towanda and Hudson). Surveys will be random and scattered throughout the area. This survey could have a second or third version to survey rural landowners. Jackie will see if another 319 could cover monitoring costs.

Events in the watershed:

Sept 27-28-10-2 both days Lakes Fest at Evergreen and Bloomington by Friends of EverBloom as a fundraiser for restoration projects. There will be fishing, a treasure hunt, boat rides, bat house building, and a 5K run.

Sept 25th- next Friends of EverBloom meeting- Citizen's Academy will be joining with a tour of the water treatment plant and dinner at Davis Lodge.

Friends of EverBloom/City of Bloomington will start a shoreline project- 1700 feet of shoreline near the spillway at Lake Bloomington (across the lake from the water plant building) will have lunger installation, starting the first of the year (2015) when the lake level falls. (Grant and city funded)

Next Meeting:

January 22, 2015 at 10:00 am at SWCD office

Meeting adjourned at 11:12