

Oversight committee meeting minutes

1/29/13 Watershed Meeting at SWCD Office, Kays Drive, Normal, IL

10:00am- Meeting called to order by Jackie Kraft

Attendees:

Janet Beach Davis, Jackie Kraft, Trent Thomas, Mike Steffa, Angelo Caparella, Michael Brown, Rick Twait, Phil Dick, Catherine O'Reilly, Mary Jo Adams, Terri Giannoni, Maria Lemke, Brian Lambert, Mike Garthaus, Randy McCormack .

1. Maria Lemke- The Nature Conservancy-- update on nutrient study on fields surrounding the Mackinaw River

Several partners have been working together to develop local resources and studies addressing tile runoff. SWCD and TNC have been working on outreach to identify property holders who are willing to have wetlands built on their property, how to place them, and what are the costs and effects on the watershed. TNC received a three year NRCS grant to fund wetlands construction and monitoring equipment. TNC will be meeting next week with landowners that have been identified to discuss installation of wetlands. Rick Twait discussed how this program is a better use of funds than implementing some type of nitrate removal program only for the water supply, especially as how this will improve overall water quality for the lake ecosystem and not just for the water being drawn for the city water supply. Landowners have expressed concerns that the wetlands construction is a permanent commitment. TNC is looking into making these a non-permanent wetland, even though the landowner may discover that the wetland is not detrimental and will leave it permanently once it is constructed. It will take one or two landowners to sign on to be the first. January 31 at IWU, Krista Kirkland from TNC will be doing a community presentation about the TNC watershed programs, hosted by Illinois Audubon.

2. T3 (Evergreen Lake) projects- Rick Twait- Many of the projects completed are in the Watershed Management plans this group developed.
 - a. Shoreline erosion- Partners in Conservation Funding has awarded \$60,000 to repair erosion around the pump house area with stone. Other areas are not as accessible for the equipment, so some may have to be done by barge. There are 9 total erosion sites to be addressed around Evergreen Lake.
 - b. The Equestrian area at Comlara is one project area for stone toe protection, wetlands construction and an interpretive trail. Several areas on the tributaries to Evergreen Lake have had monitoring sites to determine where the sediment load is entering the lake. A Conservation Innovation grant for \$130,000 paid for riffles, stone toe, and new flood plain construction in this area. The new floodplain should also assist in denitrification of the water. There is a paired watershed leading to this area, so there can be a treatment watershed (constructed wetland and grass waterway) and a control watershed to see any difference in water quality as it comes out of the two watersheds into T3. Construction on a one acre wetlands has been completed. There is another place on this site where there

could be a resaturation site where a tile could be lifted close to the surface and allow a saturation area where plants planted above would remove of nitrates in a less invasive way than a wetlands site. The whole project is a demonstration area for anyone who might want to see these practices before deciding to enroll.

- c. Interpretive trail- There is under construction a 1.3 mile interpretive trail with 25 stations through the site with signage to educate visitors about the demonstration area projects, local plants, and animals that can be found in the wetlands. There will be an observation deck. The trail costs are covered by a grant secured by SWCD. There will be an open house in April. An interpretive trail brochure will be written. MaryJo suggested that Illinois Master Naturalists be involved in the project. Angelo suggested that the observation deck be oriented facing northwest or northeast to facilitate bird watching.

3. Friends of EverBloom- Mike Garthaus –

Part of Friends Of Reservoirs- a national group, to get people living in watersheds a chance to have input on projects and concerns. The first informational meeting had about 50 people attend at Davis Lodge. The Friends of EverBloom would like to have a prioritized list of projects from this group to help define projects to focus on. The group will have monthly meetings with the next meeting at Davis Lodge at 6:30pm on January 31. There is also a Facebook page.

4. Bathymetric survey -Catherine O' Reilly-

ISU will be doing a study to see how much sediment has been collected in the reservoirs since their construction as well as on Six Mile and Money Creeks and how the sediment has been moving through the watershed.

5. Updates from the group:

a. Michael Brown-

Launched Watershed Clearinghouse Website. Any document concerning the watershed can be placed on the website or community use. www.mCLEANwater.org

A mailing to septic owners at a 1.5 mile radius around Lake Bloomington will go out about septic health information.

b. MaryJo Adams- Has a large file of digital photos of both watersheds for anyone to use. Jackie Kraft will be able to use it for website.

c. SWCD annual meeting March 6 at Davis Lodge. All are invited.

d. April 25th Conservation Day for 3rd graders at the Interstate Center. Jackie would like presenters and volunteers.

Next Meeting Date: March 12, at 10:00. We will be revisiting the plans.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:45.

