



Initial Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

August 27th, 2020 6:00PM

Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

In attendance : Stephanie Eichholz; Brad Luebke; Gregory Norris; Jeff Hill; Kathryn Carpenter; Jenny Richardson; Lucia Amorelli; Jean Sellar; Nicole Young; Karen Schauwecker; Tina Shingleton; Molly Maxwell; JD Tanner; Sean Henry; Jennifer Paulson; Barbara McKasson; Richard Little; Orval Rowe;

Staff Present: Tyler Carpenter; Ciara Nixon

Greater Egypt Introduction

- Tyler Carpenter with Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission will discuss the planning components for the Western Crab Orchard Creek Watershed-based Plan. These plans require public assistance to be successful.
- Tyler Carpenter is the Director of Environmental Planning at Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission. Greater Egypt RP&DC serves five counties. The commission includes SIMPO, economic development, hazard mitigation work through FEMA, and environmental planning. The work at the commission is funded through grants.

Western Crab Orchard Creek Watershed Planning

- Planning area information.
 - 56,533 acres, or 88 square miles located mainly within Jackson and Union County, with small portions within Williamson Counties.
 - The watershed encompasses three separate HUC 12 subwatersheds that will be referred to as the Western Crab Orchard Creek Watershed:
 - Little Crab Orchard Creek – 24,539 acres
 - Indian Creek- Drury Creek – 20,018 acres
 - Drury Creek – 11,454 acres
 - Municipalities within the watershed include Carbondale, Makanda, and Cobden.
 - Land use within the watershed planning area is composed of a variety of land use classes, with majority being forest, agriculture, or urban land. About 95% of Carbondale is located within the Little Crab Orchard Creek watershed, making the majority of land use in this watershed urban land, with some pockets of agriculture. The southern two watersheds,

Indian Creek- Drury Creek and Drury Creek, are mostly forested with some agriculture present.

- ❖ More information regarding the watershed-based plan can be found in the Western Crab Orchard Creek Inventory and Assessment found here on our website: <http://greateregypt.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/FINAL-Western-C.O.C.-Watershed-Inventory-and-Assessment-1-1.pdf>

- What is a Watershed-based Plan?
 - A watershed-based plan summarizes the overall condition of the watershed to then provide a framework to restore water quality in impaired waters
 - The plan also protects water quality in other waters adversely affected or threatened by point source and non-point source pollution.
 - The program allows for funding of water quality projects through EPA 319 Program.

- Why develop a watershed-based plan?
 - A watershed-based plan is developed to create a framework to reduce pollution on surface and groundwater and to restore water bodies to a healthy state. The watershed-based plan may also conserve farmland.
 - Other benefits of developing a watershed-based plan include collaboration among stakeholders, prevention and reduction of flooding, and provides funding for various management measures.
 - A watershed-based plan also contributes to the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy

- What is the IL Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (ILNLRs)?
 - This strategy is a collaborative effort between IEPA, IL Dept. of Agriculture, and the IL NLRs Policy Working Group and subcommittees to strategize and promote best management practices (BMP) for nutrient runoff.

- What makes a watershed-based plan successful?
 - The success of a watershed-based plan is dependent on the involvement and collaboration of the stakeholders. Without public involvement, it can be difficult to discover problems within a watershed and to come up with solutions.
 - Stakeholders can include representatives from local government, conservation groups, businesses, landowners, etc.

- What are the elements of a successful watershed-based plan?
 - To be approved by the EPA, a watershed-based plan must include the Nine Minimum Elements of a Watershed-based Plan. These elements include:
 1. Identify causes and sources of water pollution and estimate existing pollutant loads
 2. Set water quality goals and load reduction targets to achieve those goals, and estimate load reductions expected from recommended management measures.
 3. Describe the management measures needed to achieve load reduction targets
 4. Describe the technical and financial assistance and relevant authorities needed to implement the plan
 5. Enhance public understanding through outreach measures

6. Provide a schedule for implementing the management measures identified in the plan
 7. Identify interim, measurable milestones for determining whether management measures are being implemented on schedule
 8. Identify interim benchmarks to measure progress in meeting water quality goals and load reduction targets
 9. Describe a monitoring component
- Future plan involvements
 - The future plan involves developing a Planning Committee. This committee can include individuals who have authority to implement change and management components. Individuals should also have local knowledge of the watershed, such as landowners and local farmers. Committee members may also include individuals who are impacted by water-related issues.
 - Future Actions:
 - Watershed Planning Elements Meeting
 - Best Management Practice Meeting
 - Implementation and Monitoring Strategy Meeting
 - Final Meeting
- ❖ The final Western Crab Orchard Creek Watershed-based Plan is due June 30th, 2021.

Questions:

- Barbara McKasson: Why has the VLMP stopped?
 - The funding for the VLMP is in limbo. We are hoping funding for this program will be reinstated by 2021.
- Barbara McKasson: What would the source of methoxychlor be?
 - This chemical is now banned by EPA. It used to be used on crops as insecticide. What is left in water now is likely residual from past events.
- Barbara McKasson: How does this tie into NARP planning?
 - NARP and watershed planning have similar goals to reduce nutrients in watersheds and waterbodies. If you are part of a watershed planning group, you can also qualify for NPDES requirements for NARP planning.
- Gregory Norris: Will slide and record be accessible?
 - Slides will be made available on the watershed website.
- Jean Sellar: Most of the BMP's and other practices listed were for far down the gradient in the watershed, but water falls equally in the uplands. BMP's and sediment control practices need to start at the top of the watershed and encourage infiltration and sediment control where the water falls.
 - Everything flows downward in a watershed. Having BMPs higher in the watershed could certainly be a strategy and work to reduce nutrients from flowing downstream.
- Barbara McKasson: If we want to visit a location of concern on your maps. Would someone be available to help us find the area on the ground?
 - Let us know what site you would like to visit, and we can give you the information.

- Gregory Norris: Are you doing any work in the Metro East?
 - Greater Egypt's Water Quality Planning Area currently consists of ten counties in southern Illinois. This does not include the Metro East.