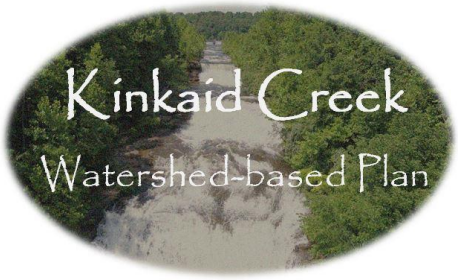

Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission
3000 West DeYoung Street, Suite 800B-3
Marion, IL 62959 (618) 997-9351

Initial Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

November 17th, 2020 6:00PM
Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

In attendance:
Lucia Amorelli, *Sierra Club- Shawnee Chapter (Illinois)*
Scott Crist, Forest Fire Management Officer, *U.S. Forest Service*
Brooke Hagarty, Soil Scientist, *U.S. Forest Service*
Gayle Klam, President, *Jackson County League of Women Voters*
Joseph Krienert, *Doctoral Student-SIUC*
Molly Maxwell, Planner-*Planning Department-City of Carbondale*
Orval Rowe, Deputy Director-*Jackson County EMA*
Scott Wilmouth, Manager-*Kinkaid-Reed's Creek Conservancy District*

Staff Present: Tyler Carpenter; Ciara Nixon; Noah Scalero.

Greater Egypt Introduction

- Tyler Carpenter with Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission (Greater Egypt) will discuss the planning components for the Kinkaid Creek Watershed-based Plan. These plans require public assistance to be successful.

- Tyler Carpenter is the Director of GIS and Environmental Planning at Greater Egypt. The commission serves five counties and includes services for economic development, water quality management, hazard mitigation, GIS and UAS services, and transportation planning (SIMPO). The work at Greater Egypt is funded through grants.

Kinkaid Creek Watershed Planning

- Planning area information.
    - 41,225 acres, or 64 square miles located within Jackson County.
    - The watershed encompasses two separate HUC 12 subwatersheds that will be referred to as the Kinkaid Creek Watershed:
        - Little Kinkaid Creek- Kinkaid Creek Subwatershed – 15,534 acres
        - Kinkaid Lake- Kinkaid Creek Subwatershed– 25,708 acres

- The only municipality within the watershed is a small section of the City of Ava.
- Land use within the watershed planning area is composed of a variety of land use classes. A majority of the watershed is forested with pockets of agricultural areas.

❖ Detailed information regarding the watershed-based plan can be found in the Kinkaid Creek Inventory and Assessment found on our website: http://greateregypt.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/KINKAID-WBP-INVENTORY.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 nine 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 though 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:
            - Meeting 1- Watershed Planning Elements Meeting
            - Meeting 2- Best Management Practice Meeting
            - Meeting 3- Implementation and Monitoring Strategy Meeting
            - Meeting 4- Final Meeting

Questions:

- Lucia Amorelli: Will the Shawnee National Forest Waterfall Stewardship Pilot Project impact the health of Kinkaid Lake? Would this be considered non-point source pollution?
    - Tyler Carpenter: This will certainly be addressed and possibly included in the final plan.
- Brooke Hagarty: Looking over the inventory, I noticed there is no mention of gully erosion. Why is this?
    - Tyler Carpenter: The document is fluid, and this information can certainly be added in for the final planning document. We have gully data from the Forest Service.
- Lucia Amorelli: Mercury is a common pollutant- why is it not typically included?
    - Tyler Carpenter: Mercury data is difficult to obtain, we can include past data and studies in the final planning document.
    - Scott Wilmouth: The pollutant is a metal, therefore is found mainly at the bottom of the waterbody- making it difficult to remove from the water. BMPs typically try to mitigate the source of mercury. However, in this watershed, the sources of mercury are atmospheric deposition and unknown sources, mostly natural environmental factors that are difficult, if not impossible to mitigate. Therefore, fishery advisories are in place, due mostly to the fact that mercury is only harmful if ingested be eating fish.
- Brooke Hagarty: What do you use to gather data/pollutant numbers?
    - Tyler Carpenter: We use STEPL (Spreadsheet Tool for Estimating Pollutant Loads) and hydro tools through ArcGIS.
- Joseph Krienert: Has there been any cyanobacteria outbreaks (HAB) within Kinkaid Lake or the watershed?

    - Scott Wilmouth: The last reported HAB was two years ago (2018); Kinkaid Conservancy started dropping the lake levels and monitoring every two weeks, no outbreaks have been recorded since.
- Lucia Amorelli: Does the lake test for glyphosate?
    - Scott Wilmouth: The Water Treatment Plant does test for this every 2 or 3 years. They have not had any problems with glyphosate levels.
- Scott Crist: How do we go about water quality plans when there are no prior plans?
    - Tyler Carpenter: The information relies on the Planning Committee.
    - Scott Wilmouth: The last time we applied for a 319 grant, we were told that we needed an updated (Watershed-based) plan in order to receive the funds. So this update will certainly help us out a ton.
    - Tyler Carpenter: We want to refrain from this plan being "shelved". Therefore, we hope to not only propose BMPs, but to also follow through with implementing them.

❖ The final Kinkaid Creek Watershed-based Plan is due August 1st, 2021.

Meeting adjourned.