

NARP Planning Meeting – Minutes

September 25, 2025 – 10 AM

Greater Egypt/ Zoom

Meeting Recap

The meeting began with updates on the water sampling and mapping/modeling that is progressing according to schedule. The team discussed various documents and planning efforts related to agricultural land use analysis, water quality sampling, and phosphorus management strategies, with a focus on completing draft documents by Halloween. The conversation ended with discussions about water quality data analysis, modeling approaches, and treatment options.

Summary

Greater Egypt provided an update on the progress of the water sampling and modeling components. The team is coming to an end of the additional sampling schedule timeline. They are now in the modeling phase, which will be the focus for the next few months. Greater Egypt mentioned that they are on track with the timeline, with the only potential delays being the need for additional sample results or addressing EPA comments. The team will continue to monitor and collect samples while developing models, with the goal of completing the project within the given timeline.

The team discussed the NARP document, which will focus on agricultural land use analysis and water quality sampling. They plan to provide both physical and digital copies, with the digital version containing more interactive links. The document will include sections on best management practices for phosphorus reduction, technical and financial assistance, and monitoring strategies. The team aims to provide a draft document by Halloween. They discussed the possibility of continuing up and downstream sampling beyond October, though this would be optional.

Greater Egypt reported minimal public participation despite outreach efforts, including public meetings and social media announcements. They have received some input from agricultural professionals and local soil and water conservation districts, with Jefferson County Soil and

Water District showing the most engagement. Greater Egypt mentioned plans to create a public-facing story map to explain the project once completed.

The team discussed water quality data and modeling for southern Illinois watersheds. They reviewed phosphorus levels, which were found to be elevated in some areas, particularly in Carterville. The group examined models showing pollutant loads and identified comparative sites for analysis. They also looked at GIS mapping of water quality data, which will be more impactful once complete. The team noted that Carterville is undergoing system changes that will dramatically improve water quality.

The team discussed data analysis and modeling approaches for phosphorus optimization, including the potential use of HEC RAS and SWAT basins tools. They plan to develop a draft watershed plan by Halloween, focusing on gathering strategies for phosphorus management through agricultural surveys and existing watershed plans. The group also discussed the possibility of utilizing the management measures outlined in the optimization plans and considered creating a survey for additional management measures if needed.

The team discussed phosphorus limits and chemical treatment options for water treatment plants. They reviewed data collection timelines. The group agreed to follow up individually on any missing samples, with a focus on collecting 2025 data. They also addressed concerns about the cost of chemical treatments, noting that some plants spend up to \$5,000 per month on chemicals. The team plans to have at least one more meeting for draft reviews, with email updates to be provided in the meantime.

Meeting was adjourned.