



Lost Nation-New Landing  
River Conservancy District of IL  
205 Cuyahoga Drive, Suite A  
Dixon, IL 61021



**Watershed Planning Committee and Technical Advisory Committee**  
**January 11, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**  
**Taylor Township Building**  
**280 W. Flagg Rd.**  
**Dixon, IL**  
**(West of the intersection of Flagg and Lowden)**

**Attendees:**

Joe Baker  
Marian Baker  
Becky Breckenfelder  
Jim Brown

Steve Larry  
Jeff McKinley  
Marty McManus  
Abby Merriman

Rebecca Olson  
Joe Rush  
Jerry Sellers  
Bill Wurtz

**1. Accept minutes from December 14, 2010 WPC and TAC joint meeting.** – Ed Bettner called the meeting to order at 9:10AM. The minutes from 12/14 meeting were not ready for approval yet.

**2. Continue the development of action items and management strategies.** - Rebecca said that they will finish listing areas of concern and, figure out what the affect of and action item is (pollutant load reduction) and prioritize those items. Rebecca met with Joe Rush to update the draft – areas in blue are ideas that she and Joe came up with. Rebecca made a big change to the draft by adding a table that correspond the goals w/ the action items that would pertain to each goal.

**No-till vs. Till Farming** - There was discussion as to the pros and cons of no-till vs. tillage farming and at the end it was decided to reword #19 to say “increase conservation farming such as no-till and strip-till”. Steve said that they may not have to have a defined amount of acres as a goal as most of these practices are being implemented by farmers where feasible already. Rebecca asked if the NRCS has records of the farm acreage that is designated no-till and Abby said that if they are on a highly-erodeable field (HEL) the farmer is supposed to have a conservation plan written on it; however, probably not even half of this county is comprise of HEL. The other types of fields don't have any limits as to what they can do. Jim asked if there was any other crop that is rotated in with soybeans and corn and Marian said alfalfa, hay, oats and wheat; however, Ed said that those make up a very small percentage compared to corn. There aren't very many vegetable crops in the area either.

**Lake Turnover** - Jim Brown asked if Lost Lake and the silt basin were deep enough to undergo an annual turnover and Joe Rush said yes; the lake is deep enough; however, the silt basin may not be deep enough for it.

**Goal 2A** – Minimize pollutant loading into surface waters and groundwater. Many sources of pollutants such as: Livestock, fertilizer, septic systems, and wildlife. The EPA updated their use-attainment standards of different water bodies. They assessed Lost Lake in 2010 and they said that it has impairment for aesthetic qualities with the causes being phosphorous, total suspended solids, and aquatic algae with the sources being non-point source pollution from run-off, agriculture, yard and the dam. The EPA didn't mention nitrogen and e-coli but Rebecca thinks that nitrogen might be important as it goes hand in hand with phosphorus. E-coli is important to her because the beaches have been closed a number a times in the past due to high levels of it in the water samples taken on a bi-weekly basis. Jim Brown said that there are 75 lakes in Wisconsin that are getting phosphorus loading from glacial deposits in artesian wells. 70 wells were tested and they were able to determine the sources of phosphorus. Jim suggested that if they take actions to reduce phosphorus and still have an unexplained high level of it, they may want to incorporate volunteer well testing in the periphery of the lake to see if those could be a source.

**Action Item 7** – Create storm water holding ponds with dikes and berms to slow water velocity – Jim asked if they have areas in the lake where the grading is steep enough that boulders could be used to slow the water velocity down and Steve said that they have already addressed those – they are working on the stream bank stabilization of Babbling Brook.

**Planting Native Grasses in Ditches vs. Mowing** - Rebecca discussed the practice of planting native vegetation in the ditches to slow down the velocity of the water. The ditches are mowed instead because of the safety concern of wildlife running out onto the road and drivers not being able to see them in time. Ed also said that with a saturated ground along the roadways there would be a longer soft soil period which would break up the roads quicker. Another advantage of having the ditches mowed is that it prevents a “snow fence” from forming that blows the snow back onto the road.

Marian said she would like to slow the water that comes across Daysville Rd and into the creek because it comes down so fast it comes right over the road. Ed said that they need a series of dikes and he doesn't think that there would be a landowner against putting one in at the end of his/her property. Rebecca suggested that a rock riffle or a ben-way weir could be used as well.

**Action Item #6:** Rebecca suggested breaking up #6 to make separate action items for wetlands, filter strips and grassed waterways.

Steve said that they need to narrow the watershed plan down to highlighted 1-3 doable projects and have the rest there as information to address at a later date. Make sure the projects are realistic, cost-effective and have the biggest “bang for your buck”. The matrix that Rebecca and Joe created will help them prioritize those items.

**Goal #3 – Protect “Class A” and other productive soils** – Rebecca defined class A soil – they are the best type of soil (most productive). Took out item A. minimize soil loss since it is listed in Goal 1c. Jim Brown asked if there was an agency that prevents the conversion of the use of class A soil and Marian said that soil and water board controls that. Rebecca said that the future land use plan doesn't show any conversion of Class A land. Rebecca listed Agricultural easements as an action item that would address that. Jerry Sellers recommended looking at the Ogle County long-range plan, which ensures the retention of class A soils and that only a certain amount of industrialization would be allowed. They show which corridors in Rochelle that they would permit – all of which can be found on their website – it also shows growth statistics.

**Goal #4** – Change from “Protect Wildlife and their habitat” to Protect, Enhance and Manage Wildlife and their habitat; make objective 4b an action item.

**Goal #5 – Protect the Rural Lifestyle** – They discussed the fact that there is no public land in the watershed and how they are not necessarily trying to provide more public access; rather, they are more concerned with the use of the private land. Joe Baker brought up the point that if anyone hunts or snow-mobiles on his land and gets injured, (even if he doesn't give them permission to do so, under Illinois law, he is liable. They are trying to get that changed through the Illinois legislators. There are many public areas just outside of the watershed so the committee deemed that it was not necessary to try to make more public areas. Add action items: Creating a brochure that educates property owners on the incentives that are available to them to convert their property into natural areas, such as forest. Partner w/ wildlife organizations that have similar missions.

**3. Determine data needed for the action items identified above.**

**4. Set next meeting date** – February 22, 2011 10-Noon - Rebecca is going to see if she can get the Nature Conservancy as the next meeting site.

**5. Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 11:05AM.