

Peoria Lakes Basin Alliance

“A Unified Voice for the Restoration and Preservation of the Peoria Lakes”

For further information regarding the Alliance, please contact the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission 309-673-9330



Representatives
Executive Director:
Tom Tincher

Board Members:
Steve Van Winkle
Wayne Ingram



301 S.W. Adams St.
Ste. 1007
Peoria, IL 61602
(309) 673-6689

Representatives
State Director:
Michelle Carr

Board Members:
Chris Ryan
Ken Katch



Representatives
Executive Director:
Eric Miller

Board Members:
Russ Crawford
Michael Phelan
Roy Bockler (Alternate)

PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE

AGENDA

Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 3:00 pm
456 Fulton Street, Suite 401
Peoria, Illinois 61602

MEETING GOALS

Review Environmental Grant

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 09, 2018
4. American Water Environmental Grant Program
5. Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan
6. Member Reports
 - a. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
 - b. The Nature Conservancy
 - c. Heartland Water Resources Council
7. Other
 - a. Next scheduled meeting(s)
 - i. 10 April 19
 - ii. 08 May 19
 - iii. 12 June 19
8. Adjournment

PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE
Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at 3:00 pm
456 Fulton Street, Suite 401
Peoria, IL 61602

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Attendees

The Nature Conservancy:	Jason Beverlin
Heartland Water Resources Council:	Tom Tincher, Wayne Ingram
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission:	Michael Bruner, Reema Abi-Akar, Eric Miller, Roy Bockler

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Approval of meeting minutes for December 12, 2018

Bockler commented that it was unclear about what had been decided as far as who the next chairperson will be. It was clarified that Heartland will take on the responsibility for the coming year. Bockler moved to approve the December 12, 2018 meeting minutes, and Ingram seconded. Motion carried.

4. Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan

a. Next steps update

Bruner said that Tri-County is speaking with Chuck at the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and coordinating with Laura Keefer of the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS). Ingram noted that he would like to be part of that process. Beverlin said that the hydrological study is imperative, and that the public would be interested in learning how the USACE and the ISWS conduct the study.

Bockler complemented the Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan (PLCCP), and he suggested that it should be distributed to all the mayors in the area. Miller noted that staff should forward the completed PLCCP to H Wayne Wilson. Ingram mentioned that the group could consider presenting to local entities, and Miller brought up the communications plan. Beverlin noted that Emiquon will have a science symposium on Wednesday, May 8 and there will be 10 minutes or so planned to bring up the PLCCP. Miller mentioned Rotary Club that meets every Friday.

Beverlin noted that the hydrological study will tell what is currently happening in and around the Lakes, data that will be used for future planning. Ingram specified that this study could identify the most ideal specific locations for Best Management Practices (BMPs). In terms of cost, Miller noted that there will still be a 50% cost share, and staff

have reached out to state organizations to discuss funding. Bruner is working on an online storymap.

Beverlin noted that the document should be shared with local legislators. Bockler said that the document should be shared with state-level and federal-level officials.

5. Heartland Water Resources Council Presentation and Discussion

Tincher said that the group should move forward concurrently with the PLCCP as well as the Heartland plan because they are related. Tincher would like his projects to be part of the PLBA agenda. He presented his plan that focuses on nature-based tourism and development with a network along the Illinois River. Tincher highlighted that the conservation area is currently underdeveloped.

Miller commented that he would not be comfortable moving forward without speaking more to the Commissioners first. Miller also asked for clarification as to the level of PLBA participation that Tincher is asking for – would this mean more staff time, new policies, or something else? Tincher said that he will formalize a short memo about what he would like to get out of this. Miller also said that it is key to involve local mayors, which could include Tincher reaching out for letters of support. Miller continued, saying that since Tincher’s plan is mainly focused on economic development, it is not the PLBA’s job to focus on this topic. Beverlin reiterated this same point with regards to The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC) involvement.

Beverlin asked Tincher if he would like to set up a public engagement planning exercise. He responded positively. Tincher said that he could develop a working paper about the planning process. Miller said that Heartland must be careful about planning for other municipalities without actively including them, since these decisions would have to go through village boards, city councils, economic development agencies, and other possible committees as well as receive public feedback. Beverlin agreed that there should be some public input and agreed that TNC would be willing to continue coming to further planning meetings.

Beverlin also noted that the next steps would be to involve the economic development councils in the region. In fact, Miller noted that Heartland should actively reach out to them to talk to them about the project.

6. Member reports

a. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Miller reported that Tri-County has been working with Chuck to hold a beneficial use symposium on Wednesday, September 4 at the Caterpillar Visitor’s Center. Toledo, Ohio has some beneficial use areas and Tri-County is in the process of contacting them. There will be a technology transfer with different states including Minnesota as well; it could be a day and a half long. The point is to show that this beneficial use concept has worked in other areas and strategize about Peoria.

Miller mentioned that Tri-County was not selected for the USACE beneficial use pilot project. Illinois Beach and Wisconsin were two areas that were selected. Tri-County still has a proposal in the Illinois Center for Technology regarding beneficial use. Chuck also suggested connecting with the US Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL) in Champaign.

b. The Nature Conservancy

Beverlin reported that Emiquon is now allowing boaters to access the full Thompson Lake. TNC is also getting ready for a science symposium on May 8th — reports are now due, and they are working on going through them. Beverlin said that they are working on a staffing plan at Emiquon since one person has left. They also found a spoonbill (paddlefish) in their waters that they did not stock themselves.

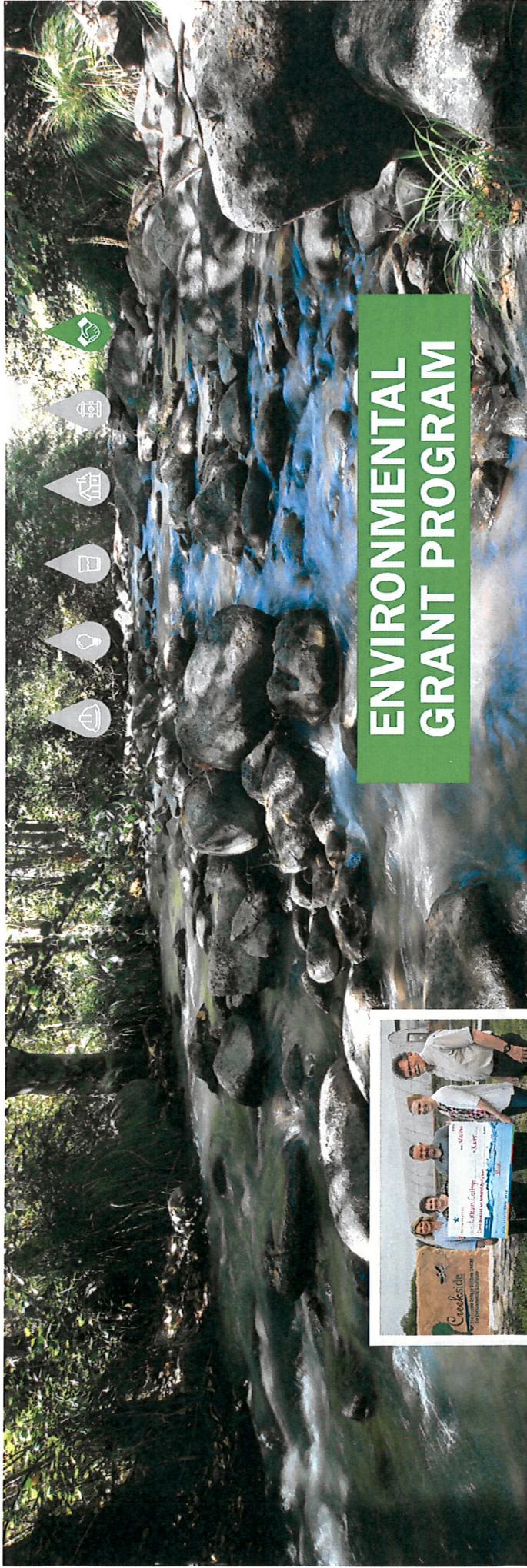
c. Heartland Water Resources Council

7. Other

Next scheduled meetings are listed as February 13, March 13, and April 10.

8. Adjournment

Ingram moved to adjourn and Beverlin seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.



ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM



Water sustains and supports all life on earth. With an American Water Environmental Grant, your community or community-based organization can lend the water supply or watershed a helping hand by working to improve, restore or protect it.



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American Water's environmental grants support innovative, community-based environmental projects that improve, restore and/or protect watersheds and community water supplies through partnerships.

With a history dating back to 1886, American Water is the largest and most geographically diverse U.S., publicly traded water and wastewater utility company. The company employs more than 7,100 dedicated professionals who provide regulated and market-based drinking water, wastewater and other related services to over 14 million people in 45 states and Ontario, Canada. Because of the role we play in delivering a precious natural resource that is so vital to life, we understand the importance of protecting our nation's rivers and watersheds.

Surface water (rivers, lakes and streams) is the source of nearly 80 percent of our nation's water use, with the remainder supplied by groundwater sources. Our rivers and groundwater support public health and economic development, and also help to sustain the environment and wildlife. For example, our wetlands provide a valuable habitat for wildlife, naturally cleanse and filter water, and help reduce flooding.

Every individual and community has the ability to positively impact our source water and watersheds, and opportunities exist to improve, restore and protect these valuable natural resources. American Water's Environmental Grant Program will help to improve the sustainability of our water resources.





AMERICAN WATER

DEADLINES

MARCH 29, 2019

Application deadline. Applications will be judged by local state subsidiaries.

APRIL 26, 2019

Projects will be evaluated, selected and all applicants will be notified.

DECEMBER 16, 2019

Grant recipient's report on project results due to American Water.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact your local coordinator or visit us at www.amwater.com



* A watershed is the land that water flows across or under on its way to a stream, river or lake.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Project activities and outcomes should address a watershed or source water protection* need in the local community within American Water service areas. **Source water protection projects** are activities that result in the protection or improvement of the community's public drinking water supplies. **Watershed protection projects** should focus on activities that improve, restore or protect one or more watersheds.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA *

- be completed between May 1, 2019 and November 30, 2019
- be a new or innovative program for the community, or serve as a significant expansion to an existing program
- be carried out by a formal or informal partnership between two or more organizations
- provide evidence of sustainability (continue existence after the American Water grant monies are utilized)
- be located within an American Water service area.

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES

- Watershed Cleanup
- Reforestation Efforts
- Biodiversity Projects (habitat restoration, wildlife protection)
- Streamside Buffer Restoration Projects
- Wellhead Protection Initiatives
- Hazardous Waste Collection Efforts
- Surface or Groundwater Protection Education (i.e., designing and providing workshops for citizens and local officials)

PROJECTS THAT DO NOT QUALIFY

Pipeline or main extension projects, land or major equipment acquisition, entertainment, food/beverages, lobbying (attempting to influence local, state or national legislation), interest payments or personal articles, such as clothing. Grant money cannot be used for salaries, wages or personal compensation.

GRANT SELECTION CRITERIA

- Clarity of project goals and projected impact
- Innovation and strength of project design.
- Nature and strength of collaboration with other community and/or municipal organizations.
- Likelihood of project's sustainability after the American Water funding ends.
- Evidence of community engagement.
- Plan for assessing the project's impact and capacity to measure project outcomes.
- Assessment of budget as reasonable and cost-efficient.
- Maximum grant amount: \$10,000.

WHAT YOUR APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE

Applications must include the following:

1. GRANT COVER PAGE

Please use the Grant Application Cover Page provided as your cover sheet. For the project description, summarize the project's expected (measurable) outcomes in no more than two or three sentences.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Your project description (not to exceed four pages, typed in 12-point font) should include:

Project Need and Objectives

- Description of the issue the project will address, including the target population and number of people that would benefit
- Specific objectives and measurable outcomes anticipated
- Timetable, including major milestones, tasks and anticipated completion dates

Community Involvement

- List of partnering organizations and summary of their involvement/contributions to the project. NOTE: There must be at least two partners involved (including the lead organization applying). Examples of partners could be municipalities, local environmental groups, conservation districts and schools.
- Plans to engage the community in the project

Sustainability

- Anticipated long-term benefits from the program beyond the time of the grant
- Description of how the project will provide environmental sustainability
- Strategies for long-term funding and future viability

3. BUDGET SUMMARY

Complete the Budget Summary Worksheet (provided). Be as specific as possible about anticipated costs. Grant awards will

4. SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Please attach the following, if applicable.

- List of American Water employees that serve on your organization's Board of Directors
- Annual reports, media kits, brochures, photos, press releases, news clippings, etc. that reference your project

PROJECT EVALUATION AND MONITORING

All applicants are expected to include specific, measurable goals for projects in their proposals. At the conclusion of the grant project, the lead organization must provide a written report on the project results/impact. This report shall be submitted no later than **December 16, 2019**. The reports need to be signed by the chief officer from the lead organization. In addition to the narrative, project reports should include:

- Collateral or promotional materials produced for the project, including publications, brochures, videos or other public educational materials
- A financial report at the conclusion of the project
- Copies of articles and media clippings written about the grant project
- Before-and-after photos, if possible

All grant monies are made possible and are fully funded by American Water's state subsidiaries. American Water is proud to administer this program on their behalf.

HOW TO APPLY

Proposals should be postmarked by Monday, March 29, 2019 and mailed or emailed to your local coordinator referenced in the cover letter accompanying this brochure.

GRANT PAYMENT PROCESS

- Maximum grant amount: \$10,000.
- A payment schedule will be agreed upon with grant recipient.
- Ten percent (10%) of the total grant amount may be retained until the final report has been submitted and accepted by American Water.
- A financial report will also be required at the conclusion of the project.



COMMUNITY. ONE MORE WAY WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING.



AMERICAN WATER

ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION COVER PAGE

(Please attach to front of proposal)

Projects spanning time period May 1, 2019 through November 30, 2019

Project and Applicant Information

Lead Organization Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Organization type (check one): Municipality Non-profit [501(c)(3)] School
 Other (please specify) Regional Government

Project Title (10 words or less) Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Educational Workshop

Check appropriate category: Watershed Protection Project Source Water Protection Project

Project description: (Brief, two to three sentence summary of project's expected, measurable outcomes.)

We propose to hold an Educational Workshop targeting landowners in the City of Peoria; however, the event is open to the public. The workshop will focus on promoting watershed-friendly best management practices and connecting landowners with technical assistance and potential cost-share funding.

Amount of Funding Requested:
(Maximum grant amount: \$10,000) \$ 9,000

If accepted, please name the organization to whom payment should be made: Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Project Leader Michael Bruner

Address 456 Fulton Street, Suite 401

City Peoria

State IL Zip 61602

Phone (309) 673-9330

E-mail mbruner@tricityrpc.org

Website www.tricityrpc.org

Partners (Organization name only):

City of Peoria

Peoria County SWCD

Peoria Lakes Basin Alliance

Name of watershed/ stream/ river on which project focuses Peoria Lakes Basin

Geographic location of waters (municipalities and counties) City of Peoria, Peoria County

Population 115,007

Applications must be postmarked by **March 29, 2019** and mailed to your local coordinator.



AMERICAN WATER

ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM BUDGET SUMMARY

(Please attach to front of proposal)

Projects spanning time period May 1, 2019 through November 30, 2019

Budget Summary

Project Title Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Educational Workshop

Project Leader Michael Bruner

Organization with fiscal responsibility Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Expenditure Categories for Environmental Grant

Spending Detail (Please be as complete and specific as possible.)	Grant Funds Requested	Other Funds* Funding from other sources for proposed project, if any.	In Kind Contributions	Total Budget (the sum of Columns 2 - 4)
Speakers	\$ 3,000	\$	\$	\$ 3,000
Marketing	\$ 2,000	\$	\$	\$ 2,000
Venue	\$ 2,000	\$	\$	\$ 2,000
Materials	\$ 2,000	\$	\$	\$ 2,000
Administration	\$	\$	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Food & Beverage	\$	\$ 5,000	\$	\$ 5,000
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$
TOTAL	\$ 9,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 17,000

*If there are other funds being used for this project, please list the agency or organization providing the funding.

Will ask local companies and organizations to sponsor the food and beverage component of the workshop

Applications must be postmarked by **March 29, 2019** and mailed to your local coordinator.



TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

456 FULTON STREET ▪ SUITE 401 ▪ PEORIA, IL 61602
PHONE: 309-673-9330 ▪ FAX: 309-673-9802
WWW.TRICOUNTYRPC.ORG

American Water Environmental Grant Program

Project Description:

Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Educational Workshop

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) is partnering with the **City of Peoria, Peoria County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Peoria Lakes Basin Alliance** to organize a workshop for landowners to learn about best management practices (BMPs) and cost-share programs that can help with the implementation. The goal of the workshop is to kick off the educational component recommended in the Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan and to educate property owners on how they can do their part to preserve our local environment.

Project Need and Objectives:

Project Issues and Needs

The Peoria Lakes are Greater Peoria's most precious natural resource. The Lakes, which refer to the widened portion of the Illinois River in the Tri-County area, have supported life in the Illinois River Valley for 12,000 years. The natural beauty of the river and its bluffs continue to attract people to Greater Peoria, just as it has for centuries.

Historically, Peoria Lakes were remarkably productive, which attracted Native Americans and European settlers who benefited from abundant, river-derived resources, such as fish and wildlife, pristine water, and expansive wetlands. However, as increasing urban development, conversion of prairie lands to agricultural fields, and industrialization occurred over time, water quality declined, habitat was lost and degraded, and sedimentation has steadily filled in the Lakes. Today, most areas of the Peoria Lakes are less than three feet deep.

A large portion of the bluffs and ravines, particularly on the western side of the Lakes, have a tremendous number of impervious surfaces such as roofs, parking lots, and streets. The impervious surfaces require stormwater infrastructure to collect, concentrate, and discharge the stormwater into gutters, ditches, streams, ravines, and ultimately the Lakes. The concentration of stormwater is a powerful force, especially on highly erodible land. Without mitigation, precipitation will continue to erode the land, contributing to the sedimentation of the Peoria Lakes and Illinois River.

The Peoria Lakes Basin Alliance (PLBA), comprised of Heartland Water Resources Council, The Nature Conservancy, and TCRPC, led an effort to develop the Peoria Lakes Comprehensive

Conservation Plan in conjunction with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan was completed in October 2018 with a total of 19 conservation measures identified as top priorities in the region. Education, urban stormwater BMPs, and erosion control BMPs were identified in this planning effort. The proposed Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Educational Workshop is to start an educational program for landowners to learn the different stormwater and erosion control BMPs they can implement on their property.

Project Objectives

The objective of this innovative educational workshop is to engage and inspire landowners in the Tri-County region, more specifically the City of Peoria. The workshop will:

1. Increase landowner awareness of their watershed and their connection to it.
2. Increase awareness of the impacts of changing land use on the watershed.
3. Educate property owners on watershed-friendly management techniques for agricultural, residential, and forested land uses.
4. Connect landowners with potential funding and other resources to assist them in implementing best management practices on their land.

An anticipated result of the workshop would be a higher landowner education and implementation of watershed-friendly practices on their property. Consequently, there will be less stormwater runoff, increased stream stability, and reduced erosion in the Peoria Lakes Basin.

Project Evaluation Measures

The success of the program will be evaluated based upon the number of people who attend the workshop. Workshop attendees will be requested to submit an evaluation of the workshop. Feedback from the evaluation forms will also be assessed to determine success of the workshop.

In addition, the planning team will follow up with attendees one to two months afterward to see if they have had any roadblocks or questions regarding implementation of land management practices learned at the workshop. The project team will produce a report outlining a summary of the different strategies discussed in the workshop, a list of resources available to the public, and the results of the evaluation measures. This document will be posted on the TCRPC website and will be included in a future TCRPC email newsletter.

Project Timetable

Grant Due Date	Friday, March 29, 2019
Grant Notification	Friday, April 26, 2019
GIS Analysis of Properties with Highly Erodible Land	Monday, April 29, 2019 to Friday, May 24, 2019
Save the Date Advertising	Monday, May 27, 2019 to Friday, May 31, 2019
Plan for Workshop	Monday, June 03, 2019 to Friday, June 28, 2019
Advertising	Monday, July 01, 2019 to Wednesday, July 17, 2019
Workshop Target Date	Saturday, July 20, 2019
Follow-up Communication	Monday, August 19, 2019 to Friday, October 11, 2019
Write Summary Report	Monday, October 14, 2019 to Friday, November 15, 2019
Submit Report	Monday, December 16, 2019

Community Involvement:

TCRPC is partnering with the **City of Peoria, Peoria County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Peoria Lakes Basin Alliance** to help plan for and organize this educational workshop for local landowners. This workshop will be open to the public, but more specifically focused on the City of Peoria. The planning team will utilize multiple forms of media to advertise for this event.

Representatives from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and Trees Forever will be invited to the workshop to outline and promote cost share funding programs available to property owners through their respective agencies.

Additional outreach will be made to the Peoria Park District to share their expertise in woodland management in the Peoria Lakes Basin, Fon Du Lac Park District to share their expertise in managing Spring Creek Preserve, Bradley University, and University of Illinois Extension.

Sustainability:

The Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Workshop will educate local landowners on BMPs they can implement, review programs that help them pay for BMP installation, and inspire them to do their part in protecting the environment. BMPs improve the region's water quality and regulate the sediment load by preventing water contamination and erosion of nearby ground. TCRPC is actively researching grant opportunities to continue the education outreach and BMP implementation to conserve the Peoria Lakes Basin.