Introductions
Name - Title - Organization

What’s one thing you or your organization bring to the table?
Overview

Project Background
- Funding and oversight
- Extent
- EPA’s nine elements of a plan
- How is this project unique?

Project Team
- Team member roles
- Why HeartLands Conservancy?

Committees
- Watershed Planning
- BMP Demonstration Projects
- Technical Advisory

Project Schedule

Community Engagement & Data Collection
Project Background

Funding and oversight

- Illinois EPA (IEPA) is providing grant funds to cover the cost of developing a watershed-based plan through section 319 of the Clean Water Act.
- Additional State Funding will cover design and construction of some projects to demonstrate Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- HeartLands Conservancy applied for the grant following a Notice of Funding Availability from IEPA and was awarded the grant.
- IEPA is providing close oversight, including required approval of strategies HLC will implement, which has impacted the project schedule.
“PDP”

- **Judy’s Branch**
  - HUC10: 0714010104
  - St. Clair County portion only
    - Madison County portion already has a plan: *American Bottom Watershed Plan (2020)*
      - 14,365 Acres

- **Prairie du Pont**
  - HUC10: 0714010105
  - Illinois portion only
  - 81,598 Acres

Total: 95,963 Acres

150 Square Miles
Nine Elements of a Watershed Plan

1. Identify causes and sources of pollution
2. Estimate load reductions expected
3. Describe management measures and targeted critical areas
4. Estimate technical and financial assistance needed
5. Develop and information and education component
6. Develop a project schedule
7. Describe interim, measurable milestones
8. Identify indicators to measure progress
9. Develop a monitoring component
Unique considerations

Focus on Acute Impacts to Residents

- Chronic non-riverine flooding of lowland areas
- Sewage leaks

Minor Sewer System Improvements

- Water flow is highly modified and requires constant maintenance of canals, pipes and pumps
- Infrastructure was built during peak population and industrial era
Fast-tracked Implementation of BMP Demonstration Projects

IEPA Funding for Demonstration Projects

- $325,000 for Traditional Stormwater Runoff BMPs
- $375,000 for Minor Sewer System Infrastructure

State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG “earmarks”)

- Pending - $1.5 million secured by Senator Durbin from USEPA to add to IEPA funding
- Waiting for information from USEPA
Potential Types of BMP Demonstration Projects

**Traditional Stormwater Runoff**
- Reconnecting streams to floodplain
- Bioretention
- Detention practices
- Wetland restoration
- Stream channel restoration
- Stream channel stabilization
- Streambank stabilization
- Bioswales
- Porous pavement
- Rain gardens and rain barrels
- Urban filter strips

**Minor Sewer System Infrastructure**
- Lift station
- Infiltration/inflow correction
- Sealing/elevating manholes
- Sewer main point repair
- Clean out caps
- Smoke testing & television of sewer mains
- Surface drainage ditch repair/retrofit/cleanout
- Culvert replacement
Project Team

See handout

- HeartLands Conservancy
  - Project Management
  - Resident and Stakeholder Engagement
  - Water Resources Inventory and Plan Document

- Added Dimension, LLC
  - Public Engagement and Meeting Facilitation

- Andreas Consulting Services
  - Stream Inventory for Water Quality Modeling

- Heneghan & Associates/ Heneghan Construction Services
  - Designing BMP Demonstration Projects

- National Great Rivers Research and Education Center
  - Water Quality Modeling: Pollutants and Sediment

- SIU-Edwardsville, Civil Engineering
  - Water Flow Modeling: Volume and Flooding
A regional not-for-profit organization
Founded in 1989 as Southwestern Illinois RC&D with technical assistance from USDA-NRCS.

Our mission:
To conserve, connect, and restore the diverse natural and cultural resources that sustain the people and communities of southwestern Illinois.

What we do:
HeartLands Conservancy works for clean water, access to the outdoors, healthy ecosystems, and resilient communities in southwestern Illinois.
**Land**
We conserve important ecological, agricultural, recreational, and cultural places. We also “create” places for community enjoyment, such as parks, gardens, and trails.

**Water**
We work in partnership with public agencies and residents to protect and manage water in southwestern Illinois through green infrastructure, flood and climate adaptation strategies, and healthy watershed initiatives.

**Communities**
We work with and assist communities on projects and initiatives focused on parks, trails, planning, mapping, climate adaptation, green infrastructure, community engagement, and many other needs.
HLC has years of experience with watershed planning

Plans completed: 8

Current plans: 2
- Portage des Sioux
- Prairie du Pont-Judy’s Branch

https://heartlandsconservancy.org/water/healthy-watersheds/
Committees

See handout

- Watershed Planning
- BMP Demonstration Projects
- Technical Advisory Committee
**Project Roles**

**BMP Demonstration Projects Committee**: Select BMP Demonstration Projects for immediate implementation

**Technical Advisory Committee**: Share knowledge and professional expertise; build relationships for future collaboration

**Watershed Planning Committee**: Guide the development of recommendations to be included in the plan document; promote community engagement events to residents

**Residents & Stakeholders**: Share knowledge and experiences through interviews, open houses, pop-up events, & flood survey; learn about the watershed

**HeartLands Conservancy Project Team**: Coordinate project; conduct mapping, research/modeling, & community engagement; write plan document based on committee and community input

**Illinois EPA**: Provide funding; approve recommended BMP Demonstration Projects for immediate implementation

*See “Committee Structure and Roles” handout*
Project Schedule

March 2022 - 2023

May-June
BMP: Establish ranking criteria for potential projects

April-May
Committee meetings: TAC, BMP, WPC
Gather potential projects

TAC: Review potential projects
Open House/Workshop #1

March 2022
Form committees

August-September
Draft watershed plan document under development

BMP: Rank potential demonstration projects
WPC: Update meeting
Selected projects begin implementation (pending IEPA approval)

TAC: Update meeting
August-September

October
Draft watershed plan document completed for review
Tour of demonstration projects*
Training workshop for maintenance of demonstration projects*
WPC: Update meeting
TAC: Update meeting
Open House/Workshop #2

November
Revise draft watershed plan to reflect public comments

December 2022 - March 2023
WPC: Update meeting
Finalize watershed plan

March 31, 2023
Project end date

*tentative, based on construction timeline
Community Engagement and Data Collection

• Stakeholder and resident meetings
• Flood Survey
• Open Houses/Workshops
One-on-one and small group meetings included residents, municipalities and community leaders and will continue throughout the project.
Residents and stakeholders share information through “marker maps”
“Marker maps” capture stakeholders’ concerns and observations
Data is added to a geodatabase for mapping and spatial analysis in GIS
A flood survey will be conducted through June 19, 2022
Open Houses/Workshops

Event 1

- Tentative: June 16, evening
- Share information and gather input from the community
- Flood survey

Event 2

- Tentative: October TBD
- Report progress on the plan
- Share information about BMP Demonstration Projects
Committee Member Updates
Map Review

- Stream and catchment maps
- Stakeholder input “marker maps” to date
Stream and Catchment Maps

Streams

- Names are incomplete in federal/state datasets
- Names vary between residents and agency staff
- Flow direction is not always correct in spatial datasets (NHD+)

Catchments

- Typically, HUC14 subwatersheds would be delineated strictly based on topography.
- Proposing catchments for “water management units” -- recognizing upland/lowland, pump stations, water control structures, etc.
Stakeholder input “marker maps” to date

Crowd-sourced data

- Data quality and coverage is a reflection of participants
- Outreach has prioritized impacted residents/stakeholders in lowland areas
- These maps will be updated based on additional input gathered at Open House/Workshop #1, through the Flood Survey, and committees
Map Review Activity

Stream and catchment maps

- Are names for waterways correct and complete?
- Locations of pump stations?
- Other significant water management features?
- Are proposed catchment areas useful and accurate?

Stakeholder “marker maps”

- Areas to add?
- Areas where projects have recently been completed to fix reported problems?
Goals for next meeting

Tentative Date: Thursday, June 16 (afternoon)

with Open House/Workshop #1 to follow (evening)

1. Review potential demonstration projects
2. Review data developed to date
Thank you!