

Implementing Grants & Obtaining Funds for Lake Improvements/Dredging

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Lake Watershed

What do you know about your lake?

- Impairments?
 - Shoreline erosion
 - Sedimentation
- Uses?
 - Boating?, Swimming?, Fishing?, Hunting?
- Water Quality?
 - Perceived or Real?
- Benefit & Value to Community?
- Watershed Impacts?

Lake Watershed

What do you know about your watershed?

- Is there a lake AND watershed plan? Does it Identify:
 - Land Uses?
 - Ag Based (BMPs)?
 - Developed?
 - Impairments?
 - Erosion?
 - Farm Animals?
 - Water Quality?
 - Animal Waste?
 - Stormwater Issues?
 - Nutrients?
 - Natural Resources?
 - ADID Wetlands?
 - Woodlands?
 - Greenways?

Lake / Watershed Plan

ADVANTAGES

Identify Natural Resources

Identify Impairments

Develop Awareness of Value

Enable Development of BMPs

Create Government Awareness

Establish Public Pride of Ownership

Greatly Enhances 319 Funding

Lake Watershed Plan

Clean Water Act Section 319 Program

What qualifies for consideration?

- Funding of the Planning process.
- Projects in the Plan that protect the lake or stream system and minimizes the need for future “urban” BMP’ s.
- Projects in the Plan that enhance / protect the lake & stream water quality, stream corridors, wetlands, and floodplain areas, linking them with existing open space areas, county parks, and privately owned natural areas.

Nippersink Creek Watershed Plan

www.nippersink.org

www.nippersinkwatershed.org

The Nippersink Creek Watershed Plan



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Nippersink Creek Watershed

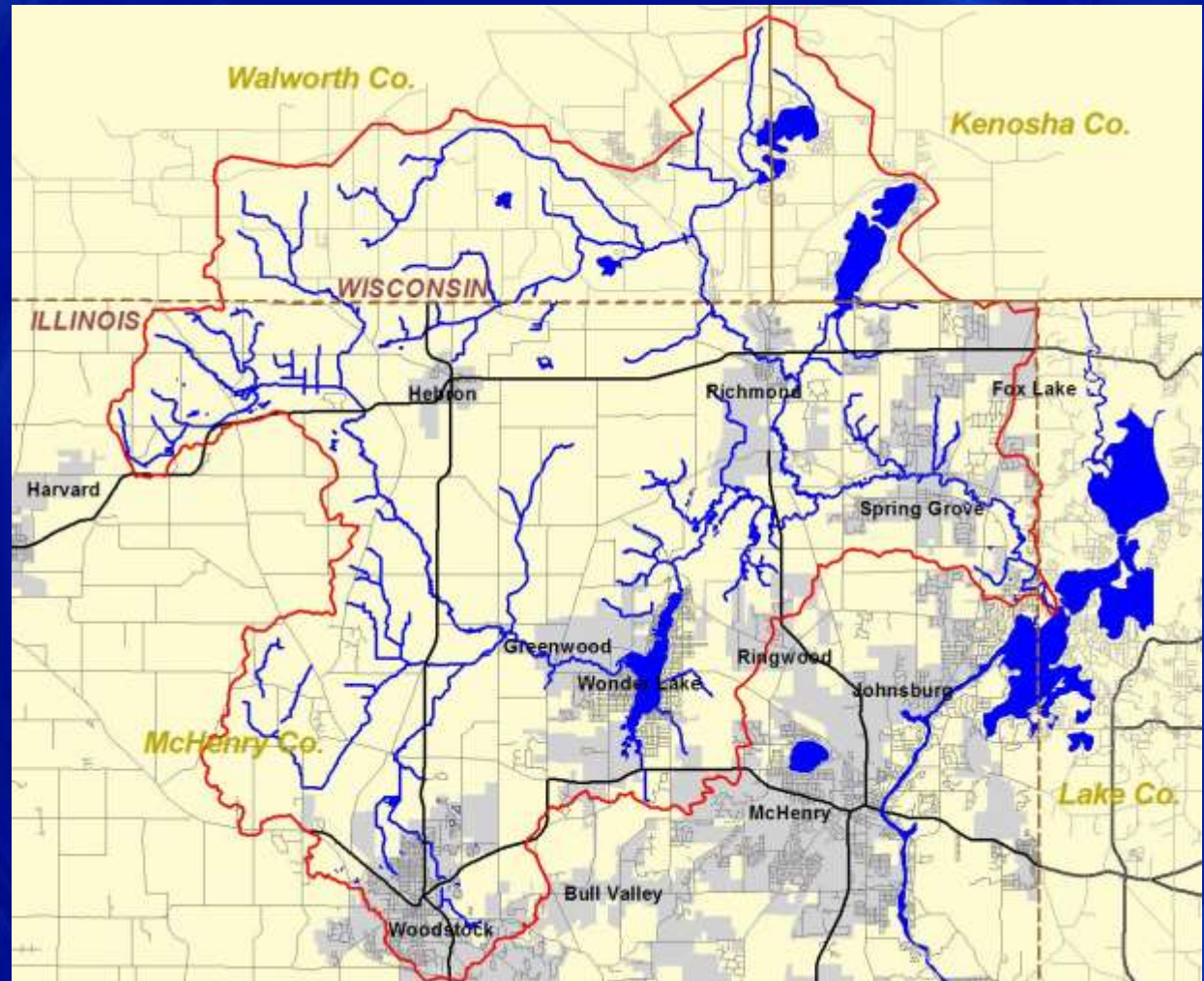
One of the highest quality streams in Illinois

Largest Tributary to Fox River

202 square mile watershed

150 square miles in Illinois

97 square miles drain to Wonder Lake



Lake Watershed Plan

Planning Summary

- Forming a grass roots planning committee
- Enlisting aid of local consultants, Government State & Federal Agency Staffs
- Expert Guidance
- Funding
- Plans for updating
- 2015-319 Grant Apps.-\$10,000,000+ in Apps., \$3,000,000+ available

Keep Your Plan Current!

- Add in the grant request cycles, regulatory permitting timeframes, and project design/bidding/construction, and it can be multiple years between BMP identification and implementation.
- If your project budget only uses the original identified project cost amount, your project may experience a significant budget shortfall.

Keep Your Plan Current!

- Often, a significant time lag can occur between the identification of a potential BMP project in a watershed plan and its actual implementation.
- Conducting outreach to stakeholders who have control over the BMP (landowner, municipality, etc.), and building consensus on the need to implement the BMP can take months or years.
- Identifying and securing a “local” match source of funds can take an indefinite amount of time, particularly since 319 and other grant programs typically operate on a “reimbursement” basis, meaning the “local” source has to front the total cost.

Keep Your Plan Flexible!

- No matter how many Best Management Practice (BMP) projects are identified, it is guaranteed that additional BMP projects will be encountered through stakeholder outreach).
- As a result, it is critical that a methodology be adopted to allow the BMP recommendations section of your plan to be periodically updated to allow newly identified BMP projects to become potentially eligible for 319 funding.

LOCAL FUNDS For YOUR LAKE

LAKE ASSOCIATIONS CAN:

INCREASES DUES

CREATE A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

SEEK DONATIONS

BEG PROPERTY OWNERS FOR MONEY

ORGANIZE BAKE SALES

SEEK TO ESTABLISH A "TAXING DISTRICT"
ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY THAT
HAS ACCESS TO THE LAKE

SPECIAL SERVICE AREA TAXING DISTRICT (SSA)

In Illinois, tax revenue obtained through an SSA can be used to fund lake dredging & major or long-term maintenance projects.

Special Service Area Tax Law (SSA)

(35 ILCS 200/) Property Tax Code.

Sec. 27-5. Short title; definitions. This Article may be cited as the Special Service Area Tax Law.

(SSA for short)

"**Special Services**" means all forms of services pertaining to the government and affairs of the municipality or county, including but not limited to weather modification and improvements permissible under Article 9 of the Illinois Municipal Code,

Special Service Area Tax Law (SSA)

Proposals to establish a special service area

- An application shall be filed with the municipality or county explaining the following:
 - the special services to be provided;
 - the boundaries of the proposed special service area;
 - the estimated amount of funding required;
 - the stated need and local support for the proposed special service area.
- The application must be signed by an owner of record within the proposed special service area.
- The application may accepted or rejected.

Special Service Area Tax Law (SSA)

- **Sec. 27-25. Form of hearing notice.** Taxes may be levied or imposed by the municipality or county in the special service area at a rate or amount of tax sufficient to produce revenues required for the special services.
- **Sec. 27-30. Manner of notice.** Prior to or within 60 days after the adoption of the ordinance proposing the establishment of a special service area the municipality or county shall fix a time and a place for a public hearing.

Special Service Area Tax Law (SSA)

Sec. 27-35. Public hearing; protests and objections. At the public hearing, any interested person, including all persons owning taxable property located within the proposed special service area, may file written objections to and may be heard orally in respect to any issues embodied in the notice... At the public hearing or at the first regular meeting of the corporate authorities thereafter, the municipality or county may delete area from the special service area. However, the special service area must still be a contiguous area as defined in Section 27-5.

Special Service Area Tax Law (SSA)

Sec. 27-45. Issuance of bonds.

Bonds secured by the full faith and credit of the area included in the special service area may be issued for providing the special services.

- The governing body issues the bonds but a non-governmental body may direct allocation of funds based on agreements on how money will be spent, prior to the sale of the bonds.

Special Service Area Tax Law (SSA)

Sec. 27-55. Objection petition. If a petition signed by at least 51% of the electors residing within and by at least 51% of the owners of record of the land within the boundaries of the SSA is filed within 60 days following the public hearing,...

- the district shall not be created
- or the tax shall not be levied or imposed
- no bonds may be issued.
- The subject matter of the petition shall not be proposed relative to any persons signing the petition within the next 2 years.

Special Service Area Tax Law (SSA)

Summary

- Lots of work and politicking required
- Not a job for just one person

SSA Application

- 1st Application REJECTED - 1998
- 2nd Accepted early 2008
- \$5,934,000 Dredging project began 2014
- \$2,017,500 in donations to cover shortfall
- Lots of legal fees.

Questions?