

# MACKINAW RIVER ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP BY LAWS

## Article I: Name, Purpose, Powers, Address

**Section 1- Name:** The name of this partnership shall be the Mackinaw River Ecosystem Partnership (MREP)

**Section 2-Purpose/Mission:** The purpose of MREP is to better understand and work for the improvement and ecological sustainability of the Mackinaw River watershed. The Partnership serves to facilitate communication and cooperation among those dedicated to preserving and improving the quality and ecosystem integrity of the Mackinaw River watershed.

**Section 3- Powers:** MREP shall have the responsibility to evaluate, prioritize, and recommend ecosystem project applications to the Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Other affairs of MREP, pursuant to its stated mission, shall be managed by, or be under the direction of the executive committee, subject to approval of the membership.

**Section 4- Mailing Address:** Mary Jo Adams  
2015 Elkins Lane  
Carlock, IL. 61725

## Article II: Membership

**Section 1- Eligibility:** Members may be any entity owning or occupying land in the watershed area or organizations with jurisdiction boundaries in one or more counties within the watershed area or possess members residing or recreating within the watershed. Individual members or organizations may enter into the partnership upon written request submitting name, address, phone number, and organization represented, if applicable. Organizations may have only one member represent them in voting processes. To maintain good standing, members must attend one meeting per year.

**Section 2- Executive Committee:** The executive committee shall act as the Local Partnership Council (LPC) for the partnership. Partnership members shall elect the executive committee in a general meeting. No two persons from the same group or organization can serve simultaneously on the executive committee. The executive committee shall consist of five (5) members: President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and two (2) elected Members-at-Large. Members of the executive committee shall be elected once a year.

**Section 3- President:** The president shall preside at all meetings and have general supervision of the activities of the partnership, subject to the approval of the membership. The president shall serve as the primary liaison with IDNR and shall coordinate the distribution of materials, information, and other communication as necessary.

**Section 4- Vice President:** The vice president shall have all the powers and perform all the duties of the president in the absence or incapacity of the president, as well as such other duties as may be assigned by the president or executive committee.

**Section 5- Secretary/Treasurer:** The secretary/treasurer shall prepare meeting agendas in consultation with the president and record minutes of meetings. He, or she, shall be the principal accounting and financial officer of the corporation and shall keep and provide written statements of income and expenses at every general meeting.

**Section 6- Voting Rights:** Each individual member or organization shall be entitled to one vote. Non-residents of the watershed are not eligible to vote.

**Section 7- Withdrawal:** Persons or organizations may withdraw from the partnership upon written request.

**Section 8- Committees:** The membership may authorize by consensus the creation of committees to advise and assist in the operation of MREP. Such committees may include voting representatives, as well as other persons. Committees shall be designated as:

- a) Education Committee: will be responsible for outreach to educate the public about the mission, objectives, and activities of MREP. This committee will be in charge of social events;
- b) Resource and Implementation Committee: will be responsible for collecting a library of information on the Mackinaw River Watershed and will be in charge of following the progress and application of grants funded through the C 2000 program;
- c) Grant Review Committee: will be responsible for developing ranking criteria, reviewing and ranking grant applications, and reporting their recommendations to members of MREP;
- d) Any other committees as needed.

### **Article III: Meetings**

**Section 1- Notice of Meetings:** Notice of meetings stating the location, date, and time shall be delivered to each member not less than five (5) days prior to the meeting. Notice to the public shall be provided no less than ten (10) days in advance of meetings via a newspaper with general circulation within the partnership area or on the C 2000 website.

**Section 2- Quorum:** A quorum of the partnership for the transaction of business at any meeting shall be seven (7) eligible members.

**Section 3- Meeting Schedule:** The partnership shall meet at least once each quarter. Special meetings may be arranged at the discretion of the president with the provision of 48 hour notice.

**Section 4- Minutes:** Minutes of every meeting shall be recorded and distributed to Partnership members. A copy of said minutes shall be made available to the designated Ecosystem Administrator, the Conservation 2000 Administrator, and to members of the public.

## Article IV: Explanations

**Section 1- Amendment of By-Laws:** These by-laws may be amended, altered, or repealed and new by-laws may be adopted at any membership meeting of the partnership by a majority vote of members present provided a quorum is present and notice of change has been provided in the call for the meeting.

**Section 2- Maintaining and Adjusting the Boundaries of the Partnership:** Partnership boundaries will include all lands and water bodies within the accepted watershed boundaries for the Mackinaw River. Adjustments to such boundaries, including scope and mission, will be considered as an amendment of the by-laws.

**Section 3- Criteria for scoring and ranking Ecosystem Grant Applications:** Criteria for scoring and ranking applications will be decided by a majority vote of the LPC at a meeting prior to scoring and ranking, and be developed in consultation with DNR personnel familiar with the Ecosystem Partnership Program.

**Section 4- Conflict of Interest:** There must not be a conflict of interest on behalf of a member during the evaluation and scoring of grant applications. Any member who is eligible to evaluate and score these applications must excuse themselves from the evaluation or scoring of applications of an entity on which they are a board member, staff or officer, or in which they or a member of their immediate family might directly benefit. Records of all actions and decisions must be kept by the partnership. Members scoring projects must disclose their affiliation with any organization submitting an Ecosystem project grant application. The composite score of each grant application shall be made available to the public upon request.

**Section 5- Record Keeping:** The MREP shall keep correct and complete books and records of account, and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its members, executive committee and committees having any authority, and shall keep at the registered or principal office a record giving the names and addresses of the members entitled to vote. All books and records of the MREP may be inspected by any member, or his or her agent, for any proper purpose at any reasonable time.

**Section 6- Dissolution of Partnership:** In the event that the partnership is dissolved, all assets shall be distributed among the members and all assets purchased with IDNR funds shall be returned to the Department.