

The Mackinaw River Watershed Management Plan

Who does what?

The Role of IEPA

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Provided funding and direction to The Nature Conservancy to develop a community based comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

IEPA also directed TNC to write subwatershed plans

IEPA is now looking to direct funding towards implementation of the Watershed Management Plan

The Role of IDNR

- Illinois Department of Natural Resources C-2000
 - Conservation 2000 program begun in ???
 - Source of state funding via grants to increase biodiversity, research, education, etc.
 - There are presently 34 Partnerships in the state, each representing a watershed
 - Mackinaw Watershed Council became the “Partnership” for C-2000
 - Council ranks all projects submitted within the Mackinaw Watershed.

The Role of TNC

- **The Nature Conservancy** has provided the following:
 - Organized, scheduled, and directed meetings
 - Educated stakeholders via workshops, newsletters
 - Provided outreach activities within watershed to stakeholders (tours, canoe trips, etc.)
 - Wrote and administered IEPA 319 BMP grants, and C-2000 grants.
 - From 12-20 different TNC staff have provided direct time/input into the “Project” from 1993-2002.

The Role of the Council

- The Executive Committee:
 - 15 members, five from each county, were directing the writing of the Watershed Plan. The Executive committee members were also part of the Planning team and Action teams that wrote the plan.
- The Watershed Council
 - A not-for-profit organization formed to represent the stakeholders within the Mackinaw Watershed. There are three classifications of voting members, representing each county. The voting members elect five members from their county (three must be farmers) to represent them on the Board of Directors of the Watershed Council.

What does the Council do?

- Annual meeting once/year. Election of Board members from membership.
- Board meetings once/month, except for planting and harvesting month (8 meetings/yr). Occasional committee meetings as scheduled.
- Education/outreach:
 - Newsletters, canoe trips, speakers, programs. Who, when, where, how?
- Writing Grants? Promoting BMP's? Who, where, how?
- What else do we do?

Implementation of the Plan...

- **Who is going to do the work?**
 - Woodford County NRCS/SWCD
 - Has accepted IEPA 319 grant to do BMP's.
 - Tazewell County NRCS/SWCD
 - Has accepted IEPA 319 grant to do BMP's
 - The Nature Conservancy?
 - The Mackinaw River Watershed Council?

The Nature Conservancy

- What is TNC's role in implementation of the Watershed Plan?
- What type of support can the Council expect from TNC?
 - Staffing?
 - Office?
 - Technical advice?
 - Funding?

The Mackinaw River Watershed Council

- What are we attempting to do? Are our goals and objectives still the same?
- If we accept funding from IEPA for a staff person, where will we obtain matching funding? Who will supervise and direct this person?
- Where are the volunteer efforts coming from the Council? (as part of the matching funding)
- Can the Council fill empty Board positions?
- Can the Council have active, working committees?

What are our options?

- Maintain the status quo:
 - Do not accept IEPA funding, but receive possible funding from IDNR C-2000 program. We will have no staff, marginal (if any) assistance from TNC, and minimal volunteer activity from the Council. Who will do the work?
 - Probability for success: slim to none.

What are our options?

- Accept IEPA funding:
 - Hire one staff person (Executive Director), and expect that person to do the majority of the work, with direction from the Board of Directors. Moderate (advisory mostly) voluntary activity from the Board/Council.
 - Who will work with the C-2000 program?
 - Probability for success: marginal (not enough people to do the work)

Our Best Option?

- Accept IEPA funding:
 - Hire staff person (Executive Director)
 - Expand the membership of the Council (this will require action from the membership committee), and get a **working** Board and committees.
 - Create a true **Partnership** that would work together in implementing the Watershed Plan. The partners could include:
 - IEPA, IDNR, TNC, NRCS/SWCD, The Council, Community leaders, Sportsman and Nature groups, County Planning Commissions, etc.
 - Probability for success: a much better chance...a lot more people and \$\$\$ to do the work!