

CHAPTER 8: MONITORING PLAN SUCCESSES

INTRODUCTION

The Aux Sable Creek Watershed Plan presents a unique challenge for monitoring because the majority of the recommendations are for potential changes within the Watershed due to future development. To attain the goals of the plan while following the Vision Statement (Chapter 1), the success of the Watershed plan would ultimately be determined by reevaluating the class rating of the stream. By removing Fecal Coliform bacteria from the streams and maintaining the Class A rating of the Aux Sable Creek, the plan is successful.

To assist in ensuring the broad action items of the Prioritized Action Plan (Chapter 6) are being addressed, smaller, more detailed milestones must be attained. The milestones presented below can be applied to more than one recommended action item, and therefore may be repeated. To best evaluate the status of the milestones on an annual basis; they have been presented based on the recommended action items in which they will help to attain. The short-term milestones are tasks that should be completed in the near future (1-3 years) to set up or initiate the long-term milestones which may require several steps before completion.

IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

To improve water quality within the watershed, including removing Fecal Coliform bacteria, water quality must continually be monitored so that remedial measures can be taken as necessary. To achieve this action, a monitoring plan needs to be implemented and carried out.

Short-term Milestones (1-3 years)

- Develop a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). The QAPP is a detailed description of the monitoring methods/components along with reasoning behind the procedure. The QAPP is required for any projects with a monitoring component seeking Section 319 grant funding and helps ensure to the IEPA that the data that is being collected is to strict standards of credibility. The monitoring described in the held QAPP consists of any stream assessments and water quality measurements that may be collected. This also helps ensure that the data collected within the Watershed can be used in future IEPA Integrated Reports.
- Create a Watershed Resource Inventory with more detailed information built off this plan. The Inventory should be made available on the website including a method to submit additional information. Caution should be made with making

specific locations of sensitive resources available to protect them from harm. The Inventory could include information for specific resources such as vegetation communities, observed wildlife, owner(s), recreational facilities present, etc.

- Provide an educational workshop hosted by the local governmental agencies, SWCD, and/or Coalition to discuss the current ordinances and how they affect the landowners. This workshop would also be a time to gather local input for possible revisions to the ordinances.
- The Watershed Website should continue to be maintained to update information regarding maintaining natural vegetation around detention basins and along streams and proper maintenance techniques that can reduce water fowl usage (which can act as a source of Fecal Coliform bacteria).

Long-term Milestones (4-10 years)

- Create a brochure for homeowners regarding the purpose, use, and maintenance of streams and detention basins. Brochure should contain similar materials as the website and include a mention of the website.
- Coalition (or other suitable host) will maintain the Watershed Website as a means of distributing information and providing a connection to Watershed Stakeholders. The website should contain the progress of the plan implementation and any relevant reports, as well as, participation opportunities.
- The measured counts of Fecal Coliform are below the Illinois Water Quality Standards. This goal can be achieved through the implementation of various measures or the attainment of several of the goals outlined in this chapter.
- Ensure that each community with an NPDES ILR40 permit has developed an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program to meet the requirements of their permit.
- Provide an educational program with the Watershed Plan to elected officials to provide the necessary information regarding the plan and Best Management Practices to apply in their communities. The program can be used and modified accordingly as the Watershed Plan is updated.

RIPARIAN BUFFERS/FILTER STRIPS

The purpose of the buffers and filter strips has been previously discussed. They should be placed along the creek in areas identified as Open Space Opportunities or Additional Open Space Opportunities in the Open Space Plan (found in the Appendices).

Short-Term Milestones (1-3 years)

- Provide educational workshops and seminars hosted by the SWCDs, NRCS, Coalition, or other interested resources. These educational workshops should include:

- How to find available grants and how to apply for them;
 - Creating buffers and filter strips along streams;
 - Creating open space with guidance from the Open Space Plans;
 - Conservation easements and preservation of land;
 - Current regulations that are in place in the Watershed.
- Buffers should be installed in identified areas within public property at a rate of approximately 5,000 feet per year.
 - Create a Watershed Resource Inventory with more detailed information built off this plan. The Inventory should be made available on the website including a method to submit additional information. Caution should be made with making specific locations of sensitive resources available to protect them from harm. The Inventory could include information for specific resources such as vegetation communities, observed wildlife, owner(s), recreational facilities present, etc.
 - Buffers should be installed in identified areas within private property at a cumulative rate of 2,500 feet per year.

Long-term Milestones (4-10 years)

- In addition to updating the Watershed Plan, the Open Space plans should be updated to reflect current conditions in relation to the creation of riparian buffers and filter strips.

POST CONSTRUCTION RUNOFF CONTROLS (BMPS) – DEVELOPMENT

Post construction runoff controls are measures which are designed prior to construction, but implemented to control stormwater runoff in residential or commercial developments. The use of these controls is required in the NPDES Phase II permit which covers most projects within the Watershed, although which measures to be used are not specified.

Short-term Milestones (1-3 years)

- The Watershed Website should continue to be maintained to contain information for developers regarding maintaining drainage features in relation to agricultural tiles and maintaining natural vegetation around detention basins and proper maintenance techniques that can reduce water fowl usage (which can act as a source of Fecal Coliform bacteria).
- The Watershed Website should continue to be maintained with operation and maintenance techniques along with new BMPs which may be implemented in new projects or retrofitted into existing areas.
- Continued maintenance should occur of all culverts, swales, and drainage ways on public property by the local department of transportation or highway department.

- Create a brochure for homeowners regarding the purpose, use, and maintenance of detention basins. Brochure should contain similar materials as the website and include a mention of the website.

Long-term Milestones (4-10 years)

- Address the necessary flooding concerns cooperatively with landowners and municipalities as they may be remedied by measures implemented by neighboring developments. SWCD/NRCS can provide technical assistance and potentially assist with funding opportunities.
- Coalition (or other suitable host) will maintain the Watershed Website as a means of distributing information and providing a connection to Watershed Stakeholders. The website should contain the progress of the plan implementation and any relevant reports, as well as, participation opportunities.
- Develop an Aux Sable Overlay District (or expand on the City of Joliet's version) which recommends a variety of BMPs along with documentation that the drainage will be maintained. The overlay district can function similar to an ordinance to enforce protection
- Provide an educational program with the Watershed Plan to elected officials to provide the necessary information regarding the plan and Best Management Practices to apply in their communities. The program can be used and modified accordingly as the Watershed Plan is updated.
- Implementation of Watershed Open Space Plan as found in the Appendices.

IMPROVE AQUATIC HABITAT

To improve aquatic habitat in the Watershed, both small and large projects can be initiated. The increase in wildlife and plant diversity will be the ultimate indicator of success.

Short-term Milestones (1-3 years)

- The Watershed Website should continue to be maintained to contain information regarding maintaining natural vegetation around detention basins which can improve aquatic habitat.
- Provide educational workshops and seminars hosted by the SWCDs, NRCS, Coalition, or other interested resources. These educational workshops should include:
 - o Proper techniques for water quality monitoring;
 - o Small scale projects for individual homes that would enhance the Watershed;
 - Stream Barbs
 - Aquatic Habitat Creation
 - Bird Boxes
 - Bird and Animal Feeders

- Native Plantings
 - Rain Gardens
- Conservation easements and preservation of land;
- Current regulations that are in place in the Watershed.
- How to find available grants and how to apply for them;
- Create an Adopt-A-Stream program where groups can remove trash and debris from the streams on a volunteer basis. All of the public reaches of the stream should be cleaned about every two years. Private reaches should be periodically attended to by landowners. If permission is granted by the landowners, sections adjacent to public reaches could be attended to by the various groups. Permission could be granted by private landowners willing to have their reach cleaned regardless of location to public reaches.
- Create a Watershed Resource Inventory with more detailed information built off this plan. The Inventory should be made available on the website including a method to submit additional information. Caution should be made with making specific locations of sensitive resources available to protect them from harm. The Inventory could include information for specific resources such as vegetation communities, observed wildlife, owner(s), recreational facilities present, etc.
- Individual landowners along the streams can initiate small scale (based on relative cost and typical size in single private ownership) projects on their land to promote the increase of wildlife diversity.

Long-term Milestones (4-10 years)

- Coalition (or other suitable host) will maintain the Watershed Website as a means of distributing information and providing a connection to Watershed Stakeholders. The website should contain the progress of the plan implementation and any relevant reports, as well as, participation opportunities.
- Ensure that each community with an NPDES ILR40 permit has developed an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program to meet the requirements of their permit.
- Provide an educational program with the Watershed Plan to elected officials to provide the necessary information regarding the plan and Best Management Practices to apply in their communities. The program can be used and modified accordingly as the Watershed Plan is updated.

ENFORCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION SITE RUNOFF CONTROLS

With the concern of the increasing amount of development within the Watershed, careful attention must be paid to the effects of construction to the local water bodies. The milestones presented are those which can help achieve the requirements of the NPDES Phase II permit and thus protect the Watershed from sediment which could degrade the water quality.

Short-term Milestones (1-3 years)

- The Watershed Website should continue to be maintained to contain information for developers regarding maintaining drainage features in relation to agricultural tiles.
- Survey the Watershed for evidence of flooding and determine causes, especially if related to construction projects. Rank cases of flooding based on severity and extent of damage to prioritize the need for fixing issues. Surveys can be recorded by municipalities and counties.
- Continued maintenance should occur of all culverts, swales, and drainage ways on public property by the local department of transportation or highway department.

Long-term Milestones (4-10 years)

- Address the necessary flooding concerns cooperatively with landowners and municipalities that may have occurred from sediment transport from a nearby construction site. SWCD/NRCS can provide technical assistance and potentially assist with funding opportunities.
- Coalition (or other suitable host) will maintain the Watershed Website as a means of distributing information and providing a connection to Watershed Stakeholders. The website should contain the progress of the plan implementation and any relevant reports, as well as, participation opportunities.
- Provide an educational program with the Watershed Plan to elected officials to provide the necessary information regarding the plan and Best Management Practices to apply in their communities. The program can be used and modified accordingly as the Watershed Plan is updated.
- Develop an Aux Sable Overlay District (or expand on the City of Joliet's version) which recommends a variety of BMPs along with documentation that the drainage will be maintained. The overlay district can function similar to an ordinance to enforce protection

DEVELOPMENT OF ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION PROGRAM

As part of the NPDES Phase II requirements, all municipalities covered by the permit must develop a program to detect and eliminate illicit discharges such as discharges into storm sewers containing used motor oil or paint from individual land owners.

Short-term Milestones (1-3 years)

- Create a brochure for homeowners regarding the purpose, use, and maintenance of stormwater facilities and functions such as storm sewers and detention basins. Brochure should contain similar materials as the website and include a mention of the website.

- Create a Watershed Resource Inventory with more detailed information built off this plan. The Inventory should be made available on the website including a method to submit additional information. Caution should be made with making specific locations of sensitive resources available to protect them from harm. The Inventory could include information for specific resources such as vegetation communities, observed wildlife, owner(s), recreational facilities present, etc.
- Create an education brochure or newsletter which highlights proper disposal of used household chemicals, local programs for disposal and collection, and means of protecting stormwater facilities or other local water resources. Special attention can be made to programs offered by the local SWCDs.

Long-Term Goals (4-10 years)

- Coalition (or other suitable host) will maintain the Watershed Website as a means of distributing information and providing a connection to Watershed Stakeholders. The website should contain the progress of the plan implementation and any relevant reports, as well as, participation opportunities.

CREATE AUX SABLE CREEK WATERSHED OVERLAY DISTRICT

An overlay district is an area that may overlap several municipalities and act as an ordinance to provide structure or requirements over an area. The overlay district can be used to require developments to protect the watershed through the implementation of the Watershed Plan. The overlay district can also provide a framework for regulating development in the Watershed.

Short-term Milestones (1-3 years)

- The Watershed Website should continue to be maintained to contain information for developers regarding the Watershed Plan and how they can protect the Watershed during and after construction.
- Create a Watershed Resource Inventory with more detailed information built off this plan. The Inventory should be made available on the website including a method to submit additional information. Caution should be made with making specific locations of sensitive resources available to protect them from harm. The Inventory could include information for specific resources such as vegetation communities, observed wildlife, owner(s), recreational facilities present, etc.

Long-term Milestones (4-10 years)

- Develop an Aux Sable Overlay District (or expand on the City of Joliet's version) which recommends a variety of BMPs along with documentation that the drainage will be maintained. The following steps can assist in preparing the overlay district.
 - o Create a sub-committee of the Coalition to prepare the overlay district. This sub-committee should vary in membership so that equal representation of the Watershed is achieved.

- Define the limits of the overlay district, in terms of geographical boundary and regulatory pressure. Thorough research should be conducted to establish who oversees the implementation and enforcement of the overlay district, the depth of detail of the requirements (whether it requires a general review of the plan or implementation of specific pieces of the plan).
- The committee should draft the language of the overlay and have it reviewed and approved by all of the municipalities included in the boundaries of the district.
- The approved overlay district should be published and posted as necessary to make available to the appropriate people.
- Coalition (or other suitable host) will maintain the Watershed Website as a means of distributing information and providing a connection to Watershed Stakeholders. The website should contain the progress of the plan implementation and any relevant reports, as well as, participation opportunities.
- Provide an educational program with the Watershed Plan to elected officials to provide the necessary information regarding the plan and Best Management Practices to apply in their communities. The program can be used and modified accordingly as the Watershed Plan is updated.

RESTORATION OF NATURAL AREAS

Natural areas which currently exist in a degraded state (riparian buffers, public areas not managed by a Forest Preserve District or other municipal agency, or private land not under a management program unless done in a partnership with those entities) should be restored to higher quality with more opportunity for wildlife habitat.

Short-term Milestones (1-3 years)

- Create an educational brochure available at various locations to provide information regarding property rights in relation to recreation opportunities in the Watershed. Topics to be covered should include:
 - Requesting access to private property;
 - Identification of private versus public property;
 - Trespassing laws;
 - Private landowner rights.
- Create a program where private landowners can purchase “Private Property” signs for restored areas at a reduced cost or share the cost. Signs can include means of appropriately contacting the landowner to request permission to access the land.
- Create a Watershed Resource Inventory with more detailed information built off this plan. The Inventory should be made available on the website including a method to submit additional information. Caution should be made with making

specific locations of sensitive resources available to protect them from harm. The Inventory could include information for specific resources such as vegetation communities, observed wildlife, owner(s), recreational facilities present, etc.

- Provide educational workshops and seminars hosted by the SWCDs, NRCS, Coalition, or other interested resources. These educational workshops should include (at least):
 - o How to find available grants and how to apply for them;
 - o Farm Bill 2008 Programs for restoration of land;
 - o Small scale projects for individual homes that would enhance the Watershed;
 - Bird Boxes
 - Bird and Animal Feeders
 - Native Plantings
 - Rain Gardens
 - o Conservation easements and preservation of land;
 - o Restoration techniques to increase vegetation and habitat quality;
 - o Current regulations that are in place in the Watershed.

These seminars can be a launching point for landowners to take part in various programs.

Long-term Milestones (4-10 years)

- Create open space (prairies and wetlands) which are open to the public and have opportunities for recreation such as trails for walking and biking. These trails could contain educational signage about the landscape and specific restoration measures.
- Coalition (or other suitable host) will maintain the Watershed Website as a means of distributing information and providing a connection to Watershed Stakeholders. The website should contain the progress of the plan implementation and any relevant reports, as well as, participation opportunities.
- Based on public opinion, land can be set aside, either publicly or privately, for specific recreation opportunities (hunting, off-road biking, etc.). A group can be created to oversee the set-up and maintenance.

POST CONSTRUCTION RUNOFF CONTROLS (BMPS) – RETROFIT

Existing developments in the Watershed may have a need for replacing or improving existing runoff controls. The retrofitting of existing controls can consist of creating a wetland bottom basin from a dry bottom basin, creating rain gardens at the end of stormwater outlets or in yards at the ends of drainage ways or downspouts, and installing grit separators into catch basins.

Short-term Milestones (1-3 years)

- Survey the Watershed for evidence of flooding or water quality issues and determine causes. Rank cases of flooding based on severity and extent of

damage to prioritize the need for fixing issues. Surveys can be recorded by municipalities and counties. The outcome of the surveys can include analysis with a consultant or municipality to use stormwater BMPs to alleviate the flooding problem.

- Create a Watershed Resource Inventory with more detailed information built off this plan. The Inventory should be made available on the website including a method to submit additional information. Caution should be made with making specific locations of sensitive resources available to protect them from harm. The Inventory could include information for specific resources such as vegetation communities, observed wildlife, owner(s), recreational facilities present, etc.
- The Watershed Website should continue to be maintained to contain information regarding maintaining natural vegetation around detention basins and proper maintenance techniques that can reduce water fowl usage (which can act as a source of Fecal Coliform bacteria).
- Continued maintenance should occur of all culverts, swales, and drainage ways on public property by the local department of transportation or highway department. During maintenance, condition reports of the various structures could be recorded to assist in the planning of potential locations to apply stormwater BMPs.

Long-term Milestones (4-10 years)

- Provide an educational program with the Watershed Plan to elected officials to provide the necessary information regarding the plan and Best Management Practices to apply in their communities. The program can be used and modified accordingly as the Watershed Plan is updated.
- Create a brochure for homeowners regarding the purpose, use, and maintenance of detention basins. Brochure should contain similar materials as the website and include a mention of the website.
- Coalition (or other suitable host) will maintain the Watershed Website as a means of distributing information and providing a connection to Watershed Stakeholders. The website should contain the progress of the plan implementation and any relevant reports, as well as, participation opportunities.
- Address the necessary flooding concerns cooperatively with landowners and municipalities. SWCD/NRCS can provide technical assistance and potentially assist with funding opportunities.

EDUCATION/ OUTREACH – COALITION MEETINGS

Education and Outreach is part of the general 319 Grant procured by the Coalition and the Conservation Foundation. This specific goal is focused at presenting material to the public through the Coalition's regular meetings.

Short-term Milestones (1-3 years)

- Provide educational workshops and seminars hosted by the Coalition with presentations by the SWCDs, NRCS or other resources. These educational workshops should include:
 - o Proper techniques for water quality monitoring;
 - o How to find available grants and how to apply for them;
 - o Conservation of water in the home;
 - o Conservation easements and preservation of land;
 - o Farm Bill 2008 Programs;
 - o Small scale projects for individual homes that would enhance the Watershed;
 - Bird Boxes
 - Bird and Animal Feeders
 - Native Plantings
 - Rain Gardens
 - o Current regulations that are in place in the Watershed.

These seminars can be a launching point for landowners to take part in various programs. A system of recommending programs or seminars should be implemented so that coalition members and the public can provide ideas for future meeting topics.

- Prepare educational brochures which highlight the topics of the meetings. Each brochure can be made available at future meetings or on the Watershed Website for future reference for the public.
- Additional advertising should be prepared to promote the ideals of the Coalition to garner more attention and positive publicity to attract additional members to the Coalition.
- The Watershed Website should continue to be maintained to contain information from the meetings and be used to advertise for the Coalition.

Long-term Milestones (4-10 years)

- Coalition (or other suitable host) will maintain the Watershed Website as a means of distributing information and providing a connection to Watershed Stakeholders. The website should contain the progress of the plan implementation and any relevant reports, as well as, participation opportunities.

PROGRAMMATIC NATURAL RESOURCE PRESERVATION

Preservation of natural resources can be done through a variety of programs, based upon whether land is public or private at the time of protection.

Short-term Milestones (1-3 years)

- Provide educational workshops and seminars hosted by the SWCDs, NRCS, Coalition, or other interested resources. These educational workshops should include (at least):
 - o How to find available grants and how to apply for them;
 - o Farm Bill 2008 Programs relating to natural area preservation;
 - o Conservation easements and preservation of land;
 - o Current regulations that are in place in the Watershed.
 These seminars can be a launching point for landowners to take part in various programs.
- Create an educational brochure available at various locations to provide information regarding property rights in relation to recreation opportunities in the Watershed. Topics to be covered should include:
 - o Requesting access to private property;
 - o Identification of private versus public property;
 - o Trespassing laws;
 - o Private landowner rights.
- Create a Watershed Resource Inventory with more detailed information built off this plan. The Inventory should be made available on the website including a method to submit additional information. Caution should be made with making specific locations of sensitive resources available to protect them from harm. The Inventory could include information for specific resources such as vegetation communities, observed wildlife, owner(s), recreational facilities present, etc.
- Create a program where private landowners can purchase “Private Property” signs at a reduced cost or share the cost. Signs can include means of safely contacting the landowner to request permission to access the land.

Long-term Milestones (4-10 years)

- Establish a local program where private landowners can donate their land that may be adjacent to existing publicly preserved land. Educational materials can be distributed with the details of the program.
- Create open space (prairies and wetlands) which are open to the public, but also contain opportunities for recreation, such as trails for walking and biking. These trails should contain educational signage.
- Based on public opinion, land can be set aside, either publicly or privately, for hunting. A group can be created to oversee the set-up and maintenance.
- Coalition (or other suitable host) will maintain the Watershed Website as a means of distributing information and providing a connection to Watershed Stakeholders. The website should contain the progress of the plan implementation and any relevant reports, as well as, participation opportunities.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT SURVEY

The purpose of the Stakeholder Input Survey is to gather information about continuing concerns within the Watershed. Information collected can be used to update the objectives of the Watershed Plan and to verify that previous concerns have been met. The survey can also include report of the existing status of BMPs in the Watershed which have a limited life span.

Short-Term Milestones (1-3 years)

- Create a draft version of the survey and present at Coalition meeting for approval. Survey should include an area for stakeholders to provide concerns with locations, as well as, a means of ranking concerns previously identified in terms of relative significance.
- Create a means of recording, tallying, and reporting survey results without identification of specific parties to protect their privacy (unless specifically requested).

Long-term Milestones (4-10 years)

- Address the necessary flooding or water quality concerns cooperatively with landowners and municipalities. SWCD/NRCS can provide technical assistance and potentially assist with funding opportunities.
- Based on public opinion, land can be set aside, either publicly or privately, for hunting. A group can be created to oversee the set-up and maintenance.

AUX SABLE CREEK WATERSHED WEBSITE

The Watershed Website was created as part of the Watershed Plan update to be a means of distributing information to the stakeholders in the Watershed. The use of the website creates a large potential for hosting a wide variety information relevant to all the potential users. The key is making sure that the website is maintained long-term.

Short-term Milestones (1-3 years)

- Establish a webmaster or long term host of the website and a means of regularly updating the website with necessary information.
- Upload the updated and approved version of the Watershed Plan.
- Create a Watershed Resource Inventory with more detailed information built off this plan. The Inventory should be made available on the website including a method to submit additional information. Caution should be made with making specific locations of sensitive resources available to protect them from harm. The Inventory could include information for specific resources such as vegetation communities, observed wildlife, owner(s), recreational facilities present, etc.

- Prepare existing information for use on the website (may include scanning various documents or obtaining original electronic copies from the source).

Long-term Milestones (4-10 years)

- Regularly update the website with the progress of the implementation of the Watershed Plan. Status of individual goals or achievements should be highlighted along with future meetings to update the plan itself.
- Continue to maintain the website with the information that has been listed in the other goals.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Watershed Plan will not provide any protection of the watershed without the involvement of the stakeholders both in implementing and updating the plan. Attention needs to be drawn to what individuals and groups can accomplish together in various locations.

Short-term Milestones (1-3 years)

- Provide educational workshops and seminars hosted by the SWCDs, NRCS, Coalition, or other interested resources. These educational workshops should include (at least):
 - o How to find available grants and how to apply for them;
 - o Proper techniques for water quality monitoring;
 - o Farm Bill 2008 Programs;
 - o Small scale projects for individual homes that would enhance the Watershed;
 - Bird Boxes
 - Bird and Animal Feeders
 - Native Plantings
 - Rain Gardens
 - o Conservation easements and preservation of land;
 - o Current regulations that are in place in the Watershed.

These seminars can be a launching point for landowners to take part in various programs.

- Create a Watershed Resource Inventory with more detailed information built off this plan. The Inventory should be made available on the website including a method to submit additional information. Caution should be made with making specific locations of sensitive resources available to protect them from harm. The Inventory could include information for specific resources such as vegetation communities, observed wildlife, owner(s), recreational facilities present, etc.
- The Watershed Website should continue to be maintained to contain information regarding the Watershed Plan, Coalition meetings, educational materials/resources, and local news and projects.

Long-term Milestones (4-10 years)

- Coalition (or other suitable host) will maintain the Watershed Website as a means of distributing information and providing a connection to Watershed Stakeholders. The website should contain the progress of the plan implementation and any relevant reports, as well as, participation opportunities.

CLASSROOM EDUCATION

Although there are no schools in the Watershed at the time of this report, classroom education can help implement some of the monitoring goals of this plan by providing modular classroom curriculum with fieldtrips to enhance the experience. Students get a hands on learning experience, as well as, an opportunity to get family involved with projects they have learned about.

Short-term Milestones (1-3 years)

- Define, in one location, the current or past stream monitoring locations. Use the information to determine if there is a need to implement or modify the monitoring network to adequately cover the Watershed. The use of monitoring the stream can be added to the classroom experience.

Long-Term Milestones (4-10 years)

- Create an educational program presented in classrooms which incorporates lectures, laboratory experiments, and field work to illustrate the appropriate level of knowledge about natural resources, the environment, and the interactions within the various levels of the environment. Educational programs should be tailored for a specific age range. Materials to support the program can be found from a variety of sources.

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

It was indicated that conservation of the supply of ground water was important to some stakeholders and is a growing concern on a larger scale. Milestones to achieve this goal are focused more to individual homeowners.

Short-term Milestones (1-3 years)

- Provide educational workshops and seminars hosted by the SWCDs, NRCS, Coalition, or other interested resources. These educational workshops should include:
 - o How to find available grants and how to apply for them;
 - o Small scale projects for individual homes that would enhance the Watershed;
 - o Water conservation in and around the home;
 - o Current regulations that are in place in the Watershed.
- Create a Watershed Resource Inventory with more detailed information built off this plan. The Inventory should be made available on the website including a

method to submit additional information. Caution should be made with making specific locations of sensitive resources available to protect them from harm. The Inventory could include information for specific resources such as vegetation communities, observed wildlife, owner(s), recreational facilities present, etc.

- Prepare an educational brochure which highlights means of saving water for homeowners. Items which can be highlighted should include:
 - o Rain Gardens
 - o Rain Barrels
 - o Reducing Water Usage
 - o Benefits Of Reusing Grey Water

Long-Term Milestones (4-10 years)

- Coalition (or other suitable host) will maintain the Watershed Website as a means of distributing information and providing a connection to Watershed Stakeholders. The website should contain the information presented in the seminars along with supportive documents/ resources.

GOOD AGRICULTURAL STEWARDSHIP

Based upon the current status of the Watershed, agriculture does not appear to have a negative effect on the quality of the streams. Instead, the goal is to continue and promote good agricultural stewardship to those that may not use these practices or those that may want to do more.

Short-term Milestones (1-3 years)

- Provide educational workshops and seminars hosted by the SWCDs, NRCS, University of Illinois Extension, Coalition, or other interested resources. These educational workshops should include (at least):
 - o Available Grants and Grant Writing/Applying;
 - o Farm Bill 2008 Programs;
 - o Agricultural BMPs;
 - o Advancements in agricultural techniques;
 - o Current regulations that are in place in the Watershed.

These seminars can be a launching point for landowners to take part in various programs.

- Create an educational brochure available at various locations to provide information regarding property rights in relation to recreation opportunities in the Watershed. Topics to be covered should include:
 - o Requesting access to private property;
 - o Identification of private versus public property;
 - o Trespassing laws;
 - o Private landowner rights.

- Landowners should inspect their drain tiles, drainage ways, and culverts with special attention at areas where water may leave their property. Necessary maintenance should include cleaning or repairing tiles and culverts and replacing culverts with appropriate sized structures to eliminate the potential for flooding.
- Create a Watershed Resource Inventory with more detailed information built off this plan. The Inventory should be made available on the website including a method to submit additional information. Caution should be made with making specific locations of sensitive resources available to protect them from harm. The Inventory could include information for specific resources such as vegetation communities, observed wildlife, owner(s), recreational facilities present, etc.
- Create a program where private landowners can purchase “Private Property” signs at a reduced cost or share the cost. Signs can include means of safely contacting the landowner to request permission to access the land.
- Continued maintenance should occur of all culverts, swales, and drainage ways on public property by the local department of transportation or highway department.

Long-term Milestones (4-10 years)

- Coalition (or other suitable host) will maintain the Watershed Website as a means of distributing information and providing a connection to Watershed Stakeholders. The website should contain the progress of the plan implementation and any relevant reports, as well as, participation opportunities.
- The measured counts of Fecal Coliform are below the Illinois Water Quality Standards. This goal can be achieved through the implementation of various measures or the attainment of several of the goals outlined in this chapter.
- Address the necessary flooding concerns cooperatively with landowners and municipalities. SWCD/NRCS can provide technical assistance and potentially assist with funding opportunities.