

Des Plaines River Watershed Planning Year 1 Progress Report, March 2017

This is a planning progress update on the Des Plaines River Watershed-Based Plan provided for stakeholders following the first year of watershed planning meetings. The Des Plaines River watershed plan will guide individual and collaborative efforts to protect and restore water quality, reduce flood damage and protect and enhance natural resources in the 235 square mile Des Plaines River Watershed planning area.

Key planning deadlines:

- Draft watershed plan scheduled for completion January 2018
- Draft plan submitted for review and public comment February-March 2018
- Final Des Plaines River Watershed-Based Plan report will be completed May 2018

WATERSHED PLANNING STATUS AFTER YEAR ONE

1. **STAKEHOLDER MEETING COORDINATION: 20 meetings planned over a 2-year period (8 general meetings, 12 topic meetings)**

Status: 10 meetings completed and reported March 2016-February 2017

- 200 individual stakeholders and 15 Lake County SMC staff participated in the planning process in year 1
- There was a total of 378 attendees at 10 watershed planning meetings

Meeting Topic Summary:

March 2016	Stakeholder coordination kickoff meetings: identify issues and opportunities in the watershed
April 2016	Begin Vision, Goals and Objectives
June 2016	Vision, Goals and Objectives continued
July 2016	Flooding impacts introduced: results of flood questionnaires, preliminary flood problem areas inventory, community update to flood problem areas inventory, voluntary buyout program of flood damaged structures
Aug. 2016	Meeting hosted by North Shore Water Reclamation District: met with Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup (DRWW) about public waste water treatment plant operations and nutrient removal
Sept. 2016	Meeting with Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC): municipal stormwater programs
Oct. 2016	Meeting hosted by Lake County Forest Preserves: conservation areas and initiatives
Nov. 2016	Meeting hosted by Mundelein Park District: stream inventory results and stream maintenance responsibilities
Dec. 2016	Meeting hosted by Tempel Farms: agriculture in the watershed and best practices
Feb. 2017	Meeting hosted by Lake County Health Department: lake health, impairments and best management practices

2. STREAM, DETENTION BASIN, LAKE SHORELINE INVENTORIES

Status: Completed

Inventory Work Completed in 2016

July 2016	Stream and river field assessment completed for 208 miles of stream and 38 miles of river
Aug. 2016	Field assessment and inventory completed for 1,279 detention basins
Oct. 2016	Field assessment of shoreline condition of 21 lakes completed by Lake County Health Department
Oct. 2016	Developed on-line application for accessing stream inventory data
Nov. 2016	Stream inventory results reported at stakeholder meeting

3. FLOOD QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY & FLOOD PROBLEM AREA UPDATE

Status: Underway

Flood Questionnaire Survey and Flood Problem Area Update: Completed

Flood questionnaires were sent to watershed stakeholders including property owners in identified flood problem areas to learn more about when and where flooding occurs and what impacts property owners' experience. Municipalities and townships in the watershed were sent maps and inventory forms requesting flood damage information to update the Flood Problem Area Inventory for their community.

- 7,883 flood questionnaires were sent to property owners in flood risk areas, 223 responses were received
- 43 communities were sent requests for information to update the flood problem area inventory, 17 updates were received

4. DES PLAINES RIVER WATERSHED PLAN REPORT

Report Status: Underway

Draft Chapter 1 Introduction: Completed

Chapter 1 includes a general background description, review of the watershed, the purpose of the watershed plan, and the watershed-based planning requirements.

Draft Chapter 2 Goals, Objectives, Vision: Completed

Chapter 2 includes stakeholder identified watershed issues and opportunities as well as a watershed vision statement, goals and objectives.

Draft Chapter 3 Watershed Characteristics: Underway

Chapter 3 is a comprehensive watershed resource inventory for the Des Plaines River Watershed planning area including a narrative with corresponding maps and illustrations summarizing and describing the watershed's climate and precipitation, subwatershed and drainage catchments, soil conditions, jurisdictions, demographics, land use, transportation, natural resources, green infrastructure, lake, stream, and wetland inventories, water quality, watershed hydrology and the drainage system including a detention basin inventory and stormsewer networks. The watershed resources inventory in Chapter 3 will be used to identify the watershed problems, which are addressed with more detailed analysis in Chapter 4.

Draft Chapter 4 Watershed Problems Assessment: Underway (SMC & Consultant)

Chapter 4 includes a detailed assessment of the problems identified in the Water Resource Inventory/Watershed Characteristics Assessment portion of the plan (Chapter 3). The following analyses will be completed to assess how land

use conditions may affect water quality, natural resources and green infrastructure in the watershed. Causes and sources of water quality impairments will be identified. A water quality model will determine pollutant loads by catchment area and will identify critical areas of pollution contribution. This chapter also reviews regulatory and policy programs that influence watershed conditions.

Draft Chapter 5 Flood Risk, Flood Problem Areas and Mitigation: Underway

Chapter 5 describes flood risk in the watershed including identifying the number of structures located within the mapped 100-year floodplain, and critical facilities located in the mapped 500-year floodplain. Flood problem areas in the watershed are identified using data and information provided by the Lake County Flood Problem Areas Inventory, resident questionnaire responses, and community updates. Flood Problem Area Inventory sites will be prioritized and evaluated to determine if flood mitigation measures are appropriate.

Chapter 6 Prioritized Action Plan: To be completed by Consultant

The Action Plan will include recommendations to achieve the stakeholder-identified goals and objectives of the watershed plan and also meet the USEPA requirements for a watershed-based plan. The action plan chapter will include both a Programmatic and a Site-Specific Action Plan. In addition to water quality improvement, the Action Plan will also address flood damage prevention and flood mitigation, and natural resource protection and enhancement.

Chapter 7 Plan Implementation and Evaluation: To be completed by Consultant

Chapter 7 will include an estimate of pollutant load reductions and reduction targets based on implementation of actions identified in Chapter 6 along with the estimated cost of implementing the recommended actions. This chapter will also identify a strategy and details for transitioning from watershed planning to implementation. It will outline a monitoring plan and include an evaluation tool for plan implementation to evaluate progress toward meeting watershed goals and objectives.

Chapter 8 Education and Outreach Strategy: To be completed by SMC

Chapter 8 will be an education and outreach strategy that will enhance public understanding of the Des Plaines River watershed. The strategy is designed to provide stakeholders with the knowledge and skills needed to implement the plan, and to encourage individual stakeholder and community participation in developing and implementing nonpoint source pollution control measures.

5. CONSULTANT SELECTION

Consultant Selection Status: Completed

SMC solicited the technical services of a qualified watershed planning consulting firm to assist with water quality modeling and developing the action and implementation plans for the watershed plan report. Northwater Consulting was selected as the Des Plaines Watershed Plan consultant following response to a request for proposals and consultant selection process. Northwater Consulting will begin working on the watershed plan in March 2017.