

Yellow Creek Watershed Partnership

Quarterly meeting minutes of August 16, 2012

Board members attending: Joe Ginger, Roger Carson, Stan Slachetka, Steve Spudich

Interested resource persons attending: John Edler, Mark Keister

There were no minutes of the quarterly meeting May 17 to approve. Treasury has \$43.13.

Joe announced that he has applied for a National Fish and Wildlife Federation grant for flood management and read his application (Will involve wetland restoration to provide relief areas for flood waters. No word of success yet), and he is working on a "Watershed Plan" that Karen Rivera says is almost a "must have" in order to get grants.

Steve said Michael Malon of Jo Daviess Soil & Water Conservation Dist. is offering to print soil survey and flood maps (keys to identify potential wetland restoration sites) for both Jo Davies and Stephenson Counties provided that there is no confidentiality problem. Craig Schroeder gave Steve information on ordering National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey maps from a website. (With nil computer skill, I pray Michael comes through!)

Respectfully submitted, Steve Spudich

Other info. from Craig: He has a list of 13 hydric soils in Stephenson County best for wetlands: Harpster silty clay loam, Sable silty clay loam, Drummer silty clay loam, Thorp silt loam, Edginton silt loam, Sawmill silty clay loam-frequently flooded, Beaucoup silty clay loam, Otter silt loam, Millington silt loam, Houghton muck, Sawmill silty clay loam-occasionally flooded, and Lena muck. (Don't you love those names!)

There are 3 options for the NCRS Wetlands Reserve Program: 1, Permanent Easement with U.S. Dept. of Ag. paying 100% of full land value and up to full restoration cost. 2. Thirty Year Easement with USDA paying up to 75% of value and up to 75% of restoration cost. 3. Ten Year Cost Share Agreements, without any easement, with USDA paying up to 75% of restoration cost. To be eligible owners should own the land 7 years, but there are waivers; and owners must meet adjusted gross income limits. Many types of low land situations are eligible. Owners maintain title and control of their land, mineral rights, control of access, and use for non-developed recreational activities like hunting and fishing .

The November meeting (3rd. Thurs. of the month) will be 1:30 Nov.15 at the Freeport library. Our website's meeting page has the right date, but the home page still has a very old date for our next meeting. Can anyone please fix this?