

“How to Write a Fundable 319 Grant”
A Watershed Capacity Building Workshop
hosted by Prairie Rivers Network
and the Illinois Lake Management Association

Attendance: Over 105 people attended workshops covering this topic. Overall, this workshop was attended largely by government employees. In northern Illinois (Lisle), the majority of the participants were either with environmental organizations or the government. In central Illinois (Bloomington), the majority of attendees were government employees, followed by environmental organizations. In southern Illinois (Collinsville), most participants were government employees, followed by consultants (see the following charts).

“How to Write a Fundable 319 Grant – Lisle”		
March 3, 2010		
Organization Type Represented	Number in Attendance (approximate)	Number of Evaluations Received
Local Lake Association	6	3
Local Lake Assoc. & Environ. Org.	2	1
Local Lake Assoc. & WS Group	1	1
Environmental Organization	16	2
Lake/Watershed/Environ./Gov't	1	1
Government	15	3
Consultant	9	6
none indicated	n/a	4
TOTAL	50 signed in (not all signed in or pre-registered)	21 evaluations

“How to Write a Fundable 319 Grant – Bloomington”		
June 23, 2010		
Organization Type Represented	Number in Attendance	Number of Evaluations Received
Local Watershed Group	1	1
Environmental Organization	11	6
Environmental Org. & Academia	2	1
Government	21	11
Consultant	3	1
Academia	2	1
Manufacture	1	1
none indicated	n/a	2
TOTAL	41 attended	24 evaluations

“How to Write a Fundable 319 Grant – Collinsville” March 28, 2011		
Organization Type Represented	Number in Attendance	Number of Evaluations Received
Local Watershed Group	1	1
Government	7	7
Consultant	4	4
Academia	1	1
Other: Policy Group	1	1
TOTAL	14 attended	14 evaluations

Outcomes: For all three workshops, the vast majority of participants rated the presentations as “extremely helpful” or very helpful”. Two of the field trips occurred at the end of the workshop, so only verbal feedback was received. All who attended the field trips seemed appreciative of the time to see successfully implemented projects funded by 319 grants. Participant feedback is detailed in the following charts.

“How to Write a Fundable 319 Grant – Lisle” (3/3/10)				
Participant Rating of Feedback - Lisle:				
Topic and Presenter: (not all participants ranked each topic)	Extremely Helpful	Very Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Not So Helpful
“319 Grants from a Federal Perspective”: <i>Tom Davenport</i>	4	9	7	1
“319 Grants from a State Perspective”: <i>Amy Walkenbach</i>	9	11	1	–
“Data Analysis (some assembly required)”: <i>Cyd Curtis</i>	5	10	3	3
Tour of The Morton Arboretum’s 319 Projects: <i>Kurt Dreisilker</i>	6	5	8	–
“Accessing 319 Funding for Watershed Planning”: <i>Mike Prusila</i>	6	10	4	1
“Implementing a Project with 319 Funds”: <i>Leslie Berns</i>	6	7	7	–
“319 Grants for Watershed Restoration”: <i>Randy Stowe</i>	9	8	2	–
Participant Feedback – Lisle:				
Is this material useful to your watershed work? If so, how will you apply it?				
Local Lake Association	“Yes. First time being exposed to the information, so need to review and will likely use all of the information and resources in one way or another.” “Subsequent phases to previous 319 grant proposals.”			
Local Lake Assoc/Env Org	“Yes. We will try to move forward on water quality issues in our watershed.”			
Local Lake Assoc/WS Grp	(no comments)			
Lake/Watershed/Environ./Gov’t	(no comments)			
Environmental Organization	“Apply for 319 grant.” “Very useful in developing project plan, target partners.”			
Government	“Yes. The workshop provided structure for the ideas floating around in our watershed.” “Yes. It will help us plan and implement 319 grant proposals and projects.”			

Consultant	<p>“Will apply basic information (for forms, general information) to future 319 grant application. Will also educate perspective clients on potential grant opportunity.”</p> <p>“Yes. Incorporate into planning and providing advice to clients and watershed groups.”</p> <p>“N/A”</p> <p>“Yes. To prioritize/frame projects for funding.”</p>
none indicated	<p>“Good information about developing watershed plan.”</p> <p>“Yes. In future 319/watershed planning work.”</p> <p>“<u>Some</u> is. Already working under a plan, trying to find BMP projects.”</p>
What did you like about this workshop?	
Local Lake Association	<p>“Appreciate the flow and sticking to a timeline. A lot of information, but the handouts are very helpful. I would suggest all speakers provide a copy of their power point.”</p> <p>“Practical experience of presenters.”</p>
Local Lake Assoc/Env Org	<p>“What and how the 319 funds could help us achieve our goal to improve our water quality. And to repair major soil erosion along shoreline.”</p>
Local Lake Assoc/WS Grp	<p>“Randy Stowe has a wealth of knowledge.”</p>
Lake/Watershed/Environ./Gov’t	<p>“Good cross-section of speakers (federal government to state, local, and stakeholders).”</p>
Environmental Organization	<p>“Availability of speakers. Location.”</p> <p>“All helpful – most enjoyed hearing about implementation from land managers and the walk.”</p>
Government	<p>“Actual experience.”</p> <p>“Perspectives of funding source. Advice from successful grantees. Past project descriptions.”</p> <p>“Handouts from Cyd useful.”</p>
Consultant	<p>“Good information; good speakers.”</p> <p>“Materials with links to reference sites.”</p> <p>“Good flow. Good food. Relevant speakers who stayed on point.”</p> <p>“IEPA’s perspective of project evaluation for funding.”</p> <p>“The tour of the onsite BMPs was helpful to see what was done and how it has worked on the ground.”</p> <p>“Very informative, appreciate honesty, great location. Tour of parking lot was very informative. Can’t wait for additional findings on permeable pavers. Liked time management of presentations.”</p>
none indicated	<p>“Good cross section of issues around 319 grant.”</p> <p>“I liked the structure and length of presentations. The walk/hour in the middle also helped the flow. I also liked how on time Holly kept things!”</p> <p>“Short presentations – that left 6 presenters and I could approach that presenter relevant to my needs.”</p>
What else would you like to learn about writing 319 grant proposals?	
Local Lake Association	<p>“Can’t think of anything at the moment. Maybe see more examples of successful and unsuccessful projects.”</p> <p>“Collecting data.”</p>
Local Lake Assoc/Env Org	<p>“Contacts on what and who could help get plans together; Maps and engineering design.”</p>
Local Lake Assoc/WS Grp	(no comments)
Lake/Watershed/Environ./Gov’t	(no comments)

Environmental Organization	<p>“More about 9-steps/acceptable plans and how much of the plan the 319 should cover; what 319 can fund (ex. Salaries, publications, speakers, etc); Other basics of 319 (need for partners? Can be used as match for other grants?)</p>
Government	<p>“costing practices – an exercise/simulation; scale/scalability – measureable results vs. acres in plan (bigger not better?)”</p>
Consultant	<p>“See below [good & bad examples].”</p> <p>“I would have liked to hear more from Amy and specifics on application content.”</p> <p>“Access to applications that have been approved for use as a template...or just a template to use.”</p> <p>“Run through mock case studies to help people locate information, compile 319 grant documentation.”</p> <p>“Sources – what other opportunities are out there.”</p>
none indicated	<p>“Updates on the new submission process.”</p> <p>“How does IEPA internally prioritize projects? Is it a point system of some sort?”</p>
<p>Do you have ideas for future workshop topics? Other comments?</p>	
Local Lake Association	<p>“See above [successful vs. unsuccessful projects]. Thank you very much. Everyone was very friendly and approachable.”</p>
Local Lake Assoc./Env Org	<p>(no comments)</p>
Local Lake Assoc/WS Grp	<p>(no comments)</p>
Lake/Watershed/Environ./Gov't	<p>“Developing bid specs. Permit application.”</p>
Environmental Organization	<p>“How to engage the media; how to sustain member interest in watershed groups.</p> <p>[Presentations today] felt rushed, especially ‘Data Analysis’.”</p>
Government	<p>re: Berns talk: “Nice, but probably not feasible outside of Chicago area.”</p> <p>“Load reduction models and build-out analysis; hold somewhere in western Illinois in agricultural environment; something in an agricultural watershed in a non-progressive, downstate political environment”</p>
Consultant	<p>“Maybe include good and bad examples of portions of completed 319 applications.”</p> <p>“See item above [mock case studies]. Please e-mail information on plant selection for wetland area – what species have ended up being more aggressive than anticipated, what species are favored (or not favored) by muskrats.”</p> <p>“Permitting – how to get through process quicker. The positive/negative impacts of the permeable paver parking lot.”</p>
none indicated	<p>“BMP practices”</p>

“How to Write a Fundable 319 Grant – Bloomington” (6/23/10)

Participant Rating of Presentations – Bloomington:

Topic and Presenter:	Extremely Helpful	Very Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Not So Helpful
“319 Grants from a Federal Perspective”: <i>Tom Davenport</i>	8	10	6	–
“319 Grants from a State Perspective”: <i>Amy Walkenbach</i>	19	4	1	–
“Accessing 319 Funding for Watershed Planning”: <i>Mike Prusila</i>	10	10	2	1
“Lake Sara Shoreline Bluff Stabilization: How a Small Volunteer Group Utilized 319 Grants”: <i>Tom Ryan</i>	15	4	4	–
“Kickapoo Creek Corridor Restoration Project”: <i>Mary Lou Goodpaster & Bryan Cross</i>	11	5	6	1
Pre-Tour Introduction to Restoration Projects at The Grove”: <i>Don Roseboom</i>	7	7	4	–

Participant Feedback - Bloomington:

Is this material useful to your watershed work? If so, how will you apply it?

Local Watershed Group	“still thinking...”
Environmental Organization	<p>“Yes – tips for prep were very useful.”</p> <p>“We are working on scaling up current conservation work to larger watershed to reduce nutrient loadings entering mainstem from tributary subwatersheds.”</p> <p>“Yes, 319 grant project.”</p> <p>“Yes, assist QCW.”</p> <p>“Yes.”</p>
Environmental Org. & Academia	<p>“Determining our grant application process for the next few years.</p> <p>Preparing/planning.”</p>
Government	<p>“Yes. We are considering submitting an EPA 319 grant. We came to the conference to help understand the process better.”</p> <p>“Yes. I intend to apply for a 319 grant. This material will help me send an effective application.”</p> <p>“Be beneficial when applying for 319 grant funds to give a leg up on the competition.”</p> <p>“This was a first-time meeting about 319 grants. I would have liked to have seen more of the process of writing a grant and what could be used for a 319 grant (i.e. SSRD, fencing, runoff, etc.)”</p> <p>“Yes. We are planning a pervious parking lot (250 vehicles) for an environmental education center.”</p> <p>“Yes.”</p>
Consultant	“Does not apply.”
Academia	“Yes. Will combine with grants to federal and other sources of funding.”
Manufacture	“Yes. Getting a federal and state viewpoint and its differences/similarities was helpful.”
none indicated	“While we have used 319 grants in the past, it is helpful to hear about changes and other projects.”

What did you like about this workshop?	
Local Watershed Group	"Solid, concrete information."
Environmental Organization	"Various aspects from different organizations were very helpful." "Detailed information on application (by Amy)." "Lots of helpful information." "Informative people; very helpful." "Good planning help."
Environmental Org. & Academia	"Good variety of perspectives on the issue."
Government	"Speakers, location, room, amenities." "The speakers and the organization of the topics presented." "The guidance for filling out the 319 application." "I liked the 'Fist to Best'." "beneficial information" "Everyone was very knowledgeable about each of their topics, as well as very passionate and questions seem to be always welcome. Let's you know you're not doing it alone." "Very informal. Very informational." "The different perspectives."
Consultant	"Very helpful to know what type of projects will be eligible for 319 funding."
Academia	"General introduction to the program by Amy."
Manufacture	"The split between what is <u>required</u> ."
none indicated	"Good list of presenters. Presenters were interesting and informative." "Good to hear about real projects."
What else would you like to learn about writing 319 grant proposals?	
Local Watershed Group	"lots more to learn"
Environmental Organization	"How to further reduce human impact."
Environmental Org. & Academia	"More examples of grant proposals."
Government	"Worst case scenarios. More of what not to do, etc." "May help fill out a grant to feel the process." "What could be used for a 319 grant; going through an application or an example of an application and proposal." "I have enough information for now, but I'm sure I'll have more later."
Consultant	"Very good introduction and general information."
Academia	(no comments)
Manufacture	(no comments)
none indicated	(no comments)
Do you have ideas for future workshop topics? Other comments?	
Local Watershed Group	(no comments)
Environmental Organization	"stream restoration" "Need better maps for tour talking spots."
Environmental Org. & Academia	(no comments)
Government	"Talk about match. Volunteers & amounts. Fundraising, other sources for match." "The conference area was very nice and very suiting. Also, providing lunch/food menus for people who drive far is also helpful."
Consultant	"None."

Academia	(no comments)
Manufacture	“Potential speaker on county-level funding, i.e. how counties play a role in all of this.”
none indicated	“More about projects done – good, bad and the ugly. Let’s not begin the day with talks about how bad this state is – poor messages for a room full of people wanting to do the right thing.”

“How to Write a Fundable 319 Grant – Collinsville” (3/28/11)				
Participant Rating of Presentations – Collinsville:				
Topic and Presenter:	Extremely Helpful	Very Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Not So Helpful
“Watershed Planning and How to Write a Fundable 319 Grant”: <i>Jeff Boeckler</i>	10	3	1	–
“Section 319 Grant Program – Writing a Proposal That Can Be Funded”: <i>Amy Walkenbach</i>	11	3	–	–
“Thinking Outside the Pipe – How to Bring 319 Funds to Your Backyard”: <i>Megan Riechmann & Ed Weilbacher</i>	10	4	–	–

Participant Feedback – Collinsville:	
Is this material useful to your watershed work? If so, how will you apply it?	
Local Watershed Group	“Yes.”
Government	“Yes – current info.” “Education.” “Helpful for understanding watershed management planning for thesis.” “Yes, for more grant applications.” “Yes.”
Consultant	“Planning to submit application in fall.”
Academia	“Not sure how it will help. Investigating possible funding sources for pervious parking lot.”
Other – Policy Group	“Yes – many suggestions and ideas as we develop a Watershed Plan for Meramec River.”
What did you like about this workshop?	
Local Watershed Group	“Easily understood.”
Government	“Local.” “Pointers given.” “Excellent presentations – engaging and informative.” “Meeting people and learning secrets.” “All.”
Consultant	“Review of process.”
Academia	“Jeff’s – ‘on the ground’ experience (applied); Amy’s – ‘brass tacks’ about how to apply (funder); Megan’s – enthusiasm! (grant writer).”
Other – Policy Group	“Knowledgeable presenters.”

What else would you like to learn about writing 319 grant proposals?

Local Watershed Group	(no comments)
Government	"More helpful tips." "Matching."
Consultant	(no comments)
Academia	"Not sure, but I know who to contact."
Other – Policy Group	(no comments)

Do you have ideas for future workshop topics? Other comments?

Local Watershed Group	(no comments)
Government	"I liked the location. Thanks for offering in downstate for travel purposes." "No."
Consultant	(no comments)
Academia	"Similar format for IDNR funding and similar federal programs."
Other – Policy Group	(no comments)