

**“Grant Opportunities and Funding Options  
for Lake and Watershed Projects”**

**A Watershed Capacity Building Workshop  
hosted by Prairie Rivers Network  
and the Illinois Lake Management Association**

**Attendance:** Over 70 people attended, and over half of the attendance was split evenly between members of local lake associations and government employees. A significant number of consultants also attended (see chart below).

<b>“Grant Opportunities and Funding Options for Lake and Watershed Projects” Peoria: February 18, 2009</b>		
<b>Organization Type Represented</b>	<b>Number in Attendance (approximate)</b>	<b>Number of Evaluations Received</b>
Local Lake Association	23	6
Local Lake Assoc. & Gov't	1	1
Local Watershed Group	1	-
Environmental Organization	(none on sign-in sheet)	-
Government	22	6
Consultant	13	-
Academia	4	-
Utility	1	-
none indicated	4	1
TOTAL	69 signed in (not all signed in or pre- registered)	14 evaluations

**Outcomes:** Evaluation of this workshop is based on written feedback from roughly 20% of the participants, along with verbal feedback to PRN and ILMA. Hand-written evaluations were difficult to collect, due to the half-day nature of the workshop and because this was a pre-conference activity of a larger event. Many people walked into the workshop, not having registered in advance. Participants left the workshop quickly to attend other conference activities.

Overall, the feedback received was positive. Attendees found value in the panel, having the opportunity to both ask specific questions to the presenters as well as listen to panel members discuss the challenges of the availability of funding sources among themselves. Detailed participant feedback is provided in the following charts.

**“Grant Opportunities and Funding Options for Lake and Watershed Projects”  
(Peoria – 2/18/09)**

**Participant Rating of Presentations – Peoria:**

<b>Topic and Presenter: (not all participants ranked each topic)</b>	<b>Extremely Helpful</b>	<b>Very Helpful</b>	<b>Somewhat Helpful</b>	<b>Not So Helpful</b>
“Grants Available through IEPA” - <i>Amy Walkenbach</i>	9	3	–	–
“Grants Available through IDNR” - <i>Tammy Watson</i>	6	4	2	1
“Grants Available through NRCS, SWCS, & FSA” - <i>Hal Pyle</i>	3	2	6	2
“State Wildlife Grant through USFWS” - <i>Trent Thomas</i>	6	5	–	1
“Special Taxing Districts” - <i>Dick Hilton</i>	3	1	5	2
“Obtaining Grants from a Homeowner’s Perspective” - <i>Tom Ryan</i>	8	–	4	–
<i>Panel Discussion</i>	2	2	–	–

**Participant Feedback – Peoria:**

**What did you like about this workshop?**

Local Lake Association	<p>“Brochures and literature available with contact and website information.”</p> <p>“All the information on the grants – great job! Question and answer period – good.”</p> <p>“Good information presented; some gone through too quickly.”</p> <p>“The 1<sup>st</sup> and last topics were great for us! [Shadow Lakes II Association] I was only aware of the 319 grant. Today’s program covered many more grant programs that I was not aware of. However, many of the grants covered are either not currently being funded or would not pertain to our organizations.”</p>
Local Lake Assoc. & Gov’t	(no comments)
Government	<p>“Thank you for offering it – I got quite a bit of new information out of it.”</p> <p>“Being able to meet with the people who administer the grants.”</p> <p>“It was great to have so many funding agencies at the same place at the same time.”</p> <p>“Excellent speaker and topics.”</p>
none indicated	“The amount of information.”

**What would you change?**

Local Lake Association	<p>“Only somewhat helpful because I am/was already aware of funding opportunities. The taxing district does not apply to us – we have ability for special assessments to cover some of these costs.”</p> <p>“I would have liked to have seen an agenda or synopsis of what today’s topics covered. I’m not sure that I would have driven four hours to attend the seminar if I had known that the first topic was the only one that pertained to my organization.”</p>
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Local Lake Assoc. & Gov't	(no comments)
Government	<p>"Seemed to be two very diverse audiences – those representing government or environmental organizations and those representing homeowner lake associations. Perhaps the day or at least the agenda could be broken up so that each group could focus more time on discussions that pertain to their needs."</p> <p>"Examples of completed applications. Handouts would be helpful."</p> <p>"Timing – with the uncertainty of funding, some of the information is not helpful if the grants don't have money."</p> <p>"Nothing."</p>
none indicated	"Nothing."
<b>Do you have ideas for future topics?</b>	
Local Lake Association	"List specific topics for each organization listed above. Local Lake Associations have very little in common with government or academia when it comes to speakers and topics."
Local Lake Assoc. & Gov't	(no comments)
Government	"1) Water quality sampling and how to interpret test results (stream sampling as well as lakes); 2) Illinois Drainage Law"
none indicated	"Kind of new for me, not yet."
<b>Other comments?</b>	
Local Lake Association	<p>"Is there grant writing assistance available? Is there a list of lake improvement (dredging, quality, etc.) companies that are affiliated with or referred by the association?"</p> <p>"IDNR's 1st program had no funding so description of grants was waste of time. IDNR's 2<sup>nd</sup> program was about public organizations – did not pertain to private organizations. Special Taxing Districts are for municipalities or county. State Wildlife Grants only available to a small/select area in Illinois."</p>
Local Lake Assoc. & Gov't	(no comments)
Government	<p>"Good workshop. This should be offered at least every 2 or 3 years."</p> <p>"Hope that next year actual amounts of grants are funded in amounts [? cannot read]."</p>
none indicated	(no comments)