

“How to Prepare a Third-Party TMDL for the EPA”

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

Attendance: The vast majority of participants were consultants. In addition to consultants, seven other organization types were represented, with most being government employees (see chart below).

“How Prepare a Third-Party TMDL for the EPA” Bolingbrook: November 16, 2010		
Organization Type Represented	Number in Attendance	Number of Evaluations Received
Local Watershed Group	3	3
Local Watershed Group & Environmental Org.	2	2
Local Watershed Group & Government	2	2
Environmental Organization	2	2
Government	8	5
Consultant	14	9
Utility	2	1
Laboratory	1	1
TOTAL	34 attended	25 evaluations

Outcomes: The majority of attendees found this workshop extremely or very helpful. People were pleased to meet the U.S. EPA and IEPA speakers in person and have their questions and concerns addressed. Networking over lunch and on breaks was a significant component of this workshop.

We had successful attendance – 34 people – at this Chicago-area workshop (see tables below). We intended to hold this workshop in central Illinois, as a pre-conference activity at the 2010 Illinois Water Conference. Only 14 people had registered, and we canceled the workshop for logistical reason (including that three speakers were traveling from Chicago, and one from Wisconsin) and because it was apparent that those registered in central Illinois were mostly academic (the primary audience of the Illinois Water Conference) and not people who would directly participate in the preparation of a TMDL. We advertised heavily to the consulting sector for the northern Illinois workshop, and were pleased with the large numbers of attendees.

“How to Prepare a Third-Party TMDL for the EPA” (Bolingbrook – 11/16/10)

Participant Rating of Presentations – Bolingbrook:

Topic and Presenter: (not all participants ranked each topic)	Extremely Helpful	Very Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Not So Helpful
“Watershed Management Planning and TMDLs”: <i>Dean Maraldo</i>	6	10	9	–
“3 rd Party TMDLs – What Do They Want?”: <i>Dave Werbach</i>	11	11	3	–
“The TMDL Program in Illinois”: <i>Trevor Sample</i>	11	13	1	–
“Qualifications Based Selection: Why Value Outweighs Cost”: <i>Kurt Schoen</i>	7	5	6	6
“Stakeholder Management for TMDL Implementation”: <i>Stephen McCracken</i>	14	3	3	1

Participant Feedback – Bolingbrook:

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

Local Watershed Group	<p>“Yes. I had never before walked through the deliverables, so found that aspect particularly helpful.”</p> <p>“1) Study the material in greater detail. 2) Ascertain the borders and a map of the area, and the population and their perceived needs. Determine if the watershed/subwatershed is in any state of planning now – etc. Proceed from there with next steps.”</p>
Local WS Group & Env.Org.	<p>“Yes – better understanding of how TMDLs work, where to ask for data from.”</p> <p>“Save the Dunes is currently working with EPA & IDEM on the TMDL for the Salt Creek Watershed. I am new to Save the Dunes and now understand more about the project.”</p>
Local WS Group & Gov’t	<p>“Yes. Understanding the TMDL vs. the watershed plan.”</p>
Environmental Organization	<p>“Yes. We will keep a future TMDL in mind when we write our watershed plan. We will definitely be using QBS to select our contractor.”</p>
Government	<p>“Yes. Trying to find a way to engage volunteers in collecting data needed to support TMDLs in Illinois. Much food for thought!”</p> <p>“Yes. We collect a lot of water quality data from lakes and streams.”</p> <p>“Yes, very useful.”</p>
Consultant	<p>“Very informative, our company is currently not doing TMDLs but [we] have done some watershed planning.”</p> <p>“Yes. Have on-going watershed plans. It is good to have access to U.S. EPA and IEPA to learn where regs are going.”</p> <p>“At this point, we do very limited watershed work – hoping to do more.”</p> <p>“In helping determine a better method for collecting data to draw conclusions for creating a TMDL.”</p> <p>“Yes – working to get better sample data for pollutants in streams to achieve more believable results.”</p>
Utility	<p>“This will be useful for stream sampling that I am currently working on.”</p>
Laboratory	<p>(no comments)</p>

What did you like about this workshop?	
Local Watershed Group	<p>"Everyone was great about staying on schedule without seeming rushed, even with answering questions. I also thought that it was helpful to have speakers from the regulatory agencies as well as representatives from the design and consultation side."</p> <p>"It was awesome!"</p> <p>"Times were arranged so it could be one day. Many specifics were addressed in depth – allowing for pertinent on the spot questions to be asked and/or addressed to the person by mail in the future. Printed copies of presentations were in our folder – very important real step forward; motivation."</p>
Local WS Group & Env.Org.	<p>"Speakers were good."</p> <p>"Great information provided."</p>
Local WS Group & Gov't	<p>"Speakers gave realistic answers to questions and procedures for TMDL process."</p> <p>"How to select a firm."</p>
Environmental Organization	<p>"Nice bridge of government and private speakers. Since we are not consultants, it was nice to hear about how to bid/put out jobs/RFPs. Thank you."</p> <p>"Basics of TMDLs presented well."</p>
Government	<p>"Good speakers and good interactive discussion with audience."</p> <p>"Explanation of TMDL 3rd party participation."</p> <p>"Learning 101's of TMDLs."</p> <p>"Very technical but user friendly."</p>
Consultant	<p>"A lot of good information."</p> <p>"Very informative."</p> <p>"Networking and access to regulators to discuss where the regulations [are] going."</p> <p>"Implementation issues, regulatory agency point of view."</p> <p>"The focus on how a TMDL is created. Stephen McCracken's practical experience."</p> <p>"The caliber of the presenters and their ability to answer questions not covered in their presentations."</p>
Utility	"I liked hearing the local and federal perspective on this."
Laboratory	"Liked location (south of Chicago area)."
What else would you like to learn about preparing third-party TMDLs?	
Local Watershed Group	<p>"I would like to learn more about the models, but I realize that is a bit specialized."</p> <p>"A refresher about who makes the watershed maps for your own area? How to get an actual map of the subwatersheds that make up the Lower Rock River Watershed."</p>
Local WS Group & Env.Org.	"I would like to review TMDL's to see what they are like and how they are formatted."
Local WS Group & Gov't	"Upside vs. potential downside of proceeding to TMDL over watershed planning alone."
Environmental Organization	<p>"Trevor could have gone through this."</p> <p>"More clarification of how TMDLs and watershed plans fit together. Got confusing at times."</p>
Government	"Some case studies of successful TMDL implementations."
Consultant	<p>"Will be checking the website to see some report examples."</p> <p>"More detail from examples."</p> <p>"More information on modeling."</p>

	<p>“How data has been collected for the most accurate TMDLs.”</p> <p>“What models are typically used to quantify pollutant reduction, sources, applications.”</p>
Utility	“I would like to hear more about what other groups are doing and seeing their presentations.”
Laboratory	(no comments)
Do you have ideas for future workshop topics? Other comments?	
Local Watershed Group	“It would be interesting to have a group of various implementers of TMDLs present their processes and products/results.”
Local WS Group & Env.Org.	<p>“Go through a specific TMDL; IGIG after the 1st run through; data sources for watershed plans and TMDLs.”</p> <p>“Great workshop!”</p>
Local WS Group & Gov't	(no comments)
Environmental Organization	“Have copies of 305(b) report (contains 303(d) list), examples of written TMDLs that vary in scope. Consulting firm presentation like sales pitch – points OK but a little obvious. Have case [?] study approach for consulting.”
Government	<p>“Mapping using the free apps on the internet (one planned for ILMA 2011).”</p> <p>“I think ‘TMDL Program in Illinois’ should have been 1st topic as it is the basic elementary concept.”</p>
Consultant	<p>“MS4 permitting.”</p> <p>“MS4 permit implementation – going beyond the 6 minimum elements & reaching towards Maximum Extent Practicables (MEP).”</p> <p>“Good job. I would suggest to reach out [to] more municipalities and have them participate in this initiative.”</p> <p>“Water quality data collection.”</p>
Utility	“I would like more discussion and for some speakers to practice before they present, but they all did a good job.”
Laboratory	“Lab aspects about monitoring.”