

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

- Sustainable practices and proper planning can positively affect economic growth and development within communities and watersheds
- Progressive and responsible water quality protection and restoration can and should go hand-in-hand with habitat protection and restoration.
- Collaboration and information-sharing are critical to ensure sustainability.

GOAL OF WORKSHOP

Initiate development of a formalized plan to build capacity within Illinois Watershed Groups that will lead to sustainable watershed management throughout the state.

OBJECTIVES

1. Identify gaps in watershed management skill sets and information needs, and outline possible solutions to fill these gaps.
2. Use a watershed management framework to guide the development of and implementation of sustainable practices.
3. Outline various tools that can be used to strengthen watershed management efforts
4. Present lessons learned from similar programs to help guide future efforts and avoid past mistakes
5. Develop concrete action items to build on the momentum of the group and continue the process toward sustainable watershed management.

TALKING POINTS (to be included under the individual presentations)

- Introduce the concept of restoring/protecting the assimilative capacity of stream and river systems to use those systems as equity for NPDES and potential trading solutions.
- Watershed groups can help meet the needs of MS4 Stormwater Permits and other required programs.
- Measurement of success can include other indicators in addition to biological/chemical/physical measurements.