"Key EPA Internet Tools for Watershed Management"

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

Topics and Presenter:

PRN partnered with the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center and co-hosted this full-day workshop in southern Illinois (Godfrey) on February 11, 2010. It was an additional workshop in our series, added when TetraTech offered to return to Illinois on another funding source, after the November 2009 building partnerships workshops.

TetraTech facilitated this hands-on, computer training session. The tools and topics covered during the workshop, and the confidence people felt in using these tools once trained, are listed in the following table:

"Key EPA Internet Tools for Watershed Management" (Godfrey – 2/11/10)			
Topics, Tools, and Participant Feedback			
(based on 28 evaluations, and not all respondents remarked on every tool) **Topics and Tools**	**Do you feel comfortable accessing and using this Tool on your own?**		
	Yes	**No**	**Somewhat**
Watershed planning resources	20	–	6
Watershed funding resources	21	–	6
Watershed Academy	21	–	6
Surf Your Watershed	21	–	4
Adopt Your Watershed	20	–	6
STORET	13	1	12
Electronic News and Information	17	2	7
ECHO	12	1	11
Watershed Central	19	–	6
Water Quality Standards	11	2	9
ATTAINS	13	2	9
Enviromapper for Water	16	1	9
Ask Waters	10	4	4
Useful Web Sites	14	1	6

Attendance: Thirty-two (32) people attended the workshop, and the majority represented watershed groups (see table below). Evaluation forms per organization type are not provided for this workshop; 28 out of 32 evaluations were received, and many of those who submitted evaluations remained anonymous.

"Key EPA Internet Tools for Watershed Management" Godfrey: February 11, 2010	
Organization Type Represented	Number in Attendance
Watershed Group	11
Environmental Group	6
Consultant	1
Government	8
Academia	6
TOTAL	32 attended

Outcomes: Upon the completion of this workshop, participants felt competent accessing and using the various tools on their own (refer to table on page 40). For some, understanding a couple of the more technical tools would require further exploration. The step-by-step workbook provided was a highlight of this workshop, as was the hands-on experience of working at one's own computer station. People found the consultant very engaging and were pleased with how she conducted the training.

Additional evaluation feedback follows:

- The majority of participants had never used any of the websites presented.

- Most people indicated that they had "very little" experience with mapping applications. From the remaining responses, there was a fairly equal distribution of people who indicated that they had "no experience", "occasional use", or "regular use" of mapping applications.

- Most people gained "quite a bit" or "a large amount" of new and usable knowledge.

- Almost everyone found the pace of the training "about right", found the tutorial document "clear and easy to follow", and found the level of training "just right for my needs."

- The majority of participants stated that they would continue using the EPA websites addressed in this workshop for their watershed work.