

## CHAPTER 7: POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Funding for various projects within the Aux Sable Creek Watershed to obtain the goals identified by the Committee is available from a variety of locations. It is important to realize that there is no one well of money that can be tapped for each project, but a cornucopia of opportunities exist for those willing to locate it. There are two basic types of money available for projects within the Watershed: grant money and alternative money. Grant money is money that can be obtained from various agencies or sources (public and private) for project specific purposes. Alternative money is money that is gained through creative applications which encourage the exploration of partnerships with groups that may have similar objectives which may not be the direct purpose of the project. An example of using alternative money would be to request a partnership with an organization such as Ducks Unlimited to utilize one of their programs for wetland enhancement to help assist a resident along the creek in protecting a wetland. While the resident's desire to enhance a wetland may not have included the idea of helping in waterfowl conservation, the partnership with Ducks Unlimited help fund the enhancement project to achieve both goals.

Due to the large number of funding programs available, no one source may fit each project. Some sources are a cost share (such as the 319 Grant) where there has to be some other source paying for a part of the project in conjunction with the grant. Most sources allow the applicant to search for multiple sources of funding for a single project to help lower the cost for the landowner(s).

In coordination with the grant applications, another importance consideration is the inclusion of surrounding landowners and the effect of the project on them. The effect of the landowners on the project should also be considered. Depending on the project, some surrounding landowners may wish to join in on the project. It should be noted that rights of access may be included in the grant applications indicating that if there is land outside of the project under separate ownership, access can be granted through that property.

The following represents a list of potential state and federal technical resources and funding sources that has been developed from a variety of sources. There are a variety of private sources of funding which can be applied for such as the Grand Victoria Foundation. The list is not complete, but represents a good starting point. Due to changes in the state of the various levels of government and the economy, not all programs may exist past the printing of this plan. Before starting a project, check with the various agencies to determine what programs are currently available.

## ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

### *Partners for Conservation Program (formerly the Conservation 2000-Ecosystems Program (C-2000))*

- The goal of the program is to provide funding for larger projects (\$-\$-\$-\$) whose goal is to maintain and enhance ecological and economic conditions of the region. Funding for projects are awarded on a competitive basis to applicants from designated Ecosystem Partnership Areas (resource economics, habitat, outreach, research, or capital).
- The C-2000 program provides financial and technical support to Ecosystem Partnerships.
- Applications are due in February.
- Applications should be completed through the Watershed Coalition or other local partnerships.
- Applicable to larger scale restoration projects within the Watershed.

### *Office of Water Resources Small Projects Fund*

- Assists rural and smaller urban communities to reduce stormwater related damages by alleviating local significant drainage and flood problems.
- The OWR does the initial surveys of conditions and provides recommendations for flood control and acquisition projects for local flood problem areas. If the project is deemed warranted, IDNR coordinates planning, design, and funding.
- Contributions can reach \$75,000 on small projects.
- Contact IDNR-OWR at 217-782-4637 for further information.
- This type of funding may be applicable to a variety of smaller flood issues throughout the Watershed.

### *Forestry Development Act Program*

- Administers the Forestry Development Cost-Share Program, which provides funding for landowners that manage forests for environmental, social, and economic benefits.
- Forests must be at least 100 feet wide and be located on 5 acres of contiguous land within the state.
- Application must include a Forest Management Plan prepared by someone other than the applicant who is qualified and submitted to and approved by the District Forester.
- A maximum of 75% cost share is provided for tree planting, site preparation, vegetation control, fencing, thinning, fire breaks, and pruning.
- This grant can be combined with federal FDA programs.

- This program may be suitable for a private landowner that has a woodlot that requires maintenance or restoration.

#### *Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Program (OSLAD)*

- Eligible projects include money for acquisition and development of public parks and open space.
- Application deadline is July 1 annually.
- Funding consists of 50% of project costs with a maximum of \$750,000 for acquisition projects and \$400,000 for development and renovation projects.
- OSLAD funding would be appropriate for projects in the Watershed that will be used for open space or public recreation.

#### *Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)*

- The LWCF is a state funded program that provides funding assistance to local government agencies for acquisition and/or development of land for public parks and open space.
- This program is similar to OSLAD.
- Funding from this source is recommended for municipalities looking to create public open space.

#### *Open Land Trust Fund Grant (OLT)*

- Grants are available to local governments to acquire land from willing sellers for open space and resource based outdoor recreation.
- OLT funding should be applied for use with projects similar to those described above.

#### *Illinois Nature Preserves Commission Programs (INPC)*

- The INPC is a program for landowners who wish to protect high quality natural resources, threatened or endangered species, and habitat in perpetuity through voluntary dedication or registration of such lands into the Illinois Nature Preserves System. The INPC promotes the preservation of these significant lands and provides leadership in their stewardship, management, and protection.
- The INPC program is recommended for landowners who have had suspected high quality resources identified and recorded and wish to preserve those resources.

#### *EcoWatch Network*

- Through programs such as the RiverWatch, ForestWatch, PrairieWatch, WetlandWatch, and UrbanWatch, adult volunteers, high school science

teachers, and students monitor the various resources as part of an educational tool to learn more about their surroundings.

#### *Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Fund*

- Provides for the acquisition of public lands and/or the development of habitat to attract and support waterfowl. Eligible projects must directly or indirectly benefit waterfowl hunting in Illinois. Projects involving education or research are not eligible.
- Application deadline is December 31.

#### *Private Land Wildlife Habitat Management Fund*

- A technical assistance program for private landowners that provide plans, field equipment, plant materials, and labor to develop, implement, and maintain wildlife habitat management practices that require specialized training, equipment or resources which would otherwise be unavailable to landowners.
- To be eligible, the privately owned land must be at least 1.0 acres in size in a rural area, or 0.25 acres in an urban area.

#### *Private Waters Program*

- This program provides free field inspections and technical advice on fish habitat, fish population management, water quality, vegetation control, streambank stabilization, and habitat restoration in impounded waters or streams.

#### *Trees, Shrubs, and Seedlings at No Cost Program*

- The goal of the program is to encourage the reforestation of land by private landowners to increase wildlife habitat and erosion control function.
- The program provides seedlings at no cost to landowners who have an IDNR approved management plan.

#### *Recreation Trails Program*

- Provides financial assistance to federal, state and local government agencies and not-for-profit organizations for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and maintenance of public motorized and non-motorized recreation trails.
- There must be a minimum of a non-federal match of 20%.
- This grant may be used in conjunction with federal programs to create access to public land through private land.

### *Snowmobile Grants*

- Financial assistance for the acquisition and development or rehabilitation of public snowmobile areas, trails, and facilities.

## **ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

### *Nonpoint Source Management Program (Section 319 Grants)*

- The 319 program has funds available for projects which include controlling or elimination nonpoint source pollution sources. A wide variety of projects are included.
- Grants are awarded annually with the amount available varying based on number of applications.
- These funds are not available to complete actions required by state or federal law.
- Requires 40% non-federal matching funds or in-kind services.

### *Water Revolving Fund: Wastewater and Drinking Water*

- These two programs provide low interest loans to local units of government for the construction of wastewater or community water supply facilities.

## **ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### *Partners for Conservation Program*

- Program provides funding for the SWCDs for various cost-sharing programs such as well sealing, stream bank stabilization, nutrient management, upland BMPs, and special projects.

## **UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – 2008 FARM BILL Through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)**

### *Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)*

- The CRP removes marginal croplands from production and encourages environmental enhancement on those lands.

### *Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)*

- The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water.

- The program is a partnership among producers; tribal, state, and federal governments; and, in some cases, private groups. CREP is an offshoot of the country's largest private-lands environmental improvement program - the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

#### *Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)*

- The WRP is a voluntary, non-regulatory, incentive-based program that helps private based landowners, farmers, and ranchers protect and restore wetlands on their property.

#### *Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)*

- EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist farmers and ranchers install or implement conservation practices on eligible agricultural land to protect water, air, and soil quality as well as wildlife habitat.
- Also includes the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program to help producers achieve water quality goals and address water quantity concerns.

#### *Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)*

- The CSP pays farmers who are implementing conservation practices on their working lands. It provides annual payments and increasing financial incentives to encourage the continuation of farming practices that benefit soil, water, and air resources.

#### *Farm Protection Program (FPP)*

- The FPP provides matching funds up to 50% of the fair market assessment value to help State, tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations purchase the development rights to keep productive farm and rangeland in agricultural uses.

#### *Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)*

- GRP helps landowners restore and protect grassland, rangeland, pastureland, shrubland, and certain other types of lands as well as provides assistance for rehabilitation or enhancement of those lands.

#### *Open Fields Program (OFP)*

- The OFP provides incentives to State governments and Indian Tribes to provide public access to private land for hunting and fishing.

### *Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)*

- WHIP helps landowners develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private lands.

### *Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program*

- This program provides technical assistance and financial assistance for the rehabilitation of existing small watershed projects that may include upgrading or removing dams.

## **UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

### *Environmental Education Grants*

- Eligible projects include environmental education activities such as curricula design or development, design and demonstration of education field methods, training educators, or fostering international cooperation.
- Typically the grant requires a non-federal match of 25%.

### *Five-Star Restoration Challenge Grant Program*

- Grant funding is available for community based wetland and riparian area restoration projects in a variety of locations. The program combines environmental enhancement activities with employment opportunities for economically disadvantaged youth.
- Partnerships between public and private entities are encouraged to promote the collaboration of services and goods.
- Multiple entities may apply for the grant with average awards about \$10,000/project.

## **UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

### *North American Wetlands Conservation Act*

- The act provides financial assistance for on-the-ground projects which include acquisition, restoration, creation, or enhancement of wetlands and wetland associated uplands. Partnerships are encouraged and conservation easements are required to protect the land from future development.
- The deadline for application varies.
- The grant requires an equal match of non-federal funds to a maximum amount of \$50,000.

#### *Northeastern Illinois Wetlands Conservation Account*

- Projects which are eligible for this grant include restoration, enhancement, and/or replacement of wetland values and functions which have been degraded or destroyed as a result of activities conducted in violation of the Clean Water Act. Other eligible projects include those that promote understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of wetlands. Permanent land protection along with federal/state mitigation plans is required on all projects.
- Matching funds are preferred with this grant as either in-kind or cash, but not required.

#### *Flexible Funds*

- This program provides relatively small amounts of funding from up to five separate programs to good projects on private lands to restore fish and/or wildlife habitat.
- An equal match is preferred with this type of grant.

#### *Partners for Fish and Wildlife*

- Provides financial assistance for the restoration of degraded wetlands and other important fish and wildlife habitats such as grasslands, streams, and riparian habitats. Technical assistance is also provided for the design of the restoration plans.
- This grant can provide 100% funding for up to 10 years on private lands and are often paired with the MRCD Wetland Reserve Program.

#### *Waterfowl Production Areas*

- This program provides 100% of the fair market value for the acquisition of land greater than 100 acres in size to preserve or restore wetlands open to hunting, fishing, and trapping. This program does not guarantee the receipt of local permits required to restore the wetlands.