

Wetlands, Wildlife Habitat, and Flood Hazards in the Rock River Basin

Promoting Collaboration to Restore Wetlands and Floodplains and Mitigate Flood Hazards in the Rock River Basin: A 4-Part Webinar Series for Busy Professionals

This series of lunchtime webinars will offer participants the opportunity to explore and pursue new ways to improve the effectiveness of their plans, policies, and projects to simultaneously achieve wetland/habitat conservation and flood hazard mitigation goals; opportunities for establishing new collaborations with other disciplines and agencies; and new sources of state and federal funding that could be leveraged for wetland and wildlife habitat conservation and flood hazard mitigation. The webinar series builds on the findings of the Wetlands, Wildlife Habitat, and Flood Hazard in the Rock River Basin Workshop held in 2011 by the Environmental Law Institute, University of North Carolina Institute for the Environment, and the Wisconsin Wetlands Association.* *Protecting Wetlands and Wildlife Habitat While Reducing Flood Losses: A Guidebook on Interagency Collaboration in the Mississippi River Basin* provides a summary of the May 2011 workshop and can be downloaded at www.eli.org/pdf/wetlandsguidebook.pdf. The webinars are open to the public, but space is limited. Contact Rebecca Kihlsinger (kihlsinger@eli.org) to register for a webinar.

Webinar Topics and Schedule

Funding Opportunities for Collaborative Projects: *Sponsored by the Wisconsin Wetlands Association*

August 20; 12:30 – 2 pm CT

Given tight budgets, organizations must look for ways to stretch scarce resources. By combining resources, organizations can sometimes achieve together what neither could accomplish alone. For the first conference call, speakers from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will describe their grant programs. They will provide information on the purpose for the grant program, criteria for choosing projects, grant deadlines, and examples of opportunities to leverage these grants to fund projects that meet multiple objectives (e.g., wetland, wildlife, and floodplain restoration).

- **Local Government Eligibility for State Wetland Program Development Grants** - Sue Elston, EPA
- **Lake Protection Grants** - Susan Graham, WDNR
- **River Protection Grants** - Greg Searle, WDNR
- **Floodplain Management Grants** - Gary Heinrichs, WDNR

Hazard Mitigation Planning Process: *Sponsored by Wisconsin Emergency Management*

October 2; 12:30 – 2 pm CT

State and local governments are responsible for identifying the risks to life and property from disasters, such as floods and coastal storms, and for developing strategies to address the risks posed by natural hazards. The goal of hazard mitigation is to break the cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. For this call, emergency managers will describe the state hazard mitigation plan and a local hazard mitigation plan and the planning process. The West Wisconsin Land Trust will describe how they collaborated with the City of Superior to assist in the protection of critical conservation lands in areas identified as priorities in the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

- **State Hazard Mitigation Planning** - Roxanne Gray, Wisconsin Emergency Management
- **Local Hazard Mitigation Planning** - David Janda, Dane County Emergency Management
- **Leveraging Hazard Mitigation Plans for Conservation Acquisitions** - Jane Anklam, West Wisconsin Land Trust

* For more information on the workshop or webinar series see
http://www.eli.org/Program Areas/natural_hazard_mitigation.cfm

Using Zoning to Solve Problems, Save Wetlands, and Please the Public: *Sponsored by the Wisconsin Wetlands Association*

October 18; 12:30 – 2 pm CT

Many local governing bodies spend significant time dealing with wetlands *as* problems (i.e., working through land use conflicts), and little to no time considering the ways that wetlands can help them *solve* problems. So while wetlands provide many important public services such as flood abatement, water quality improvement, fish and wildlife habitat, and more, they rarely receive prominent attention in land use planning and policy development efforts. This conference call will focus on zoning opportunities to improve wetland protection, and on the ways protecting and restoring wetlands can help local governments save time and money and enhance public access to nature and recreation. Speakers will present examples of pro-active wetland policies and planning efforts from around the state and Rock River Basin, and the potential benefits communities can derive from their implementation. Ample time will be provided to discuss barriers to wetland planning and policy development.

- ***Wetland Zoning Opportunities and Planning Tools*** - Erin O'Brien and Kyle Magyera, Wisconsin Wetlands Association
- ***Going Above and Beyond Shoreland Wetland Zoning, How and Why*** – Brian Standing, Dane County Planning Department

Prioritized Wetland Restoration in the Rock River Basin - Identifying Projects with Multiple Benefits: *Sponsored by the Rock River Coalition*

November 7; 12:30 – 2 pm CT

Half of the original 10 million acres of wetlands in Wisconsin have been ditched and drained for agriculture or filled to create land for houses, roads or commercial development. Protecting and restoring Wisconsin's wetlands and watersheds requires involvement of many partner agencies and organizations. This conference call will focus on opportunities for and the multiple benefits of effective wetland and watershed protection and restoration in the Rock River Basin and throughout the state.

- ***Refining the Potentially Restorable Wetland Map***- Scott Taylor, Rock River Coalition
- ***Delavan Lake Watershed Initiative Network*** – Maggie Zoellner, Delevan Lake Watershed Initiative Network
- ***The NAWCA Grant Process and Ongoing Restoration/Protection Work in the Rock River Basin*** – Michele Kille, The Nature Conservancy

This Webinar Series was organized by the Environmental Law Institute in collaboration with the Wisconsin Wetlands Association and the Rock River Coalition with generous funding from the McKnight Foundation.