

*The Wisconsin Wetlands Association, Environmental Law Institute, and University of North Carolina
Institute for the Environment*

personally invite you to

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

A workshop designed to protect vital wetland and wildlife habitat and promote resilience to flooding in the Rock River Basin through greater interagency coordination

**Friday, May 13, 2011
Lake Mills Community Center**

We hope you can attend! Invitees for the workshop were **individually selected** by an Advisory Committee of wetland and wildlife managers, floodplain managers, community planners, and hazard planning and emergency managers with years of experience in the Basin.*

Please let us know if you can attend. Complete and return the attached registration form to kihslinger@eli.org no later than **April 15, 2011**.

More detailed information will be provided in advance of the training for those planning to attend. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Rebecca Kihslinger at (202) 939-3812 or kihslinger@eli.org. We look forward to seeing you in May.



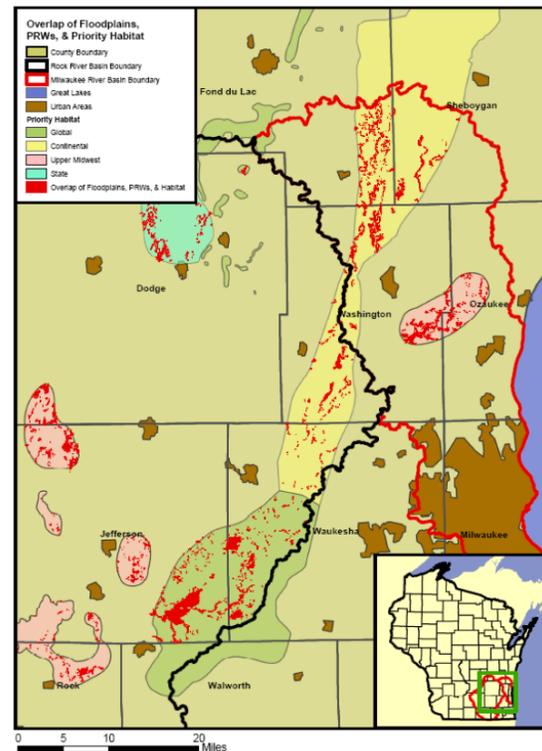
We hope you can join us for what promises to be an informative and productive workshop. The goal of the workshop is to identify ways to more efficiently and effectively protect wetland and wildlife habitat and strengthen resilience to flooding in the Rock River Basin. We will explore how hazard and emergency managers, wetland and wildlife conservation managers, floodplain managers, community planners, and conservation organizations can work effectively together to meet multiple, and overlapping goals and identify the information needed and funding sources available for joint projects.

The specific objectives of the workshop are to:

- Increase awareness among hazard and emergency managers and wetland and wildlife managers about each other's work;
- Identify conservation and flood hazard mitigation goals in the Rock River Basin;
- Identify the obstacles to collaboration among hazard and emergency managers, floodplain managers, land use planners, and wetland and wildlife managers; and
- Identify opportunities for collaboration and the information and funding sources available for joint projects.

Flood Hazards and Conservation Opportunities in the Rock River Basin

The 2008 floods were the most costly natural disaster in Wisconsin's recorded history, causing over \$1.5 billion in damages. Extensive flooding along the Rock River caused severe damage in surrounding communities. All counties in the Basin were included in state declared disaster areas. In 2009, ELI and UNC completed a study in the Rock River Basin to identify opportunities for habitat conservation in areas prone to flood hazards. The study found extensive overlap between wetland and wildlife habitats - critically important for protecting water quality and providing flood storage - and the flood-prone areas in the basin. We also found that hazard planners typically do not coordinate with wetland and wildlife conservation managers, even though they often work on the same issues or in the same areas. ELI, UNC, and WWA believe that there is tremendous untapped opportunity to improve wetland protection and flood hazard mitigation through greater interagency coordination.



*Advisory Committee members include:

- Tom Bernthal, Wetland Ecologist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Catherine Bleser, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – South Central Region
- Doug Fendry, Area Wildlife Supervisor, Bureau of Wildlife Management
- Jason Fruth, Planning & Zoning Manager, Waukesha Co., Department of Parks and Land Use
- Diane J. Kleiboer/ Roxanne Gray/ Lynsey Kawski, Wisconsin Emergency Management
- Gary Heinrichs, Floodplain Planning Program Manager, Bureau of Watershed Management, DNR
- Alan R. Lulloff, Science Services Program Manager, Association of State Floodplain Managers
- Scott Taylor, President, Rock River Coalition
- Peter Ziegler, Wisconsin Waterfowl Association