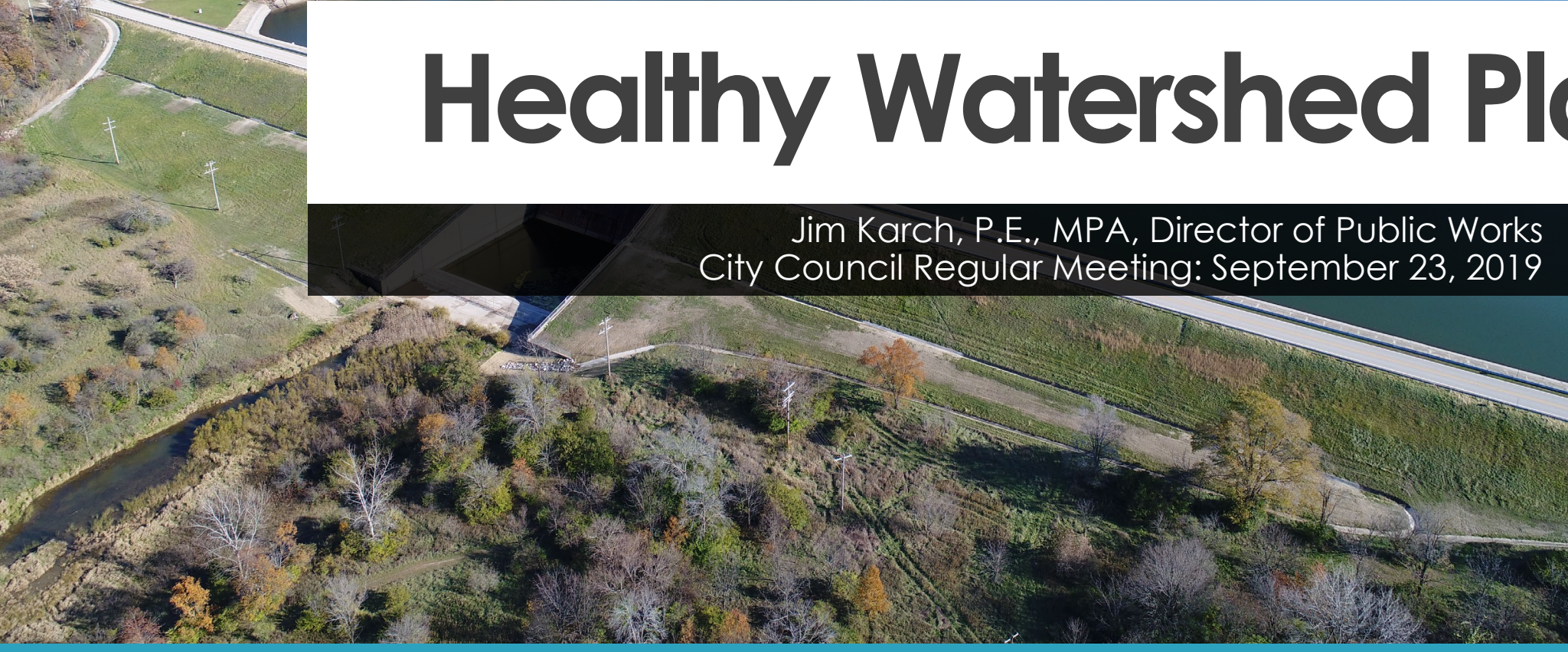




Healthy Watershed Planning

Jim Karch, P.E., MPA, Director of Public Works
City Council Regular Meeting: September 23, 2019



Partners



Previous Success

- ❖ IEPA approved watershed plans for Evergreen Lake and Lake Bloomington in 2008
 - ❖ Plans created by MCSWCD in partnership with local gov't, landowners, local experts, and citizens
 - ❖ Plans include practices that decrease the amount of nutrients and sediment entering water supply reservoirs
 - ❖ Most of the emphasis in implementation and outreach was focused on the agricultural community.
- ❖ Increasing public education addressing urban issues that affect the watershed
 - ❖ "Your Water, Your Future" \$90,000 IEPA 319 grant MCSWCD, Illinois State University, City of Bloomington.
 - ❖ Survey - 58% participation rate (550 individual households completed the survey) which contributed to the great results of the survey.
- ❖ Grant funding for Reducing Nitrogen Loss and Improving Water Quality
 - ❖ \$96,759 IEPA 319 grant
 - ❖ Ongoing effort with MCSWCD
 - ❖ 3000 acres converted from fall anhydrous ammonia to spring side dress nitrogen application process.
- ❖ The Lake Bloomington watershed has been selected for a National Water Quality Initiative Pilot program from the United States Department of Agricultural-Natural Resources Conservation Service.
 - ❖ Partnership between City, MCSWCD, and landowners to assist landowners with developing customized watershed assessment and outreach plans
 - ❖ One of five (5) watersheds selected for the program in the United States.

Shoreline Stabilization



Stream Bank Stabilization



Waterway Improvements



Wetlands



Section 319(h) Grant Program

- ❖ Section 319(h) Grant Program is a competitive financial assistance grant program established to help control nonpoint source (NPS) pollution
- ❖ MCSWCD applied in 2018
- ❖ Council committed funds for the cost/share grant in the amount of \$71,250 in July 2018
- ❖ A year passed before IEPA sent award notifications
- ❖ MCSWCD notified that the grant application was **APPROVED** in August 2019
- ❖ Total project cost is \$149,625, which includes \$58,375 from the grant and matching funds of \$71,250 from City of Bloomington and \$20,000 from Illinois Farm Bureau
- ❖ Public Works requests approval for the purchase of watershed consulting services from MCSWCD via an IGA

What's next?

- ❖ If approved, City will purchase watershed planning services from MCSWCD to update existing watershed plans
 - ❖ Current watershed plans are 10 years old
 - ❖ MCSWCD will partner with consultants with experience in this area
 - ❖ MCSWCD will compile and analyze updates since original plans
 - ❖ Updates will also include Environmental Protection Agency's 9 Elements or Watershed Planning
- ❖ Illinois State University will perform field studies within the watersheds of both reservoirs
- ❖ The City will continue to seek input from additional partners to develop the plan.
- ❖ The watershed plan should take 18-24 months to complete.