**THE 4 LAKES WATERSHED INITIATIVE**

- The 4 Lakes Watershed Initiative is a stakeholder driven group composed of local lake management committees, concerned citizens, municipalities, and others who hope to address lingering water quality issues by promoting responsible land use and watershed balance.

- The main goal of the 4 Lakes Watershed Initiative is to build a comprehensive watershed driven land plan that encompasses green initiatives in cooperation with responsible and economically sustainable land development directives and build an Action Plan identifying individuals to serve as “focus agents” for empowering the components within the Action Plan.

- Conceive Plan >>>>> Build Plan >>>>>>> Approve Plan >>>>> Enable Plan
THE 4 LAKES WATERSHED INITIATIVE
STATISTICS

• Total watershed area: 21,589 acres (minus Tower Lakes)

• By County: 17,580 acres in Lake; 4,009 acres in McHenry

• Known floodplain area = 4,720 acres

• Known NWI wetlands = 3,760 acres

• Home to the following breakdown of T&E species*:
  • Birds: 6 spp.
  • Fish: 4 spp.
  • Submersed plants: 2 spp

*(information per Lake County Lakes Management Unit)
One of the biggest concerns: Increased impervious surfaces leading to reduction of stream water quality.
Breakdown by watershed:

• Bangs/Slocum: 7,040 acres
• Mutton Creek: 5,786 acres
• Griswold Lake: 3,256 acres
• Port Barrington Shelf: 2,520 acres
• Tower Lakes Drain: 2,987 acres
Slocum/Bangs Lake Watershed

• Key LCFPD holdings in east

• Two very contrasting lake ecologies

• Key IL Route 176 corridor adjacent to both lakes and connecting creek.

• Significant wetland and floodplain holdings
**Mutton Creek Watershed**

- Previously studied by NIPC, including an Action Plan that was never adopted
- Large agricultural runoff source
- Significant wetland and floodplain holdings
Griswold Lake Watershed

- Highly un-urbanized watershed
- The main contributing population is immediately adjacent to lake
- Significantly high water table which may influence land use choices
- Significant wetland and floodplain holdings
- Heavily influenced by Fox River hydraulics
Port Barrington Shelf

• Layout of the watershed is unique to other adjacent lake watersheds

• Extremely sensitive environmental corridor due to proximity to Fox River

• Backwater morphology is impacted by upstream watershed inputs and Fox River water surface

• Mostly wetland and floodplain
Tower Lakes Drain Watershed

- Latest member of the group, need more time for NR analysis
- Some information will be available through BACOG
- Unlike other watershed in the study area, TLD contains non-participating upstream lakes
- Useful background information may still be available through the Lake County LMU
The 4 Lakes Watershed

- Varied land use throughout
- Heavy agricultural, residential, estate, and commercial/industrial corridors amongst large pockets of opens space
- Roughly 6.5 linear miles of Fox River frontage
Lake Problems: What is the #1 Concern?

• Diverse list of priorities amongst the current stakeholders

• In the end we all want the same thing – clean water

• Many different paths to get there…

• There is no silver bullet

• Guidance in creating a watershed based holistic management plan that will assist stakeholders in seeing the bigger picture
THE 4 LAKES WATERSHED INITIATIVE

WATERSHED CAUSE AND EFFECT

LAKE PROJECT IS THE DIRECT RESULT OF WATERSHED RESPONSE

- Dredging
- Fish Population
- Waters Level
- Weeds and Algae

[Images of dredging, fish, and waters level]
OVER-RIDING OBSERVATION: You can’t

manage our lakes or streams without some understanding and managing

the watershed that drains to it
GROUP GOALS:

• Preserve water quality – Enhance water quality

• Make sustainable development the norm

• Focus on groundwater/water supply protection, and replenishment

• Protect existing floodprone areas while identifying and preserving new flood storage areas

• Promote recreational opportunities where they may exist to enhance the local environment for all users.
How does this group benefit the FWA?

• Cleaning the water that drains to the Fox River before it gets to the Fox River:
  
  Fox example: L-THIA model runs estimate that the Bangs Lake/Slocum Lake Watershed captures the following pollutant load on an average annual year:
  
  • 109 Tons NPS Suspended Solids
  
  • 4.5 Tons NPS Nitrogen
  
  • 1.2 Tons NPS Phosphorus
  
  • 333.6 lbs of heavy metals
  
  • 5 Tons of hydrocarbons

Draft study available on 4 Lakes Watershed Initiative Website
THE 4 LAKES WATERSHED INITIATIVE
Welcome to the Homepage of the 4 Lakes Watershed Initiative

Mission Statement

The 4 Lakes Watershed Initiative, a stakeholder group composed of local lake management committees, concerned citizens, municipalities, and others, is developing a watershed based plan for the following lakes (Island, Griswold, Slocum, Napa Sioux, Bangs) and their associated tributaries (Bangs Lake Drain, Mutton Creek and Cotton Creek). Included in the Initiative is Port Barrington, bordered by the Fox River and the Fox River Preserve.

Recent Announcements

ILMA POD #2 The Illinois Lakes Management Association will be hosting another POD (#3) at the Firewood Restaurant & Sports Lounge on McHenry Oct. 18th, starting at 7PM. There is no protocol to attend ... Posted Sep 22, 2011 12:21 PM by Brian Wolkoven

Why Make a Watershed Plan?
The 4 Lakes Watershed Initiative now consists of 7 represented water bodies, (Bangs Lake, Island Lake, Griswold Lake, Slocum Lake, Lake Napa Sioux, and Port Barrington) each with ...

Baseline Sampling From our latest meeting we will exact a plan to help develop baseline water quality impacts from stormwater runoff. This plan requires the collection of grab samples at...

Local Watersheds

Map | Sat | Tum | Earth

ILMA-LAKES
ILLINOIS LAKES MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

Manhard Consulting LTD
How can FREP Help?:

- The 4 Lakes Watershed Initiative lacks a Fiscal Agent
- Serve as a “Focus Agent” for the entire group (as needed)
- Help to provide technical assistance, identify resources, potential grants, etc.
- Provide a resource base for local experts when applicable