

April 26, 2024

MEMORANDUM

To: Stormwater Management Commission From: Mike Prusila, Planning Supervisor

RE: Resolution of Support for the Chain O' Lakes Watershed-Based Plan

ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

SMC staff recommends approval of a resolution in support of the Chain O' Lakes Watershed-Based Plan, which was completed in February 2024. The Fox Waterway Agency (FWA) led development of this plan, and SMC provided data, the template for the plan report, other technical assistance to FWA and its consultant, and SMC staff also participated in planning meetings. The plan satisfies USEPA and Illinois EPA guidance requirements for watershed-based planning, which means that the projects and programs recommended in the plan are given higher priority for Section 319 Clean Water Act grant funding.

The planning area includes the Upper Fox watershed and areas draining to Pistakee Lake in LakeCounty (see attached map). Projects or "best management practices" recommended in the plan are focused on water quality improvement and are generally consistent with those recommended in other watershed plans developed by SMC. SMC staff assisted with and are hosting an online mapping application showing the location of recommendations included in the plan:

(https://lakecountyil.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/basic/index.html?appid=456960f5050e450e8ee111 b06a578e19).

There is not currently an SMC-developed watershed-based plan for this area; this plan provides guidance for stakeholders interested in implementing projects to improve water quality and enhance natural resources in this area and will bolster proposals to grantors for watershed projects.



