



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 19, 2024

TO: Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

FROM: Mike Prusila, Planning Supervisor

RE: Natural Resources Conservation Service Upper Des Plaines Watershed Plan

ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information

On December 10, 2024 the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) convened a public meeting to provide information on the Upper Des Plaines River Watershed Plan/Environmental Assessment.

The purpose of the plan is to analyze opportunities to reduce the risk of flooding along the Upper Des Plaines River through structural measures and/or non-structural alternatives such as wetland restoration, enhancement, and/or creation. The plan will also identify associated opportunities that benefit public recreation and wildlife habitat. SMC initiated the concept with NRCS in response to ongoing concerns regarding increased flooding potential along the Des Plaines River in Lake County due to changes in precipitation patterns and watershed development upstream.

NRCS and its contractor, Baird/Stantec JV, is the project manager while SMC is the local sponsor. The Lake County Forest Preserve District is also a partner as portions of Pine Dunes, Duck Farm, Independence Grove, Mill Creek, and Wilmot Woods Forest Preserves have been identified as potential project implementation sites.

NRCS maintains the project website, where additional information as well as a recording of the December 10, 2024 meeting can be viewed: <https://www.udpr-nrcs-watershedplan.com/>.

Please contact Mike Prusila with any questions at mprusila@lakecountyiil.gov.