



Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Bureau of Water • 1021 N. Grand Avenue E. • P.O. Box 19276 • Springfield • Illinois • 62794-9276

Division of Water Pollution Control ANNUAL FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT

for NPDES Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4)

This fillable form may be completed online, a copy saved locally, printed and signed before it is submitted to the Compliance Assurance Section at the above address. Complete each section of this report.

Report Period: From March, 2020 To March, 2021

Permit No. ILR40 0510

MS4 OPERATOR INFORMATION: (As it appears on the current permit)

Name: City of Belvidere Mailing Address 1: 401 Whitney Blvd.

Mailing Address 2: _____ County: Boone

City: Belvidere State: IL Zip: 61008 Telephone: 815-544-9256

Contact Person: Brent Anderson Email Address: banderson@ci.belvidere.il.us
(Person responsible for Annual Report)

Name(s) of governmental entity(ies) in which MS4 is located: (As it appears on the current permit)

City of Belvidere

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE ADDRESSED.

A. Changes to best management practices (check appropriate BMP change(s) and attach information regarding change(s) to BMP and measurable goals.)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Public Education and Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Construction Site Runoff Control | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Public Participation/Involvement | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Post-Construction Runoff Control | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping | <input type="checkbox"/> |

B. Attach the status of compliance with permit conditions, an assessment of the appropriateness of your identified best management practices and progress towards achieving the statutory goal of reducing the discharge of pollutants to the MEP, and your identified measurable goals for each of the minimum control measures.

C. Attach results of information collected and analyzed, including monitoring data, if any during the reporting period.

D. Attach a summary of the storm water activities you plan to undertake during the next reporting cycle (including an implementation schedule.)

E. Attach notice that you are relying on another government entity to satisfy some of your permit obligations (if applicable).

F. Attach a list of construction projects that your entity has paid for during the reporting period.

Any person who knowingly makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent material statement, orally or in writing, to the Illinois EPA commits a Class 4 felony. A second or subsequent offense after conviction is a Class 3 felony. (415 ILCS 5/44(h))

Owner Signature:

Brent Anderson

Printed Name:

5-27-21

Date:

Director of Public works

Title:

EMAIL COMPLETED FORM TO: epa.ms4annualinsp@illinois.gov

or Mail to: ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE SECTION #19
1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST
POST OFFICE BOX 19276
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276

IL 532 2585

WPC 691 Rev 6/10

This Agency is authorized to require this information under Section 4 and Title X of the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/4, 5/39). Failure to disclose this information may result in: a civil penalty of not to exceed \$50,000 for the violation and an additional civil penalty of not to exceed \$10,000 for each day during which the violation continues (415 ILCS 5/42) and may also prevent this form from being processed and could result in your application being denied. This form has been approved by the Forms Management Center.



CITY OF BELVIDERE

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
ANNUAL FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT
NPDES PERMIT FOR STORMWATER DISCHARGES
FROM MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS (MS4)

2021 ANNUAL FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT MARCH 2020 TO MARCH 2021 REPORTING PERIOD

A. CHANGES TO BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

There were no changes to the Best Management Practices (BMPs) commitments in the City of Belvidere's Notice of Intent (NOI) for the reporting period.

B. STATUS OF COMPLIANCE WITH PERMIT CONDITIONS

The City of Belvidere is committed to implementing several BMPs in order to meet the requirements of the NPDES MS4 Permit. This section summarizes the implementation of the BMPs during the reporting period. The status or progress for each of the measurable goals related to these BMPs is presented below.

Along with the City's implementation activities, the City works with other agencies that also implement MS4 program activities:

- The Boone County Conservation District and the Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District provide public education activities for all County residents.
- The Boone County Soil & Water Conservation District reviews all subdivision plans and conducts on-site inspections during construction on behalf of the City for sediment and erosion control.
- The Belvidere/Boone County Planning Department administers the Boone County Comprehensive Plan.
- The Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District, along with the City, administers the regulation of stormwater runoff facilities and improvement of stormwater

quality through the use of structural BMP's for all new developments and redevelopments

- The Boone County Health Department inspects, reviews and permits septic systems within the City.

BMP No. A.1 Distribute Paper Material

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Improve access to information and provide a resource for citizens.

Milestones: Monitor distribution/availability of material, add new material and update website as needed. Place pollution prevention messages on water bills.

BMP Status: The City continues to maintain a kiosk of information in the entry of City Hall, including stormwater and pollution prevention. The City also includes pollution prevention messages on water bills.

BMP No. A.3 Public Service Announcement

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: The City will promote pollution prevention on its cable channel by public service announcement annually.

Milestones: Post advertisements on the cable channel prior to events.

BMP Status: Stormwater pollution prevention information is provided on local cable access Channel 20.

BMP No. A.6 Other Public Education

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: The City will educate local citizens at public forums to discuss proposed public improvement projects.

Milestones: Provide public forums annually.

BMP Status: Storm sewer pollution prevention was discussed during an annual budget presentation.

BMP No. B.1 Public Panel

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: The City will attend meetings and local partnership functions. Representatives of the BCSWCD and BCCD have permanent seats on the Kishwaukee River Ecosystem Partnership Council.

Milestones: Attend Regional Stormwater Management Committee and Northern Regional Groundwater Committee functions.

BMP Status: Two representatives from the City are on the Regional Stormwater Management Committee, which is tasked with developing and maintaining the Boone County Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan.

One representative from the City is on the Northern Regional Groundwater Protection Planning Committee, which is tasked with public education and local government assistance in protecting the ground water resources of the northern region of Illinois.

A link is maintained on the City's website for the Kishwaukee River Ecosystem Partnership (KREP).

BMP No. B.6 Program Involvement

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Participation in events and public involvement programs sponsored by the BCSWCD and BCCD.

Milestones: Work release cleanup of specific areas of the City. BCCD & BCSWCD to continue their public education and outreach activities.

BMP Status: BCCD conducted numerous public outreach and involvement events in the reporting period that reached thousands of people, and included pollution prevention and stormwater BMP information. A summary report of these events is attached to this report.

BMP No. C.1 Storm Sewer Map Preparation

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Map the complete system and integrate map into City-wide GIS database.

Milestones: Complete 10% of database.

BMP Status: Work continues on developing the City-wide GIS database storm sewer system map. During the reporting period, 1,625 linear ft of storm sewer was added to the GIS database.

BMP No. C.2 Regulatory Control Program

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Boone County Health Department reviews and administers permits for septic systems. The City will screen stormwater outfalls, and report discharges to City Attorney for enforcement.

Milestones: Monitor elimination of illegal septic systems and update regulations as needed. Continue outfall screening.

BMP Status: The Boone County Health Department continues to inspect, review and permit septic systems within the watershed.

The City inspected 43 outfalls. No illicit discharges were found.

BMP No. D.1-D.6 Construction Site Runoff Control

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: All new development and redevelopment projects within City limits comply with Ordinances 151.42 and 151.45 which regulate stormwater runoff and sediment and erosion control.

Milestones: BCSWCD annual report of activities submitted to City.

BMP Status: The City continues to enforce local ordinances 151.42 and 151.45 regulating stormwater runoff, sediment and erosion control. The Boone County Soil & Water Conservation District continues to review all subdivision plans and conducts onsite inspections during construction on behalf of the City for sediment and erosion control.

BMP No. E.1 Community Control Strategy

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Review plan annually and update for new issues. 100% of new developments to comply with the plan.

Milestones: Monitor compliance at all Planning & Zoning Board meetings.

BMP Status: The Belvidere/Boone County Planning Department continues to administer the Boone County Comprehensive Plan.

BMP No. E.2/E.4 Regulatory Control Program & Pre-Construction Review of BMP Designs

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: All new developments and redevelopments comply with ordinance.

Milestones: BCSWCD and City will continue reviewing plans.

BMP Status: The City and the Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District continue to administer the regulation of stormwater runoff facilities and improvement of stormwater quality through the use of structural BMP's for all new developments and redevelopments

BMP No. E.5/E6 Site Inspections during Construction & Post-Construction Inspections

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: All construction site inspections routinely and finished developments inspected annually.

Milestones: Continue annual inspection of detention ponds that have been completed and accepted by the City.

BMP Status: Completed maintenance inspections on active detention ponds along with outfall screening.

BMP No. F.1 Employee Training Program

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Train City employees annually on identifying illicit discharges and other pollution prevention measures.

Milestones: Continue employee training in pollution prevention.

BMP Status: Training of City employees on stormwater pollution prevention is ongoing. The City's MS4 program consultant provided stormwater pollution prevention and illicit discharge detection and elimination training on January 20, 2021.

BMP No. F.2 Inspection and Maintenance Program

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Sweep 100% of streets twice per year. Perform annual fall leaf pickup program for 100% of corporate limits. Control dumping and runoff from snow storage site.

Milestones: Continue tracking and reporting sweeper hours monthly and leaf pickup crew hours annually. Continue monitoring runoff and retrain employees at the annual snow-meeting. Control dumping and runoff from snow storage site.

BMP Status: The City continues to sweep streets on a regular basis, conduct the fall leaf pickup program as well as conduct a branch pickup program twice a year. Staff have been trained on winter deicing material and salt storage and handling.

BMP No. F.4 Municipal Operations Waste Disposal

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Properly collect and recycle waste fluids.

Milestones: Review existing recycling effectiveness and renew contract.

BMP Status: All fluids from City equipment maintained at the Street Department are properly collected and recycled.

C. INFORMATION AND DATA COLLECTION RESULTS

Water quality sampling was performed upstream and downstream of the City's storm sewer system area. Samples were taken on May 14, June 24, October 14, and December 16, 2020. Data is available from the City for review. Stormwater outfalls were inspected, including visual observations, and no illicit discharges or other issues were identified.

D. SUMMARY OF NEXT REPORTING PERIOD STORMWATER ACTIVITIES

The following activities are planned to be performed during the next reporting period:

BMP No. A.1 Distribute Paper Material

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Provide access to information and provide a resource for citizens each year.

Milestones: Monitor distribution/availability of material, add new material and update website as needed.

BMP No. A.3 Public Service Announcement

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: The City will promote pollution prevention on their cable channel by public service announcement annually.

Milestones: Post advertisements on the cable channel prior to events.

BMP No. A.6 Other Public Education

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: The City will educate local citizens at public forums to discuss proposed public improvement projects.

Milestones: Provide public forums twice per year.

BMP No. B.1 Public Panel

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: The City will have 90% attendance at meetings and Partnership functions. Representatives of the BCSWCD and BCCD have permanent seats on the Kishwaukee River Ecosystem Partnership Council.

Milestones: Attend Regional Stormwater Management Committee and Northern Regional Groundwater Committee functions.

BMP No. B.6 Program Involvement

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Monitor and obtain annual report from annual events and programs sponsored by the BCSWCD and BCCD.

Milestones: Obtain annual reports.

BMP No. C.1 Storm Sewer Map Preparation

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Map complete system and integrate map into City-wide GIS database.

Milestones: Complete 10% of database.

BMP No. C.2 Regulatory Control Program

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Implement City storm sewer ordinance and Boone County Health Department program to review and administer permits for septic systems annually.

Milestones: Implement City storm sewer ordinance and BCHD program.

BMP No. D.1/D.2/D.3/D.4/D.6 Construction Site Runoff Control

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: All new development and redevelopment projects within City limits comply with Ordinances 151.42 and 151.45 which regulate stormwater runoff and sediment and erosion control.

Milestones: BCSWCD annual report of activities submitted to City.

BMP No. E.1 Community Control Strategy

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Review plan annually and update for new issues. 100% of new developments to comply with the plan.

Milestones: Monitor compliance at all Planning & Zoning Board meetings.

BMP No. E.2/E.4 Regulatory Control Program & Pre-Construction Review of BMP Designs

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: All new developments and redevelopments comply with ordinance.

Milestones: BCSWCD and City will continue reviewing plans.

BMP No. E.5/E6 Site Inspections During Construction & Post-Construction Inspections

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: All construction site inspections routinely and finished developments inspected annually.

Milestones: Continue annual inspection of detention ponds that have been completed and accepted by the City.

BMP No. F.1 Employee Training Program

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Train City employees annually on identifying illicit discharges and other pollution prevention measures. Estimated two hours annually.

Milestones: Update training materials and continue employee training in pollution prevention.

BMP No. F.2 Inspection and Maintenance Program

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Sweep 100% of streets twice per year. Perform annual fall leaf pickup program for 100% of corporate limits. Ensure no illicit discharges from snow disposal site.

Milestones: Track and report sweeper hours monthly and leaf pickup crew hours annually.

BMP No. F.4 Municipal Operations Waste Disposal

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: All waste fluids are collected and recycled.

Milestones: Review existing recycling effectiveness and renew contract.

BMP No. F.6 Other Municipal Operations Controls

Measurable Goal(s), including frequencies: Road salt is stored in a permanent structure to prevent contact with stormwater.

Milestones: Store road salt in permanent structure.

E. NOTICE OF RELIANCE ON ANOTHER GOVERNMENT ENTITY

The City coordinates with and relies on the Boone County Soil & Water Conservation District to satisfy BMP D.1-D.6, Construction Site Runoff Control, and BMP E.2/E.4 Regulatory Control Program & Pre-Construction Review of BMP Designs.

The City coordinates with and relies on the Boone County Conservation District to satisfy BMP B.6, Public Participation and Involvement. BCCD provides an annual report of activities, which supplements this report.

F. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS CONDUCTED DURING REPORTING PERIOD

City owned projects greater than one acre that were active during the reporting period:

- Belvidere Brownfield Project, Permit #ILR10P521
- High School Detention Pond Improvement project.

Summary Report For 2020

Boone County Conservation District (BCCD) Public Outreach Efforts Relative to:

1. Stormwater management best management practices
2. Erosion and sediment control
3. Preservation of surface and groundwater quality
4. Acquisition of important conservation lands to preserve and enhance ecological functions & values
5. Conversion of acquired cropland to native plant communities to implement Illinois State Wildlife Action Plan goals and objectives

Educational Programs:

Program	Program Description	Target Audience	Date(s)	Number of Participants
Groundwater Festival	More than 450 Fourth and Fifth Grade Students, teachers, and chaperones from Boone and Winnebago Counties attended the annual Groundwater Festival held at Rock Valley College. This event is organized and sponsored by several local agencies and organizations. The students, teachers, and guests travel to four different learning stations that have an expert demonstrator to discuss issues associated with water quality, groundwater infiltration and stormwater runoff, and much more.	Fourth and fifth grade classes from school districts within the region.	March 11, 2020	Over 450
Trout Unlimited Highschool Project (Six classes from	Not held due to Covid-19	Six High School Classes from six different schools.	April through May	Approximately 200 students, parents and teachers
Boone County Water Preservation and Protection Action Committee	A group of local officials representing the City of Belvidere, Boone County, Boone County Conservation District, Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District, Farm Bureau, the local Parks & Conservation Foundation, citizens at large and other organizations. This Committee has formed several subcommittees and is working to develop tools (maps) that identify sensitive aquifer recharge areas, funding to assess and develop 3-Dimensional groundwater modeling, and establish measures to protect and sustain water resources in this area.	On-going effort – public officials, general public, municipal water supply, and local/regional community outreach	Monthly meetings or meetings as needed to facilitate momentum and progress	Active membership consists of local agency staff and other committee members – approximately 12 people.
High School Students taking - Advanced Topics in	This day long field tour included stops at four BCCD Conservation Areas and focused on demonstrating:	Belvidere High School and Belvidere North High School Classes	Not Held due to Covid-19	0 students in 0 classes, with

Program	Program Description	Target Audience	Date(s)	Number of Participants
Environmental Science (Field Tour)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Habitat Restoration Projects 2. Species in Greatest Need of Conservation 3. Streambank Stabilization Practices to minimize streambank erosion and discuss the importance of stormwater management and land use impacts 			teachers and chaperones.
Environmental AP Class – Hononegah High School	Field Experience at Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area. Aquatic assessment of Kinnikinnick Creek.	AP Environmental Science Students	Not held due to Covid-19	0 students, teachers and chaperones
Comcast Cares Community Clean-up Event	BCCD organizes an annual volunteer trail clean-up trash and debris along the Long Prairie Trail and Spencer Conservation Area & Belvidere Park District sites. The trail crosses the Beaver Creek and Piscasaw Creek and numerous tributaries to them. This clean-up removes debris that might otherwise degrade these high quality streams. The volunteers also clean and remove debris from the City of Belvidere stormwater conveyance ditch that outlets into a high quality wetland. And the volunteers cleaned trash and debris from the banks of the Kishwaukee River at both Belvidere Park and Spencer Conservation Area.	General Public, Bike Clubs, Scout Groups, other Youth Organizations and Service Clubs. Regional Audience	Not held due to Covid-19	0 Volunteers
Illinois Extension Service – Master Naturalist Certification Program	Course runs seven weeks meeting once each week. A wide range of natural resource topics are covered. BCCD Staff taught several sessions of this course including: Environmental Ethics; Native Habitats of Northern Illinois; Geology and Soils of Northern Illinois; and Native Cultural History.	U of I Extension Master Naturalist Training Program participants	Not held due to Covid-19 April – May Four, three-hour sessions	0 Participants
Rock Valley College Science/Environmental Fair	BCCD created a booth to demonstrate local projects such as streambank stabilization practices, groundwater protection efforts and high quality habitat restoration projects that benefit water quality, improve groundwater infiltration, and provide habitat for a great diversity of pollinator species and other species in greatest need of conservation	College Students, their parents, and guests	Not held due to Covid-19	Approximately 200 participants
R1 Metropolitan Agency Planning Technical Committee	Provide natural resource and environmental perspective to regional	Local & Regional Public Officials, Transportation Professionals,	Monthly Meetings (3 rd)	35 – 40 regular participants

Program	Program Description	Target Audience	Date(s)	Number of Participants
	transportation and infrastructure planning.	Municipal and County Planning Agencies	Thursday of each month)	
R1 Environmental Committee	The Committee has been structured to function with several subcommittees. The BCCD participates in the Subcommittee focused on water.	Local & Regional Public Officials, Transportation Professionals, Municipal and County Planning Agencies	Meetings occur on a quarterly basis with subcommittees meeting as needed to accomplish goals and objectives	Approximately 30 regular participants. The water subcommittee has 5 to 8 regular committee members.
Boone County Fair	<p>The BCCD and the Northern Regional Groundwater Planning and Protection Committee rent a large tent and set-up a display. This year's theme was two-fold. Informing people about new conservation and existing conservation lands. Nearly all of these areas are located on the Kishwaukee River Watershed, including the high-quality tributaries – Beaver Creek, Coon Creek, and Piscasaw Creek. BCCD properties provide many ecological functions and values including: storage and filtration of floodwaters; enhanced groundwater recharge due to native vegetation; habitat for a diverse range of plant and animal species, including many species listed as species of concern; all sites are located within an Illinois designated Conservation Opportunity Area; and most sites are open to passive public uses.</p> <p>The booth also featured presentations using a streambank erosion model with demonstrations by BCCD professionals.</p> <p>The Northern Regional Groundwater Committee provided information handouts and educational activity booklets for youth.</p>	General Public – Regional Audience	Not held due to Covid-19	
Tour of BCCD Sites	The BCCD held a tour of Conservation Areas for Rockford University Students. Stops included sites where best management practices have been installed to control streambank erosion; lands were acquired to preserve the Kishwaukee River Riparian corridor – including high quality wetlands; habitat	Rockford University – Learning in Retirement Program	Not held due to Covid-19	0 Participants

Program	Program Description	Target Audience	Date(s)	Number of Participants
	restoration projects that reduce stormwater runoff, improve groundwater infiltration, natural storage and conveyance of floodwaters, and a host of other conservation functions and values.			
Northern Regional Groundwater Planning and Protection Committee	This committee, established by the Illinois Groundwater Protection Act, serves as a regional resource to educate and promote BMP's that preserve the quality and quantity of our local groundwater resources. BCCD Executive Director serves on this committee.	General Public – Regional Audience Local Public Officials – Regional Audience Youth and Adult Education – Regional Audience	Monthly meetings moved to Zoom 2020	Limited activities due to Covid-19
Hooked on Fishing	BCCD in partnership with the Coon Creek Casters, a local conservation group, hosts an event to expose youth and their parents to fishing and appreciation of outdoor experiences. Ethical behaviors associated with natural resources are stressed as part of this experience.	Regional youth and their parents and guardians	Not held due to Covid-19 Annual Event	0
BCCD Summer Camp Programs	BCCD runs three different camps for different age levels throughout the summer. Each week-long camp involves a conservation education theme. Every camp includes discussions on waste generation, proper disposal of their waste, and consequences of their actions relative to the natural environment and wildlife.	Camp Redwing – 5 weeks, ages 6 to 11 Camp Ducktails – 5 weeks, ages 4 & 5 Camp Redtail – 2 weeks, ages 12-15	Summer 2020	100 participants 9 staff
Belvidere Jeep Assembly Plant Wellness and Environmental Fair	BCCD participated with a staffed booth to engage Assembly Plant employees over two days and three shifts. The BCCD provided information about programs, facilities, and conservation projects to several thousand employees.	Jeep Assembly Plant Employees	Not held due to Covid-19	0
Green Cities Campaign – IDNR Update to the State Wildlife Action Plan; And – Local Implementation Efforts	BCCD staff participated in a series of meetings with the Natural Land Institute, IDNR Technical Staff, the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District Staff, Rockford Park District Staff, and others to review and update the Green Cities Campaign (urban component of the State of Illinois Wildlife Action Plan).	BCCD Staff – on going effort – Native Seed Exchange; Collaborative Habitat Restoration; Pollinator Habitat; Removal of Invasive Species...	Monthly Meetings	~ 20 participants
Belvidere High School Environmental Club	BCCD staff assisted the BHS Environmental Organization (KARE) to	KARE Club, including Advisor, BCCD staff	Not held due to Covid-	0 participants

Program	Program Description	Target Audience	Date(s)	Number of Participants
	conduct a clean-up at Spencer Conservation Area			
Natural Land Institute Family Nature Day	BCCD staffed a booth demonstrating a groundwater model to program participants	Local family groups	Held remotely during June / July 2020	~ 250 participants
Conservation Trivia Night	BCCD held a family activity at Spencer Conservation Area open to the public	Public at Large	Not held due to Covid-19	0 participants
Hidden Treasures Bus Tour	Day-long educational program targeting adults interested in learning more about important conservation lands and the benefits for wildlife, surface and groundwater resources, passive recreational activities, and educational opportunities.	General Public	Not held due to Covid-19	0 participants
Northwest Illinois Land & Water Strategic Planning	Regional review of water supply initiated by IEPA and IDNR.	Regional Officials	On going Via Zoom	50-75 people

Other Activities of the Boone County Conservation District that affect water quality preservation efforts:

➤ **Land Acquisitions:**

- The BCCD purchased approximately 340-acres of important conservation lands that will ultimately be available for public use. This acquisition created the Funderburg South Conservation Area a site located at the confluence of the Piscasaw Creek and the Kishwaukee River. This acquisition includes approximately 186-acres of marginal cropland that will be restored to native habitat during the next 15 years. This conservation project will preserve or restore many ecosystem services and provide a richly diverse mosaic of bottomland hardwood floodplain, wet meadow, and wetland habitats. The BCCD will manage and enhance these sites for natural ecological functions and values, as well as passive recreational activities.

➤ **Habitat Restoration:** The BCCD Natural Resource Department has several habitat restoration projects underway:

- **Funderburg South Conservation Area** – 15-acres of cropland was frost seeded with a mix of nearly 140 species of native plants in an area where soil conditions and geomorphic setting will combine to facilitate a wet meadow habitat along the riparian corridor of the Piscasaw Creek.
- **Piscasaw Fen** – Continued management and removal of invasive species on 30-acres of riparian corridor along Piscasaw Creek and associated wetlands. All cropland at this site has been restored to a very diverse, native plant community (more than 140 species of native plants). Habitat restoration project was initially completed in February 2015.
- **Piscasaw Fen** – Continued management and monitoring of restored wetlands. Wetland restoration work was completed in the fall of 2017. Approximately six-acres of wetlands have been restored in a prior converted agricultural field. Drain tile was improved and modified. Monitoring wells have been installed and woody invasive plants were removed. New drain tile

was installed with a watertable management structure to assist with groundwater management and facilitate existing (pass through) drainage from adjacent properties.

- **LIB Conservation Area:** Restoration work involves removal of invasive species in the Kishwaukee bottomlands. Focus on removal of Japanese Honeysuckle, buckthorn, and other invasive, woody vegetation using a tracked skid steer with a Fecon mower attachment. District continues to monitor this restoration site to control re-sprouts of invasive plant species.
- **Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area:** Winter conditions permitted the removal of invasive woody species of plants from nearly 18-acres of riparian corridor along the Kinnikinnick Creek. And, an additional new expansion of the previous United States Fish and Wildlife Service habitat restoration grant project has been initiated at this site. The new project will focus on restoring native habitat for pollinator species, including Monarch Butterflies and other species in greatest need of conservation. Other project work continues with the removal of invasive trees and shrubs, re-establishment of native hardwood forest and ground cover, to expand the buffer to the Kinnikinnick Creek Nature Preserve.
- **Distillery Road Conservation Area:** Also located in the Kishwaukee River Bottomlands across the Kishwaukee River from the LIB Conservation Area. Habitat restoration – Oak/Hickory Savanna and associated short prairie grassland. Several hundred-acre restoration to native plant ecology in a bottomland hardwood, grassland, and wetland complex.
- **Sewell Conservation Area:** Habitat restoration via the conversion of cropland to native plant species (an upland prairie seed mix of forbs and a few grasses - exceeding 120 native plant species, was frost seeded this winter on the final 65-acres of cropland). This completes the habitat restoration on 200-acres of cropland.
- **Prescribed burning:** BCCD staff conducted prescribed burning at Piscasaw Fen, Distillery Road Conservation Area, Flora Prairie, Spencer Conservation Area, Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area, Ipsen Road Conservation Area and other sites to control invasive species and improve native habitats. The fall 2020 burning season was especially productive.
- **Kishwaukee Valley Conservation Area:** Continued management and monitoring of restored habitat with an emphasis on monitoring nesting habitat for the State Endangered Blanding's Turtle and other species in greatest need of Conservation as detailed in the Illinois Department of Natural Resource State Wildlife Action Plan. This restoration project was initially completed in April 2017. The restoration areas have been managed with prescribed burning and mowing activities.
- **Spencer Conservation Area:** BCCD has implemented and continues to expand a Memorial Habitat Program. This program allows groups or individuals to contribute memorial funds toward the restoration of native habitat at BCCD Conservation Areas with a focus at the Spencer Conservation Area in Belvidere. Memorials can be established to create ¼ to 1-acre native plantings with up to 125 species of native plants. There have been several memorial plantings established. Larger scale plantings can also be arranged for those willing to invest more funding.