



County joins with Heartlands Conservatory to address flooding in Silver Creek Watershed

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EDWARDSVILLE – As part of the process to develop a plan that will effectively address flooding in the Silver Creek Watershed, the Madison County Planning and Development department recently teamed with the Heartlands Conservancy to survey those who live or own property within the watershed.

The Silver Creek Watershed begins in Macoupin County, approximately six miles north of the Madison County line, and includes the communities of Williamson, Livingston, New Douglas, Worden, Hamel, Alhambra, Marine, Troy and St. Jacob before ending in northern St. Clair County.

Madison County Chairman Alan J. Dunstan said county, township and local officials have been aware of the Silver Creek flooding issue for some time. “For decades there have been issues with Silver Creek’s flooding and the resulting damage to homes,

businesses, farmland and roads. The survey gives gives us data on how the flooding impacts the people who live and operate businesses or farms in the area.”

“There have been modifications and improvements made in some areas of the watershed to improve the flooding and runoff,” Dunstan continued. “Now, as a result of the association between Madison County and the Heartlands Conservancy, we will have a plan to address the drainage and flooding issues in the entire Silver Creek Watershed.”

“Once the plan for the watershed is finalized, we can take steps to identify funding and be in a position to effectively do something about this problem,” Dunstan added.

Twenty-six percent of the respondents to the Silver Creek Watershed survey experienced flooding in the last 10 years. Forty-five percent of those who had flooding in the last 10 years had damage to their primary home, business or property, including significant crop damage.

The purpose of the survey was to gather information about the location, environmental impacts and causes of flooding in the watershed from the public. Two thousand surveys were distributed, 477 completed, giving a 24 percent response rate; a typical response rate is between 5-10 percent.

The two-year process to develop a plan for addressing issues in the Silver Creek Watershed began in 2014. The long-term objective of the Madison County Planning and Development department and the Heartlands Conservancy is to improve water quality and reduce the impacts of flooding within the watershed. The plan will address issues identified in the survey as well as issues identified by the planning team.

Results of the Silver Creek Watershed survey and report on the project can be found at: www.heartlandsconservancy.org/uppersilvercreek.