

# **Voluntary, Non-Regulatory Watershed Management Plan for the Illinois River Watershed**

**3rd Stakeholder Meeting  
West Siloam Springs, OK  
August 10, 2023**



# Today's Agenda

- ▶ **Introduction**
- ▶ **Review and Summary of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Meetings**
- ▶ **Model History and Input Summary**
- ▶ **SWAT Model Summary**
- ▶ **Stakeholder Conservation Practice Discussion**

# Watershed Management Plan

## ▶ Three Key Features:

1. **Water quality emphasis**
2. **Nonpoint sources - non-regulatory**
3. **Voluntary participation**

# Watershed Planning Process

## ► Six Steps

1. Building partnerships
2. Characterizing the watershed
3. Management goals, practices, measures, actions
4. Design implementation program
5. Implement the Watershed Management Plan
6. Measure progress - adaptive management

# Benefits of a Watershed Management Plan

- ▶ Holistic WS assessment identifying areas with greatest ROI
- ▶ Document/demonstrate conservation doesn't cost; it pays
  - ▶ Increased landowner profitability
  - ▶ Improved soil health
- ▶ Restore/sustain fishable, swimmable, drinkable water uses
  - ▶ Increased recreational opportunities
  - ▶ Increased tourism
  - ▶ Improved aesthetics/enjoyment
- ▶ **Cumulative/Synergistic Benefits**

# Stakeholder Meeting Summary

- ▶ **Meeting 1 Kickoff Meeting**
  - ▶ Review of WMP Process
  - ▶ Water quality impairments
  - ▶ Review on OK NPS projects
  
- ▶ **Meeting 2 Stakeholder Input**
  - ▶ Breakout sessions

# Stakeholder Meeting Summary

## ▶ Meeting 2 Stakeholder Input

### ▶ Rural & Urban Breakouts

- ▶ 1. Conservation practice implementation and success
- ▶ 2. Underutilized practices and barriers and challenges
- ▶ 3. Conservation practices that haven't worked and why

# Stakeholder Meeting Summary

- ▶ **Meeting 2 Stakeholder Input**
  - ▶ **Rural Practices**
    - ▶ **Streambank Restoration**
    - ▶ **Riparian Restoration**
    - ▶ **Voluntary Conservation Easements**
    - ▶ **Livestock Exclusion Fencing**
    - ▶ **Poultry Litter Management**



# Stakeholder Meeting Summary

- ▶ **Meeting 2 Stakeholder Input**
  - ▶ **Urban Practices**
    - ▶ **Rain Garden Workshops**
    - ▶ **Green Infrastructure**
    - ▶ **Voluntary Conservation Easements**
    - ▶ **Riparian Buffers**

# Illinois River WMP Meeting Schedule

- ▶ **October 2022 - 1<sup>st</sup> Introductory Meeting**
- ▶ **May 2023 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Stakeholder Engagement & Conservation Practices**
- ▶ **August 2023 - 3<sup>rd</sup> SWAT Model Report**
- ▶ **November/December 2023 - 4<sup>th</sup> Information Summary, Management Goals, Implementation Design**
- ▶ **TBD (if needed) 2024**

# Points of Contact



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