

DATE: November 16, 2023

MEMO TO: Nels Leutwiler, Chair
Preservation Foundation Board

FROM: Pati Vitt
Director of Natural Resources

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval of a \$10,000 grant to support the development and completion of the Chain O'Lakes Watershed Plan.

FINANCIAL DATA: The total cost to complete the watershed plan is \$170,000 and includes 60% funding (\$110,000) from IEPA and 40% local share (\$68,000) coordinated by our Fox Waterway Agency, a long-time District Partner. The \$10,000 request will cover the Forest Preserves portion of the cost share for this unexpected but critical regional opportunity and will greatly extend the District's work in the watershed.

As of September 20, 2023, the balance of the Annual Fund was \$322,503.16. Grants paid and due from the unrestricted fund after September 30, include:

Year	Amount
Q3 Transfer	\$ 7,850
2024	\$ 68,300
2025	\$ 31,000
	\$ 107,150

The requested funds will be paid as a single disbursement in January 2024 if awarded.

BACKGROUND: The Fox Waterway Agency was created to improve and maintain the Fox River and Chain O'Lakes public waterway for recreational uses, to restore environmental quality, minimize flooding, promote tourism, and enhance the quality of life along the waterway for residents and users alike. Of particular concern is the estimated 100,000 cubic yards of new sediment that flows into the Fox River and Chain O'Lakes system every year due to shoreline erosion. The Agency pursues several dredging projects each year, but a more effective long-term solution is to restore eroding shorelines to reduce the amount of sedimentation. The Fox Waterway Agency has obtained IEPA Section 319 funding to develop a Watershed Plan for Chain O'Lakes Watershed. Under this agreement, IEPA is providing 60% of the \$170,000 project costs with local agencies proving the balance. Once the Watershed Plan has been completed, additional funding opportunities will be pursued through the IEPA Section 319 program. The Watershed Plan, on track to be completed in February 2024, will address nonpoint source pollution and sedimentation through projects throughout the watershed. The information incorporated into the plan has been collated from members of the public, local governments, local businesses, and local farmers.

The overall goals of the plan are to improve water quality by identifying projects with the potential to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sedimentation; to provide a framework to fund them and guide project implementation. The planning process is a collaboration with local units of government and other organizations to the mutual goal of



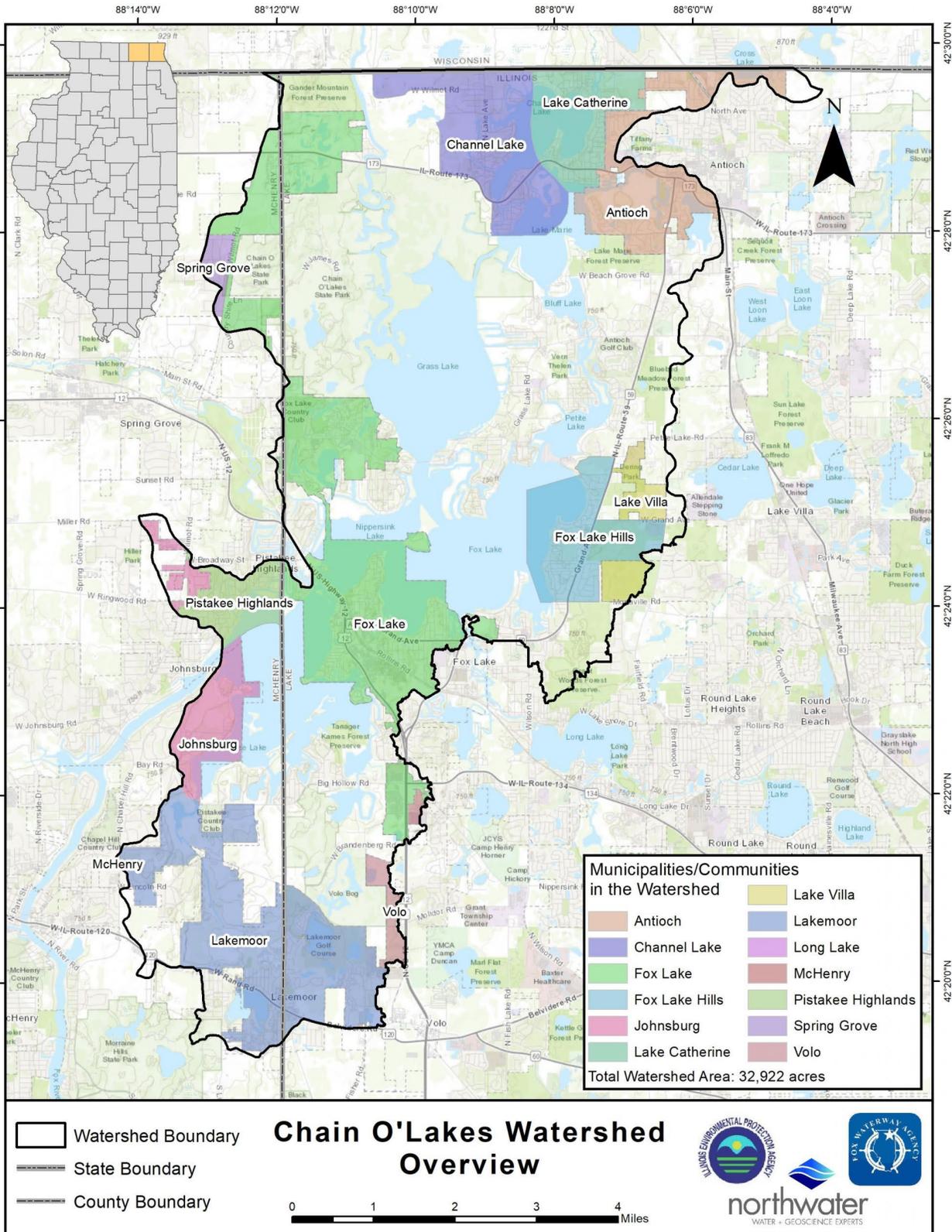
protecting the quality of water by controlling nonpoint source pollution. A watershed plan is required to be eligible for funding for project implementation.

The Chain O'Lakes Watershed encompasses five Lake County Forest Preserve District properties, including Bluebird Meadow, Gander Mountain, Grant Woods, Lake Marie, and Tanager Kames Forest Preserves. At least three projects have been identified at District Preserves – shoreline stabilization at Tanager Kames, reduction of agricultural runoff at Lake Marie, as well as potential wetland creation. Working with the Fox Waterway Agency to complete the portfolio of projects as part of the watershed plan is strategic for the District, as it creates the potential for leveraged funding for restoration projects already on the District's Capital Improvement Plan (restoration at Lake Marie) and those projects that are not yet on the CIP, but are advantageous to pursue in the future (e.g., shoreline stabilization at Tanager Kames).

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Lake County Forest Preserves Executive Director, Director of Community Engagement and Partnerships, Director of Finance, Director of Administration, Chief Operations Officer, Preservation Foundation Executive Director

PRESERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD:

Date: _____ Roll Call Vote: Ayes: _____ Nays: _____
 Voice Vote Majority Ayes; Nays: _____



Proposed Shoreline Stabilization



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