

# LITTLE VERMILION RIVER WATERSHED PLANNING COMMITTEE

"A PROJECT OF THE LASALLE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT"

1691 N 31<sup>ST</sup> ROAD, OTTAWA, IL 61350

PHONE: 815-433-0551, EXT. 3

FAX: 815-433-0665

---

*Officers:*

*Co-Chairmen:*  
*Franklin Jasiek*  
*Brian Mascali*

*Secretary:*  
*Tim Postula*

*Committee Members:*

*Robert Byrne*  
*Cynthia Carus*  
*Paul Carus*  
*Jim Crane*  
*Tom Galzebrook*  
*Gene Hodges*  
*Nancy Jasiek*  
*Kenneth Krogulski*  
*Bob Lyons*  
*Paul McLachlan*  
*Keith McLaughlin*  
*Dan O'Connell*  
*Thanu Pillai*  
*Diana Rod*  
*Richard Rosploch*  
*Lou Sekula*  
*Gary Small*  
*William Warnell Jr.*

January 22, 2007

Honorable John D. Albers  
%Illinois Commerce Commission  
527 East Capitol Avenue  
Springfield, IL 62701

Judge Albers:

The Little Vermilion River Watershed Committee is contacting you concerning the proposed construction of Ameren IP power line towers over the Little Vermilion River. Our committee wrote Ameren on June 20, 2006 requesting a meeting regarding this project; to date we have had no reply.

The Little Vermilion River Watershed Committee was formed at the instigation of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to protect the Little Vermilion River and to remediate the existing damage in an attempt to get the Little Vermilion River off of the IEPA's 303D list. Therefore, we expect Ameren to perform the construction, if permitted, with methods preventing erosion before it begins.

The Little Vermilion River Watershed Committee knows that there will be removal of trees and vegetation, which leads to sedimentation. This is one of the reasons the Little Vermilion River is on the 303D list. Control measures must compensate for the loss of mature vegetation to prevent the sedimentation in to the Little Vermilion River and then into the Illinois River.

Enclosed are a synopsis of our watershed plan which has IEPA approval and a copy of our original letter to Ameren IP.

We implore you to keep these concerns in mind when evaluating any permit request for this project.

Thank you,

Little Vermilion River Watershed Committee

June 20, 2006

Leigh E. Morris  
Ameren Corporation  
607 East Adams Street  
Springfield, IL 62739-0001

Dear Mr. Morris,

At our meeting on Monday, June 19, various members brought up concerns about the new Ameren primary North La Salle-Fox River Transmission Line proposal. Our group has environmental concerns about the effects of construction on the Little Vermilion River Valley and Watershed.

Our mission statement and goals demand that we be proactive in preserving our Watershed.

To this end, we are inviting your plan designers to address our group and present your strategy for this new line.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon. Enclosed is a copy of our mission statement and plan.

Best regards,



Tim Postula  
Secretary



## What is a Watershed?

A watershed is simply the area drained by a river system (Webster). Elevations and the physical landscape determine watershed boundaries and the movement of surface water within those boundaries. The ridges and highlands of a geographic area separate one watershed from another.



## The Little Vermilion Plan

Watershed planning considers not only the physical parameters that distinguish particular watersheds on a landscape, but also coordinates the complex relationships and workings of the political, ecological, and cultural parameters within these geographic basins.

This document features the Little Vermilion River Watershed, an 80,000 acre watershed located in north-central Illinois. The Little Vermilion is a tributary to the Upper Illinois River Basin.

Watershed plans are not expected or intended to contain all of the natural resource recommendations, strategies, or solutions needed to address every natural resource concern in a given watershed. A Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS) develops through the eyes and guidance of local citizens and is representative of a watershed's condition at a given time.

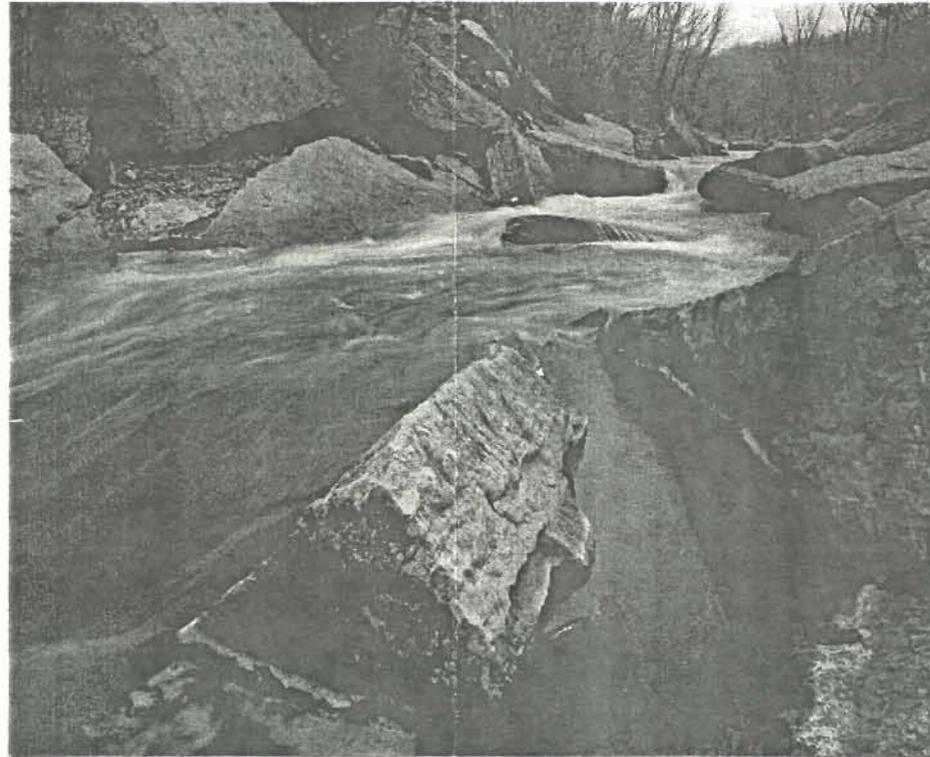
Watershed plans are expected to evolve as physical conditions and social perspective change. The Plan is only the beginning. Implementation is forever.

Funding for this project provided, in part, by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act and the LaSalle County Soil and Water Conservation District.



## A Watershed Restoration Action Strategy for the....

## Little Vermilion River



*Horrible from above*  
1988

For More Information Contact:  
LaSalle County Soil and Water Conservation District  
1691 N 31st Road  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
815-433-0551 ext. 3

*The mission of the Little Vermilion River Watershed Local Planning Committee is to work in partnership with governmental agencies, local communities, and stakeholders to develop proactive watershed management recommendations, goals, and techniques for the Little Vermilion Watershed in an effort to maximize water, soil and air quality, enhance bio-diversity, and ensure stream structure stability.*

*-The Little Vermilion River Local Planning*

## Components of a Watershed Restoration Action Strategy

A Local Planning Committee began meeting the late summer of 2000 to begin the development of a watershed plan for the Little Vermilion River. In the Summer of 2003 the written plan was completed. Now implementation begins. The components followed by the group in developing the plan are as follows:

Component 1	Mission Statement	6.	Goals and Objectives
Component 2	Watershed Description	7.	Imp. Strategies
Component 3	Watershed Activities	8.	Cost Summary
Component 4	Watershed Resource Invent.	9.	Imp Strategy Select.
Component 5	Problem Statement	10.	Measuring Progress and Success



### Resource Concerns

Below is a list of concerns developed by the Local Planning Committee. These Concerns were the driving force for plan development and the implementation strategies outlined in the plan.

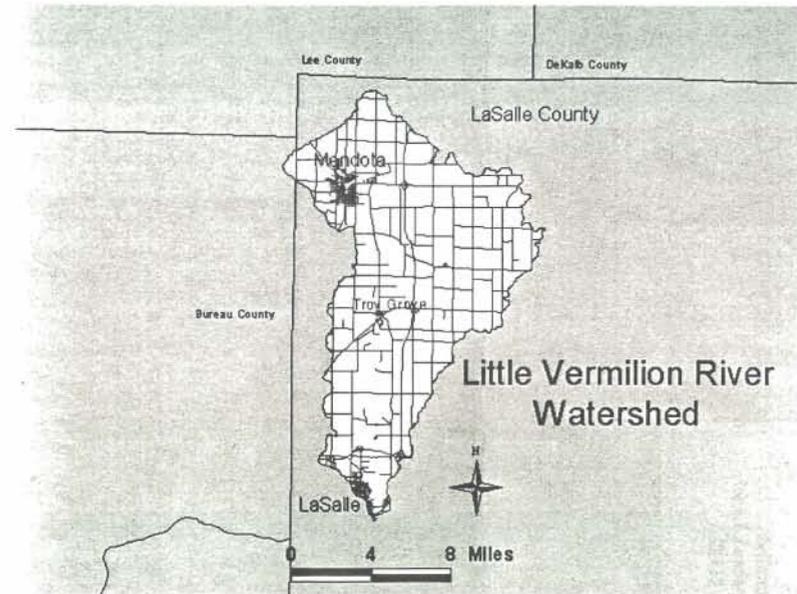
1. Stream Pollution
2. Soil Erosion, Stream banks, Sediment
3. Stream Quality
4. Full Stream Testing/Monitoring
5. Aquatic Health
6. Runoff of Municipal Storm water, Septic Systems
7. Private Property Rights
8. Lack of Riparian Setbacks
9. Debris in Streams and Gullies
10. Private Owner Stewardship
11. Stream Blockage
12. Health of Livestock Related to Water Quality
13. Public Access Awareness
14. Livestock: Domestic and Wild Nutrients: excess
15. Bacterial Contamination From Livestock

## 10 Things Municipalities, Municipal Landowners and Industries Can Do To Improve Water Quality in the Little Vermilion River:

1. Help minimize all contaminants and pollutants from entering surface waters via stormwater drains.
2. Increase Monitoring.
3. Voice the need for enhanced reclamation plans in industrial and mined areas.
4. Avoid Disturbance and Building in Floodplains.
5. Enhance Stormwater retention with Best Management Practices.
6. Conservation Development on new construction.
7. Implement and Enforce Stormwater Management and Erosion and Control Plans and ordinances.
8. Manage Fertilizers and Lawn Care Products applied to lawns.
9. Work to minimize runoff from industrialized sites.
10. Develop and attend outreach initiatives for the

## Twelve Things that Farmers and Rural Landowners Can Do to Improve Water Quality in the Little Vermilion River and its Tributaries:

1. Don't farm up to the bank of a creek or a drainage ditch!
2. Plan nitrogen and fertilizer rates carefully!
3. Use Residue Management systems.
4. Stabilize your eroding streambanks!
5. Upgrade your sewage disposal system.
6. Remove debris and trash from gullies.
7. Plant trees on Riverbanks where there are none.
8. Use your pesticides and herbicides properly!
9. Fence livestock to limit their access to streams.
10. Plant native grasses and forbs in unfarmed "odd" patches.
11. Seal Abandoned Wells!
12. Eliminate Channelization!



## What Can You Do?

The Little Vermilion River Watershed Watershed Implementation Plan was developed by local citizens and constituents of the watershed. Implementation of the plan and the strategies contained in the plan will only be accomplished through the coordinated effort of the Local Planning Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, local municipalities, resource agencies, and all the citizens within the watershed.

Implementation is a long process and is dependent on local interest and granting funds. If you are interested in helping preserve and enhance the watershed or if you have ideas that will help address the resource concerns developed by the Local and Technical Advisory Committee please contact the LaSalle County Soil and Water Conservation District at (815)433-0514 ext. 3. A printed version and a PDF version (CD) of the plan is available.

## The Future...

Implementation will not occur overnight, nor will we see drastic enhancements in the natural resources of the watershed in a few years. Changes and improvements are long term in any watershed planning process. Education is the initial step in making the watershed a viable asset for our future generations.