

January 18, 2017

Greetings!

Purdue Extension's new Conservation through Community Leadership (CCL) program is now accepting applications for the inaugural community action planning meetings. This new program guides community groups, boards, and commissions through facilitated action planning sessions to support locally-driven natural resource management strategies and policy. Community groups participating in the program identify issues of concern and a program track of either land use planning at a watershed scale or invasive species management.

Participants will convene a working group to meet over the course of approximately five meetings with Purdue facilitators. Sessions will include community visioning, education on innovative management strategies, and coaching for action plans. The result is a local or regional action plan and strategies for implementation projects for use with watershed plans, comprehensive plan updates, invasive species management plans and/or planning commission recommendations.

The Indiana-based curriculum and community action planning meetings were developed using best practices from leadership training and community development to facilitate community decision making for natural resource management strategies.

**Program applications, attached, are due by February 17, 2017.** Groups will be notified by March 3, 2017 to discuss next steps and schedule meetings. There is no cost for participation. Funding for this program was provided by a Purdue Extension Issues-Based Action Team (I-BAT) grant in 2016. Additional funding was provided in part by the Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) and IL-IN Sea Grant.

To learn more, visit the program website [www.purdue.edu/fnr/extension/scep/ccl](http://www.purdue.edu/fnr/extension/scep/ccl).

For questions, please contact Kara Salazar 765-496-1060 / [salazark@purdue.edu](mailto:salazark@purdue.edu).

Thank you!

#### **Purdue Extension CCL Team**

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Get the tools you need to address the complex natural resource management and land use planning issues faced by your community with a Purdue Extension program that pairs community action planning and education. Participants of this program will complete a high-quality action plan tailored to local initiatives over the course of approximately five meetings.

## *Who Should Participate*

*Individuals interested in natural resources management, conservation, agriculture, and land use issues, including:*

- public agency staff
- local leaders
- interested community members
- nongovernmental organizations
- board members
- commissioners

## *What to Expect*

*Participants will*

- Increase their understanding of assessing ecosystem health and natural resource management options
- Apply decision-support tools to make decisions and take actions on ecosystem health
- Form diverse community partnerships to create and implement land use or natural resource management action plans

## *Program Take Away*

*The completed action plan can be used to*

- Identify and address important natural resource issues in your community
- Update comprehensive planning efforts
- Support watershed management plans
- Create habitat management plans
- Implement fundraising initiatives for specific projects

## *How To Apply*

The Conservation through Community Leadership program is available to groups throughout Indiana. Submitting a short program application is the first step for scheduling the program. To learn more about Conservation through Community Leadership and to download the program application, visit [www.purdue.edu/fnr/extension/scep/ccl](http://www.purdue.edu/fnr/extension/scep/ccl) or contact Kara Salazar, Sustainable Communities Extension Specialist, at [salazark@purdue.edu](mailto:salazark@purdue.edu).