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NEWS RELEASE

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Public Input Meeting for Catfish Creek Watershed Management Plan

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The Catfish Creek Watershed Management Authority and the City of Dubuque are seeking public input as they finalize a watershed management plan to address flooding and water quality degradation within the watershed that encompasses 46,300 acres of Dubuque County.

The public is invited to learn about the draft plan and provide input at a meeting to be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 12, at the Mines of Spain Recreation Area's E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center, 8991 Old Bellevue Road. Applied Ecological Services (AES) is the consultant assisting with the development of the plan and will give a presentation on the draft of the plan. City of Dubuque Engineering Technician Dean Mattoon, Dubuque Soil and Water Conservation District Urban Conservationist Eric Schmechel, and Catfish Creek Watershed Authority board members will also attend the meeting to answer questions and take comments on the plan.

The purpose of the Catfish Creek Watershed Management Authority Board is to address flooding and water quality degradation on a watershed level. This can involve crossing jurisdictional boundaries and working with a variety of stakeholders to solve problems within the watershed. Watershed authority boards exist throughout Iowa and were created through the state legislation. While authority boards have no taxing or regulating authority, watershed management plans are a tool these boards can use to implement practices through available grant funding.

The Catfish Creek Watershed is a 57-square-mile watershed that includes industrial centers, residential neighborhoods, rolling cropland, steep bluffs and rock outcrops, and dense forests. The watershed encompasses about half of the city of Dubuque as well as parts of Asbury, Peosta, and Centralia. Much of the watershed remains rural. The five forks of Catfish Creek support a diverse set of plants and animals and are a draw for hunters, fishers, and those seeking to enjoy some of Dubuque County's most scenic areas, but they remain threatened by large amounts of soil and nutrients entering the water from both urban and agricultural run-off.

For more information on the Catfish Creek Watershed, visit www.catfishcreekwatershed.org or call the City of Dubuque Stormwater Hotline at (563) 690-6200.

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