Kankakee Sands Wetland Mitigation Bank

Kankakee and Iroquois River Watersheds in Indiana

Presented by:
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Mitigation Banker - Wetlands Banking Group of Indiana, LLC

LLC is owned 50% by Land and Water resources, Inc. and 50% by Applied Ecological Services, Inc.
Duties are to permit the bank, perform annual monitoring and sell wetland credits.

Contact person for purchasing credits is John Ryan

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The Nature Conservancy of Indiana (TNC)

This 100 acre wetland bank is a portion of the 7000 acre Kankakee Sands restoration project by TNC

Site has been constructed and seeded in 2011 by TNC

TNC will also perform needed maintenance at the bank
The site location
Service Area for Kankakee Sands Wetland Bank
Indiana portions of these watersheds
Why both watersheds?
Indiana Wetland Law, through IDEM requires that wetland mitigation happens in the watershed where the impact occurs.

The advantage of finding a site that drains to 2 watersheds is that mitigation credits can be sold to mitigate for wetland impacts in both rather than only a single watershed.

This increases the area where a bank can derive credits sales 2 fold.

The next slide shows all of the major watersheds in Indiana.
Most of the soils are hydric soils, this means that historically this site was a wetland.

The drainage ditches were dug to dry it out enough to farm it.

Filling the ditches allows the wetlands to have sufficient hydrology which is the key to successful wetland restoration.
Restoration Plan

Legend
- Red: Approx. Property Boundary
- Orange: Mesic Prairie
- Pink: Backfill Ditch (Match ex. grade)
- Gray: Ex. Farm Road
- Gray with diagonal lines: Palustrine Persistent Emergent Wetland

Scale: 1" = 300'

Kankakee Sands Wetland Bank
Niles, IN

NORTH
Prior to filling the ditches, this was a productive farm field.

The following are pictures of the site once the ditches were filled.

To you it may look like a muddy mess.

For wetland restoration it looks like success in re-establishing the hydrology.
This bank is being permitted by a Mitigation Banking Team consisting of the following:

Detroit District of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

Chicago District of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S.E.P.A.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
and
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Why 2 Army Corps Districts?
All of northern Indiana used to be regulated by the Detroit District. A few years ago, some of the regulatory authority of the northeast counties were transferred to the Chicago District. Newton county, where the bank is, is still regulated by Detroit.

A portion of the Kankakee River watershed is in the counties that is now regulated by Chicago.
The site is 100 acres in size.

The site will provide 89.8 acres of wetland credits.

The first release of credits is 30% of the credits.

We are monitoring the hydrology on the site now, when it is proven that it is wet for 20 consecutive days during the growing season, an additional 20% of the credits will be released.

The site has been seeded, when the vegetation grows large enough to identify the species composition and monitoring reports show that wetland vegetation is the predominate type, an additional 20% of the credits will be released.
Before the Agencies release the final 30% of the credits, it takes about 5 years. During this time, maintenance must occur to control weeds and other invasive plant species.

Monitoring reports of the success of the planting will be submitted annually.

There are very rigid vegetation standards that must be met to get the final release.
What does a bank do for you?

If you or your clients have a wetland impact that requires mitigation form IDEM or the Corps, they now have the ability to purchase credits from the bank rather than performing on-site mitigation themselves.

The agencies will determine the acres that impact a permittee is allowed and multiply it by a ration to determine the number of credits required.
LAWR created the first private sector bank in the Midwest in 1994.
Since then we have developed 25 additional wetland banks.
Most of our banks are in Illinois
We also have banks in Colorado, New Jersey and Mississippi
This is our first bank in Indiana.
Currently there are 4 other mitigation banks in the State

- Central Indiana Bank
- Lake Station Schroeder Wetland
- Buck Creek Mitigation Bank

A map of their service areas is on the next slide
National rule governing all forms of mitigation
Must first avoid and minimize wetland impacts
Acceptable wetland impacts must be mitigated
Establishes a priority for mitigation options
Use of mitigation credits are the first choice
YOU CAN FIND OUT THE STATUS OF AVAILABILITY OF CREDITS FROM ANY WETLAND BANK IN THE COUNTRY ON THE RIBITS WEBSITE OPERATED BY THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

http://www.lrc.usace.army.mil/co-r/ribits.htm
Credits should be available starting April 2012

Prices range $50,000- $55,000 per credit

Credit prices at other banks can be found along with the point of contact at bank available on RIBITS
Questions?