# *Thank you for your commitment to green initiatives at the University of Illinois. One of the ongoing requirements listed in the terms of the funding agreement for your project is the submission of semesterly reports with key information about your project. In addition to this form, please provide additional financial documentation and/or progress photos if available.*

# *Please be as accurate as possible in describing the project (including possible setbacks or challenges in meeting the initial goals of the project). Not fully meeting your project's goals will not disqualify you from making future funding requests as long as your reports are as complete and accurate as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Sustainability Committee, at* *sustainability-committee@illinois.edu**.*

**Project Name:** South Farm Nitrate Monitoring Station

**Date of Report Submission:** 10/2/2019

**Project Progress to Date:**

Quotes for monitoring equipment were received in January of 2019 with subsequent purchase requests. Both vendors had gone through mergers, so new tax information was required, which pushed purchasing back to March 2019. Flowmeters were received on campus in July 2019 and nitrate sensors were received in September 2019. The extreme wait-time for both sets of instruments was due to availability for the flow meters, and the fact the nitrate sensors were a brand-new product, and they were not able to keep up with initial order demand. Since the last set of equipment arrived after the semester started, CEE 458 – Water Resources Field Methods, has volunteered to install the two sites in October 2019.

A third-party has been contracted to host collected data, which is available here (data are meant to be pseudo public so sharing this is not a security concern):

<https://stormcentral.waterlog.com/>

login: Reiddc

Password: mBHh44xD

The process has been started to port these data to a UIUC server for permanent storage, and allow access by any net-ID. This step will allow the creation of a custom dashboard to be hosted on a website. This process will also include a second phase with automated twitter posts with watershed health metrics including average weekly flow, average nitrate-nitrogen concentration, and estimated load (pounds) for the week. The twitter handle has yet to be created.

Finally, due to the timeline and with winter quickly approaching, we were not able to hire students for this project. That said, if the project were extended, we would like to hire students next spring to fill the role expected for this year.

The supporting $1.1 million USEPA grant was secured, allowing additional monitoring as well as installation of conservation practices to reduce nitrate in the Embarras. This was a convenient addition, as this will allow us to directly move towards the iCAP nitrate reduction goals while monitoring the change. The initial SSC grant efforts will be carried forward with this grant, including personnel to collect water quality samples.

**Marketing and Promotion Efforts to Date:**

Since we have finally received all of our equipment, marketing will likely not commence until field measurements are being conducted. That said, the primary outreach will include a newsletter style introduction to the project, weekly twitter posts highlighting data as well as the funding source, and access to these data in project partner classes. I will also likely use these data in a class project the fall of 2020.