

NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
McHenry County Administration Building
667 Ware Road, Woodstock, IL 60098

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

Chairman McCann called the committee meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following members were present: Mary McCann, Chairman; Yvonne Barnes; Pete Merkel; Virginia Peschke and Barb Wheeler. Anna May Miller and Scott Breeden were absent. Also in attendance: Cassandra McKinney, Groundwater Resource Manager; Pete Austin, County Administrator; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Dennis Sandquist, Planning & Development; Pat McNulty and Patty Nomm, Health Department; Ms. Schuster, County Board Member and Adam Lehmann, County Administration Intern.

Mary McCann, Chairman	
Yvonne Barnes	JS "Scott" Breeden
Pete Merkel	Anna May Miller
Virginia Peschke	Barbara Wheeler

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Committee members reviewed the committee minutes the Natural and Environmental Resources Committee of August 14, 2009. Ms. Barnes made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wheeler to approve the committee minutes of August 14, 2009 as submitted. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PRESENTATIONS

Update – Solid Waste Collection Program: Committee members were informed that the Health Department continues to work to identify a vendor to increase the landscape waste pick up program in the County. They are working with Purchasing reviewing quotes received from vendors to increase their waste pick up program. Four (4) vendors responded to the bid requests with bids coming in at \$64 to \$90 per quarter. Persons would also have the ability to add a buy a bag component to their current program. The programs being reviewed would provide additional services. The department has been working with homeowner associations in regards to increasing the pickup program. The next move will be to hold public meetings regarding this issue. Vendor's have been positive regarding the changes in the program. Vendors have stated that the quarterly cost to the pickup program would be \$64 to \$90 per quarter. A new law takes effect in January that addresses the recycling of electronic devices. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is working to identify locations for drop off sites. There is to be no cost to an individual for this drop off. The Department continues to search for drop off sites for paint items and pharmaceuticals. In the past, Townships in the past were working with the IEPA for pick up of paint and other solvents. The funding for this program has been cut from the State budget so the townships are searching for alternatives to the program.

Legislation on large capacity wells: Committee members were informed that there is pending legislation that requires notification to the Soil and Water Conservation Service when over 100,000 gallons of water is withdrawn from large capacity wells. In the past, the six county area was exempt from this reporting. Since 1992 there has been no funding available to review the reports made regarding these large withdrawals. Concern was voiced as there has been an impact to area streams. In the past the data would be logged, but no reviewed. Senate bill 2181 asks that all large water users report water usage to the Illinois Water Survey. This is now mandatory. They are asking water districts to take some responsibility for the reporting since there is a lack of funding to monitor this program. The State needs money to complete the analysis of the reports. CMAP would like to set up a fee structure since the law affects all large capacity users. They are trying to capture those that have large water usages that didn't have to provide information in the past. Information has been posted on the web page. Committee members questioned what industry would see large water uses. They were informed that sod farms, nurseries, and farms would use large quantity of water. Agriculture areas would have a five year grace period from reporting. Committee members were informed that the County does tract irrigation well permits.

NEW BUSINESS

Gypsy Moth update: Mr. Labaj and Mr. Lehmann joined committee members to provide an update on the Gypsy Moth spraying program. The program is based upon complaints received during the previous year. This year only 23 complaints were received, which was 15% of the complaints received the previous year. There was an aggressive spray program this year, based upon complaints received last year. The County sprayed more areas than the State. Next year's spray program may not be as aggressive as this year based upon the small number of complaints. Committee members questioned why complaints were down. They were informed that there could be any number of reasons, from the cold seasons, because of the life cycle of the moths and because there was an abundance of fungus in the spring that attacks the cocoons. Mr. Labaj noted that because of the budget issues, it was suggested that the gypsy moth spray program be reduced this next year. The spray program consists of the unincorporated areas of the County only. Any additional township or municipality has been allowed to "piggy back" onto the County's program to allow for a volume discount with the vendor. We use the same contractor as the State. Nursery complaints are handled by the Department of Agriculture. If a "hot spot" is discovered within a municipality, persons would address complaints to the mayor or village president and request they join the County spray program. A 10 acre block is

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needed for each spray area. It was suggested the budget cut for next year and increase the fee for the consultant in order to coordinate the spray areas. The consensus of the committee members was to budget \$30,000 for next year gypsy moth spray program, with \$5,000 of the funds to be used for the consultant.

OLD BUSINESS

Stream Monitoring Gauges: Committee members entered into discussion regarding the presentation made at the previous committee meeting to request McHenry County contribute to the local cost share for the installation of one to three stream gauges in the Nippersink Creek watershed. Benefits of installing stream gauges were discussed at the previous meeting. After discussion with the Division of Transportation, the Health Department and the Water Resource Manager it is felt that the costs for these gauges are much higher since they do not include any additional funding for staff time or expertise needed to follow through. Beyond the direct costs a department would need an additional engineer to do field inspections for permit purposes. There may be some grant funding available for equipment. Committee members questioned how this would fall into county plans, how this would affect long term funding and if the project could be contracted regionally in order to split the costs among others. These gauges would be a benefit for long term plan but additional staff would be needed and with the budget an issue this year, it may be difficult to fund.

NEW BUSINESS CON'T

Groundwater Protection Program: Ms. McKinney joined committee members for presentation of the final draft version of the Groundwater Protection Program. The task force has been working to develop the chapters and model policies for the past two years. When the task force first began they started with 50 topics of importance. These were narrowed down to 11 topics to address in the next two years. Committee members noted that the SARA Map (Sensitive Aquifer Recharge Area Map) should be a major focus point of the table of contents as the Map drives a major point of focus to some of the other policies. Chapter 2 is the biggest chapter. A model plan from Georgia was reviewed and modified to fit the needs of McHenry County. All of the policies have been reviewed and include action plans for each of the policies. Ms. McKinney stated that the final document should be completed by next Friday. Committee members questioned how to proceed with the Resolution. Ms. McKinney stated that the Resolution is just a formal process to acknowledge that the Groundwater Protection Program exists and the County agrees to agree and thoughtfully review and consider the policies for adoption. All of the policies can be changed to meet the needs of each municipality or village. Committee members stated that the name on the Resolution should state "Requesting McHenry County and Local Governments to review and consider the McHenry County Groundwater Protection Program model policies. Committee members stated this would show that McHenry County is included as part of the local governments. Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wheeler to recommend approval of the Resolution Requesting *McHenry County* and local governments to review and consider the McHenry County Groundwater Protection Program Model policies as amended. Committee members stated that the resolution states there are ten recommended model policies and this should state that the Task Force has developed recommended policies and not a specific number of policies. Ms. Peschke made a motion to amend her motion to remove the number "ten" from the resolution. Ms. Wheeler seconded the motion. The motions carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote (Barnes, Merkel, Peschke, Wheeler, McCann) Ms. McKinney was thanked for a great program. Committee members stated that they are hearing good news about the program in the community. Boone County has voiced an interest in adopting similar policies and will be using the McHenry County policy as a baseline to start their process. Committee members were informed that CMAP wants to meet with Counties that do not obtain water from Lake Michigan. It is hopeful that there will be some press for the groundwater policies after adoption by the County Board on October 6th. They would like the Northwest Herald to write a piece thanking the task force for their hard work and the hopes that others adopt these policies for their own. Committee members stated that the table of contents needs to "grab" the attention of those reading the document. All the items on the list are model policies that everyone has a chance to review and make their own. Each chapter includes a disclaimer at the beginning. Ms. Peschke left committee at 10:08a.m.

OLD BUSINESS CON'T

Nuisance / Property Maintenance Ordinance: Chairman McCann stated she included this issue on the agenda because of ongoing complaints to noise issues in the County. A Lake County Declaration of Public Nuisance was provided for committee review. This will be forwarded to the Sheriff for his review as well. The goal of any policy is the ability to enforce it. It was stated that the current policies or ordinances may not be strong enough to address current complaints. It was suggested that the various ordinances and policies be reviewed to see what is out there and to make sure these policies or ordinances are consistent with each other. This issue will be brought back for further discussion and consideration. Committee members stated that "light" pollution needs to be considered as well.

REPORTS

Green Team: None

Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning: None

Water/CMAP: See above

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Barnes made a motion, seconded by Mr. Merkel to adjourn at 10:30a.m. The motion carried with all members present voting aye.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTION:

Resolution requesting McHenry County and Local Governments to review and consider the McHenry County Groundwater Protection Program Model Policies

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