

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

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2009

Chairman McCann called the committee meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following members were present: Mary McCann, Chairman; Anna May Miller; Virginia Peschke; Barb Wheeler; Scott Breeden and Pete Merkel. Yvonne Barnes joined the committee via speaker phone. Also in attendance: Cassandra McKinney, Groundwater Resource Manager; Pete Austin, County Administrator; Pat McNulty and Patty Nomm, Health Department; Dennis Sandquist and Mark Phipps, Planning and Development; and John Hadley, Facilities Management; and interested public.

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 November 13, 2009. Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Merkel to approve the committee minutes of November 13, 2009 as submitted. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PRESENTATIONS

None

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

Green Team: Chairman McCann stated that Mr. Hadley would be joining the committee for an update of the Green Team as he needs to leave the committee meeting early. Mr. Hadley reminded committee members that at the previous meeting he had passed out copies of the eleven (11) goals of the green team. At that time the committee members requested they add the recycling of IT products. On January 4th team leaders will provide an update on how the goals are going. One goal that was reached was the goal to reduce paper use in the County. The county has seen a 7% reduction in paper use from the previous year. Court Administration has seen a decrease of 285,000 pages. Use is determined by the boxes of paper delivered. The goals of the team was to see a reduction in paper use over a three year period and how to improve this use each year. Committee members thanked Mr. Hadley for his report. Yesterday during the Building Projects Committee meeting the committee members were informed that the new Treasurer's Building was built based upon some Green Team initiatives. This will be the first building of the County's that has LED parking lot lights. They have installed a white reflective roof that will help with heat reflection in the summer and keep heat in during the winter. The parking lot was installed without using the cold tar process.

The EECBG \$2.5 million dollar grant was received with a lot of work beginning improving the facilities over the next few months. The majority of the work will be completed in the Government Center, which is the oldest of the County facilities. Fifteen (15) months ago the County adopted some green policies and agreed to consider "green" alternatives when feasible. This will result in additional savings for the County.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution to enter into a consulting contract for Gypsy Moth containment services: Committee members reviewed a Resolution to enter into a consulting contract for Gypsy Moth containment services. This has been budgeted for. The consultant will help to determine the spray blocks based upon complaints and information received. Other units of government are allowed to join the County in the spray program. Each spray block must be at least 10 acres. Mr. Stevens works with the County GIS department to complete the mapping for the spray program. Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller to recommend approval of the above Resolution as submitted. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

FY11 Federal Legislative Requests: Committee members entered into a discussion regarding next year's Legislative Requests. During the evening meeting in January there will be a CALF meeting held to discuss what is being considered on the Legislative Program. Committee members were asked to review a letter sent to Congressman Manzullo seeking assistance from the Water Resources Development Act. McHenry County needs the assistance of the Corps to accelerate the implementation of the McHenry County's Groundwater/Stormwater Protection Program, which uniquely seeks to address stormwater drainage and detention, floodplain management, soil erosion and sedimentation control, stream and wetland protection, and groundwater resources in a single program. Stormwater management is a challenge in the County because of the County's flat topography and broad floodplains. Stormwater damage has exceeded \$2 million dollars annually in the County. The committee members

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reviewed the Federal Request Summary. The Lobbyist help to determine where and what type of funds to apply for. This year's requests would be the same as last year. The costs of the requests have been lowered in order to try to obtain Federal Funding. Committee members questioned if other Legislators were assisting in the County's requests. Committee members were informed that every legislator serves on different committees and though they are informed of these requests so they could act on them if needed they generally process requests through whatever their expertise might be. These requests are very technical so the Lobbyist determines where the applications should be presented. Depending on any funding that is received, the commission would like to consider some equipment purchases for stream gauging which would help to determine the interactions between groundwater and surface water.

Committee members questioned reports received from Fox River Grove and Union regarding high levels of TCE. Any contamination is reported and evaluated by the Health Department. Evaluation of these wells will continue.

Discussion – Groundwater Protection Program – Next Steps: Committee members discussed their concerns voiced at the previous committee meeting. They stated that in order to explain what the program entails it is necessary to be able to provide a concise summary of the program so that everyone is saying the same thing. The way the program is set up is that every chapter has attachment for ease of finding what someone is looking for. Supporting documents are also included in each chapter. It was suggested that a professional writer review the information and redo each chapter with an understandable format. It was stated that the volume of information is overwhelming for some municipalities so there is a need to have the information separated into chapters. It was stated that adoption of each chapter is different than what has been implemented and what will be the final program. If adopting the chapters as county policies we need to make sure our own county departments will be able to support the policies. Committee members were reminded that we do not want to stall the program because of some small technicalities and it is important to move the program forward. Committee members voiced concern that if the information is too overwhelming it would become a paperweight on a shelf. There needs to be some standardized formatting throughout the document. Committee members were informed that the program was set up this way so the reader could "pull out" the chapter needed for review. It was noted that the program has been presented to Algonquin and Johnsburg. Both have been complementary of the program. Committee members were reminded that these policies are to be reviewed and rewritten to fit their own needs. Some of the policy says "mandate" and as a county we can endorse a policy but should not mandate how to run the program. Committee members stated that some of the language should be softened to address these language concerns. It was stated that we need to keep in mind that the policies have been endorsed as the best management practices. Committee members agreed that overall the policies are great but we have to question what the implications would be if these policies are adopted. In one section it states that each employee should be "certified". Committee members questioned what the financial impact is to a municipality, village or the county if this policy was endorsed? Committee members stated that some of the County Board Members have heard concerns that this program is overwhelming and it may be necessary to come up with some good ideas on how to make each chapter more user friendly. Ms. McKinney stated she would like to know the concerns being voiced so they can be addressed. Committee members stated that the cities and municipalities do not like the County telling them what to do. They were informed that on the website there is a disclaimer that states that this document was written by the stakeholders, which included involvement by the villages and municipalities and provides a list of who was involved in the writing of the program. The document needs to be marketed by everyone involved so everyone understands the same plan. Once the whole program has been approved, discs would be available for review. Committee members questioned if maps would be available for each community. They were informed that this would be an expensive process and each community would be responsible for their own maps. Resources will be provided so each community can print the "areas" of the map as needed. Committee members requested a schedule of when the presentations that are being done so they can attend. In addition, members requested that some further clarifications of various terms use in the Groundwater Protection Program be provided at the next meeting for further discussion. Ms. Miller left committee at 10:04a.m.

Ms McKinney distributed an "Update on Water Studies –2009" which included information on Observation Well Network 3 Dimensional geologic Mapping, and Groundwater Flow Modeling and USGS Project. The committee asked that this study be integrated into the program plan.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE CON'T

Green Team: See above.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Farmland Protection Commission: This meeting was canceled because of a lack of a quorum.

Natural Mitigation Planning: Chairman McCann informed committee members that the consultant met with approximately 60 people from the police, fire, emergency management and stormwater. The consultant is requesting an inventory of the flood areas in order to document the flood problems in the County. The information will be placed on a map for review. They have also requested Resolutions from each community that will be included in the program. This will assure that the community would be included in the FEMA funding for this project. These funds are only available to those communities that adopt the program.

Water/CMAP: None

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McHenry County Conservation District: Mr. Merkel presented committee members with a "Facts at a Glance-2009" regarding the programs completed during 2009. Information was provided on Preservation, Education and Recreation for the MCCD.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

FUTURE TOPICS

Committee members were reminded that the nuisance issues seem to continue to be discussed in this as well as other committees. An index is being created to see what the current ordinances and policies are and what ordinances the issues are included in. This is a review of what each ordinance actually says.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Merkel to adjourn at 10:25 a.m. The motion carried with all members present voting aye.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTION:

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