

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

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2010

Vice-Chairman Miller called the committee meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following members were present: Vice-Chairman Anna May Miller; Yvonne Barnes; Virginia Peschke; Barb Wheeler; and Pete Merkel. Mary McCann and Scott Breeden were absent. Also in attendance: Cassandra McKinney, Groundwater Resource Manager; Peter Austin, County Administrator; Patty Nomm, Health Department; Dennis Sandquist, P&D; 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 minutes the Natural and Environmental Resources Committee of December 17, 2009. Ms. Barnes made a motion, seconded by Ms. Peschke to approve the minutes of December 17, 2009. Ms. Barnes asked that the minutes be amended to include the request of the Committee to provide clarification of some terms in the Groundwater Protection Program for discussion at the next meeting. The minutes were approved as amended with all members present voting aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Nancy Schietzelt from the McHenry County Public Defenders addressed the Committee and voiced her support in moving forward with the Groundwater Plan.

PRESENTATIONS: None

COMMITTEE BUSINESS: Vice-Chairman Miller commented that she understands that there have been meetings between staff and Chairman McCann to possibly looking at a consultant to provide editing services for the Groundwater Action Plan. She stated she was uncomfortable moving forward with today's meeting and making decisions on agenda items without the Chairman present.

Ms. Barnes suggested that the Committee could make a decision on possibly choosing to send this document to an editor, noting that Mr. Austin could provide information on what he and staff have been working on. Ms. Wheeler ask that the Committee get a consensus from members present as to if this is something that even needs to be discussed. She stated she is against expending any dollars or time in sending this document to an outside consultant. Ms. Barnes asked that the Committee take the time to at least hear from Mr. Austin.

Mr. Austin stated the agenda for today's meeting was done by Chairman McCann. He stated the Committee could discuss the following four general areas today if they so choose: (1) Review of the Executive Summary; (2) Discuss the Groundwater Recharge Section; (3) decide if outside editing should be done, he stated a resolution to move forward would not be necessary if costs do not exceed \$2,500; and (4) discuss the idea of a community outreach program.

Vice-Chairman Miller commented that it is important that the driving force behind these items be in attendance when they are discussed. She stated she would be uncomfortable speaking on the Chairman's behalf. Ms. McKinney stated if the document goes for editing every section would be touched, however the content would not change. Ms. Barnes stated that such editing would include more than just voice and grammar, it would include a technological re-write and this would be significant. Ms. Peschke noted that the Committee was out of order on the agenda and suggested that the agenda be followed if the meeting was to move forward.

Vice Chairman Miller stated she did not feel anything could be accomplished today with the Committee Chairman absent. She then asked for a raise of hands from Committee members for a consensus as to if they wanted to engage the services of a technical writer. Only Ms. Barnes raised her hand in support of such services. Ms. Barnes commented that she felt members may misunderstand the definition of having someone else come in and provide a technical re-write. She stated she would like to delay this decision until all members can have a voice.

Ms. Wheeler voiced her frustration. She noted the County Board approved a Resolution in October requesting that local governments review and consider the Groundwater Protection Program Model Policies. The document as presented is very good and the task forced work hard on this document. She stated she felt what is happening today is just a stall method. She pointed out that Chapter 1 has a "lot of meat" and asked that the Committee move forward and not delay the process any longer.

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Vice-Chairman Miller stated that all members have identified this project as a priority, but to continue without the Chairman would seem inappropriate. She stated she was unaware that the Chairman would be absent today and was unprepared to move forward at this point.

Ms. Peschke stated she did not support an outside editor. She stated she also did not object to the Chairman having outside discussion on agenda items.

*Nuisance Ordinance Review update:* Members then discussed the Nuisance Ordinance. Mr. Austin stated that the Ordinance will be renamed the "Quality of Life Ordinance." He stated that staff is gathering information and will be inventorying information received from Health, P&D and the Sheriff. The goal is to move this information into one single list. Information was distributed on the work that has been completed.

*Groundwater Program: Background Introduction:* Ms. McKinney reviewed what changes she has made to the document. Revisions included changing "chapter" to "section." An executive summary has been included which begins on Page 15. Page 16 is an Introduction which includes information on current and projected water use. Page 26 sets the stage for suggested actions to pursue to ensure a clean safe water supply. The document concludes with a Section covering the state of McHenry County's water supply. Ms. McKinney stated that the Executive Summary through page 28 would be used as a "hand-out" at meetings and is also available on line at [www.mchenryh2o.com](http://www.mchenryh2o.com). Ms. McKinney stated she was hopeful that the Committee would approve this document for the community outreach meetings. She also reported that some communities are moving forward with these plans and recommendations.

Vice Chairman Miller thanked Ms. McKinney for her input, noting that any committee action would need to be done at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Ms. Barnes made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wheeler, to adjourn at 9:07 a.m. Mr. Merkel asked that the same items be included on the next meeting agenda which is currently scheduled for Friday, February 12, 2010 at 8:30 am. On a voice vote of 4 ayes and one nay (Peschke), the meeting adjourned.

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