

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

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2010

Chairman McCann called the committee meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following members were present: Mary McCann; Anna May Miller; Yvonne Barnes; and Virginia Peschke. Barb Wheeler arrived at 8:31a.m. Scott Breeden and Pete Merkel were absent. Also in attendance: John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Cassandra McKinney, Groundwater Resource Manager; Mark Phipps, Matt Hansel, Sean Foley and Dennis Sandquist, P&D; Patty Nomm, Health Department; 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 January 5, 2010. Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes to approve the minutes of January 5, 2009. The minutes were approved as presented with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Jane Collins, Woodstock, IL joined committee members and questioned what the expectations are for groundwater. She stated that when the groundwater study was completed for the County, it was determined there was no funding available to support groundwater quality/quantity issues. These issues were to be addressed in the Water Use Act, which does not include any State funding. She asked that the committee speak with the County Chairman on how we want to support State Funding. Chairman McCann requested this item placed on the next committee meeting agenda.

Ms. Wheeler arrived at 8:31a.m.

PRESENTATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

*Groundwater Protection Action Plan: Executive Summary:* Committee members were informed that the recommended changes have been made to the executive summary as discussed during the previous meeting. The Education of the plan as well as the SARA map has been included. Chairman McCann stated that we need to work with the regional efforts to promote conservation and education of these issues and we need to be careful that we are consistent with other views, including but not limited to CMAP and McSEEP. It is also important to look for support in Springfield. Committee members questioned if a section should be included regarding research products in the County. Committee members were reminded that the bulleted points on page 8 are what is currently being worked on in the County. Information should be included from the USGS and Illinois Water Survey. Committee members continued with Action Plan review with staff of the various departments. Committee members questioned if after all changes are made the do we want to make the plan more restrictive? Committee members stated that definitions need to be clarified. They need to have "tier one" and "tier two" industries as well as "cesspools" defined. It was stated that Ms. McKinney would rewrite the drafts and there would be continued review on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Committee members were reminded that the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is an ongoing effort. The Emergency Management Agency (EMA) needs to know about flood issues in the areas so they can be included in their plan. It was questioned whether the reports will include where the flood has come from since not all flooding comes from rivers and streams.

OLD BUSINESS

*Medication Disposal Program:* Committee members were informed that because of the cut backs in the State budget, they the EPA is not longer participating in the paint/medication disposal program. Previously there were events held to sponsor disposal recycling events. Grants for these programs have been applied for without success. The program in the Sheriff's Department is set up and ready to go, but, without funding the program was put on hold. It was suggested that a small fee be charged for those dropping off these items to pay for the program. It was stated this is hard to do because you have to "budget" for this program and it would be hard to determine how much funds would be collected in order to create the budget for the program. Medications can still be dropped off at Johnsburg and Fox River Grove Police Departments.

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*Brochures:* Committee members reviewed the brochures created for Medication Disposal, Disposal of Animal Waste, Conservation Design, Use of Phosphorus, finding a safe alternative for refined coal tar sealants and asphalt-based sealants, water conservation, lawn care, and residential de-icing. Ms. McKinney stated she had a professional editor review these brochures and had them created for events that are held. It was suggested that small quantities of the brochures be given to Village Halls and area municipalities so they can "recreate" these brochures as needed. These brochures are posted online with permissions given to reproduce them as needed. Committee members suggested these items printed and provided to the Village Halls. They were informed there is not the budget available to create these brochures and they have been posted on line so they can create these brochures as their own. Committee members stated these brochures need to be provided to new homeowners that move into the area. Committee members were told to please review the brochures for content and email any concerns to Chairman McCann.

Committee members were reminded that the committee meeting scheduled for the 19<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled because of a lack of a quorum.

*Community Outreach Plan:* Committee members questioned what type of program is being planned for a Community Outreach Plan. Committee members were informed that information is available through the website and newsletters. There is only \$2,000 available in the budget, which is being used to create brochures. It was suggested that a network be created as a social marketing program through each municipality and their newsletters. Ms. McKinney stated she has also been given space to write a news editorial one time per month in the local newspaper. She stated she is also working to create other avenues in which to focus on the issues. It was stated that education ends when the outcome is action and it takes more than just knowledge, it takes money and time.

Committee members were informed that Tim Loftus from CMAP is scheduled to attend the Tuesday evening County Board meeting for a presentation on the Northeast Regional Water Supply Plan recommendations.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Jane Collins joined committee members and requested that the committee consider public comment and recommendations, per chapter, for the Groundwater Protection Plan. She stated it would be a good idea to get concerns addressed up front. She stated she also has concerns on including recharge and quantity into the same chapter. She stated these are two scientifically different things. It was suggested these two issues, separated within the same chapter. Ms. McKinney stated the structure of this section was modeled after the Washington plan.

Ms. Nancy Schietzelt from the McHenry County Defenders, addressed the committee and stated that suggested that a fee be charged in lieu of filtration, for the common good of the whole county. The bottom line is that we cannot build without a water source and we need to think forward and our future generations. She stated the committee needs to stay strong with the language and ideas being presented.

Ms. Kennedy of Harvard stated that she supports what was said by Ms. Collins and Ms. Schietzelt. She requested that committee members be cognizant of the costs of implementation of some of these ideas.

Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to adjourn at 10:45a.m. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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