

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

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2010

Chairman McCann called the committee meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following members were present: Mary McCann; Anna May Miller; Virginia Peschke; Scott Breeden and Pete Merkel. Barb Wheeler arrived at 8:35a.m. Yvonne Barnes was absent. Also in attendance: County Board Chairman Ken Koehler; Cassandra McKinney, Groundwater Resource Manager; Mark Phipps and Dennis Sandquist, P&D; Patty Nomm, Health Department; Jamie Rein, States Attorney; 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 February 26, 2010. Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Merkel to approve the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved as presented with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Collins, from Woodstock joined committee members and voiced concern regarding legislation that is being sponsored by Representative Tryon. She stated that essentially they are proposing having water authorities prohibited in those Counties who have adopted a groundwater protection ordinance. This does not protect groundwater but is created as a control issue. She questioned if there has been any update on the legislation. It was noted that MCOG has made an amendment to the legislation that prohibits forcing a county to be a part of a water authority. She stated this is not the way to protect groundwater quantity and it takes away the citizens tools for protection. Chairman McCann stated the committee will review this issue later in the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

None

Ms. Wheeler arrived at 8:35a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Technical Writers Outline of Groundwater Action Plan: Committee members entered into a discussion regarding the technical writer's outline of the groundwater action plan. Chairman McCann voiced confusion, as she understood the whole plan was being reviewed and "polished". Concern was voiced that "edit" and "rewrite" are two different things and there needs to be clear direction. Chairman McCann stated that she sees the document as reorganized and being tightened up so that the document flows smoothly. Ms. McKinney stated the plan is being reorganized and reworded for consistency and clarity by the technical writer; however, the wording of the policy recommendations would remain the same.

Committee members voiced concern regarding the recommendations brought forth by Chairman McCann. They were concerned that this plan was now being changed to include changes to ordinances, which would mean enforcement of portions of the plan. They stated that they previously understood that this plan was just recommendations being brought forward from the Task Force to the County, Villages, Municipalities and Townships and each would rewrite the plan to fit their needs. The County departments will then review the plan and take what they like out of the plan and include the information, if needed, into the appropriate ordinance. The issues would then be forwarded to the appropriate committee so they can weigh in on wording for possible changes to ordinances and policies. Ms. Miller stated they did the same with the Deicing policy. The committee moved forward with an amendment to change the wording from "shall" to "should" since we can't force villages and municipalities to use these policies. She stated they would like to mandate these recommendations at a later date. The rewrite will make the document more understandable and concise. Committee members suggested a flow chart created of what we want done, and when we hope to accomplish some of the goals. Committee members were reminded that they are charged with reviewing the model policies, forward recommendations to the departments where they will work within their statutory authority to see what they can do with the policy recommendations. They will then go to the appropriate committee with their recommendations for ordinance changes.

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Community outreach and committee review will continue.

Currently there are two versions of the plan. One is the version written by the task force and the other is the technical rewrite for the County. Ms. McKinney stated that the last three sections of the plan will remain largely the same and maintain their original titles. It was recommended that these should be the areas of focus for the committee until the rewrite is complete. It was stated that a first draft of the rewrite should be available sometime during the week of March 15th. Between now and May the technical writer will continue with review and revisions. A final draft should be complete in May.

Cassandra noted that she has been invited to a Crystal Lake City Council meeting to speak about the groundwater plan. She will inform committee members when this date has been firmed up as it was originally scheduled the same date as a County Board meeting. She will inform committee members as these events are scheduled so they can attend if they desire.

Community Outreach Brochures: Committee members stated that they think the brochures are a good piece to use as community outreach. They agreed that staff could go ahead with the use of the brochures.

Groundwater Recharge Section: Review: Committee members continued with review of the Groundwater Recharge section. It was suggested that the recommendations from CMAP should be reviewed and applied where appropriate. It was suggested that the County implement a clean out policy for those who have a septic system. Committee members were informed that the Illinois Department of Health has talked about this for the past couple of years. It was stated that this is already identified as an issue and therefore should be forwarded to the appropriate department. This is to be addressed at a later date under wastewater. Committee members stated that we need to be careful with recommendations as some areas should be "acknowledged" points and not recommendations, as they could become requirements with a cost involved. Committee members were informed that they would address the Resolution at the next committee meeting on the 26th since some of the committee members would be leaving committee.

Mr. Breeden left committee at 9:15a.m.

Ms. Miller left committee at 9:37a.m.

Ms. Wheeler left committee at 9:39a.m.

Committee members continued with review of the groundwater recharge, section review. Committee members were informed that contaminations are handled by the IEPA with assistance from the local Health Department. If additional permitting should be required it would require the hiring of additional staff.

Committee members questioned what "plan" would be posted on line. They were informed that the task force plan is posted on line. After changes are adopted, an updated version will be placed on the web as well. Committee members stated that the committee needs to review the changes that were made to the final plan so that each of the committee members knows what the final document is that they are all agreeing to.

Chairman McCann requested committee members to review the Tier 1 and Tier 2 industry list and think about language in order to limit questionable industries in areas of concern. Committee members noted that the County can be more restrictive than current State regulations if they wanted. Committee members stated they would like to restrict certain industries in the SARA map areas. Committee members were reminded that we are looking at the Best Management Practices (BMP) and are making recommendations to departments so that they can try to implement into current plans. The language must be very clear as interpretations are different between people. It may be necessary to go back and determine whether the wording achieves the goal to implement the plan. Chairman McCann stated that the plan should include what works best for the County under its own legislative power and then the recommendations will be forwarded to each department. Ms. McKinney voiced concern that when the committee changes the wording that was brought forward by the task force the committee is making some strong changes that may not be consistent with the 2030 plan or within our statutory ability.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Committee members questioned if they would be addressing Ms. Collins concerns that were brought forward today. She stated that has a copy of the amendment for recommended legislation changes to the Water Authority Act. It was noted that this item is on the agenda for the next MCOG Water Policy meeting. It was noted that this concerns the citizen's right

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to form a water authority. It was stated that this should be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next committee meeting.

Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Merkel, to adjourn at 10:17a.m. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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