

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

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 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; Barb Wheeler; Yvonne Barnes and Pete Merkel. Scott Breeden was absent. Also in attendance: County Board Chairman Ken Koehler; Pete Austin, County Administrator; Cassandra McKinney, Groundwater Resource Manager; Matt Hansel, Mark Phipps and Dennis Sandquist, P&D; Pat McNulty and Patty Nomm, Health Department; Ersel Schuster, County Board Member; ; 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 March 5, 2010. Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wheeler to approve the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved as presented with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Randy Stowe, informed committee members that in 2008 the USEPA funded an upscale Nippersink watershed plan. From this, a group was formed to carry this plan forward. \$700,000 of Federal funds has been awarded for implementation of the plan for restoration of wetlands. He stated they would like to form a working relationship with the County and other watershed groups to explore practices as recommended and identified in the plan. He stated they would like to explore the possibility to work on a joint effort to work to dredge detention plans and work with the Division of Transportation on this effort. Ms. Miller requested information forwarded to her since she is the Chair for the Transportation Committee. Committee members were reminded there was a cost of \$50,000 for dredging on the Alden Road project. These funds could have been obtained from this grant, but had already been budgeted for. A group could be formed to handle funding for this type of Project. Committee members requested they discuss this later in the meeting and Chairman McCann stated she would add this under future topics for continued discussion as well.

Ms. Kathleen Caldwell stated she is attending today's committee as part of Leadership McHenry County.

PRESENTATIONS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Groundwater Recharge Resolution: Committee members entered into continued discussion on the recommendations for protection of groundwater quantity and quality. Staff comments and recommendations have been put into the appropriate categories with each section being sent to the appropriate department for review. It was stated that these comments were already agreed upon by the committee. In May committee members discussed what ordinances would need to be addressed or modified. One section missing was the subdivision ordinance, which needs to be included. The SARA map is not precise and is to be used as a guide for identifying areas for recharge and contamination. Ms. McKinney stated she would like to include appropriate adopted language. She stated that she wants consistency and to include what has already been adopted. Committee members were informed that it is not practical to update the SARA map continuously. The map only highlights areas for concern. They can get site specific upon development of specific sites. Ms. McKinney suggested that the committee stay will the recommendations from the task force. Data can be added to the map and be shown as a dot. This information would then be placed in a file, but, won't change the map. Committee members continued discussion of the land use practices. They discussed possible restricted and prohibited practices. It was stated that they should be using the recommendations that were received from the task force and then the language of each section would be determined by each specific committee. Committee members stated that all of the prohibited practices should be restricted practices. They stated that a list could be included of industries they would like to prohibit. They were informed there is not a list for Illinois Tier 1 industries. The rules included were from the Wisconsin NR 216.20 code and is part of their runoff rules. Committee members stated that Illinois has both tier one and tier two industries and there should be a list available from the Illinois EPA. Once a list from the IEPA is received the committee will need to address issues under the pollution prevention section. Committee continued review of the Subdivision Ordinance recommendations. They were informed that some of these issues are already addressed in the health ordinance. The draft recommended a requirement, as a condition of plat approval, to install a safe water supply system.

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Committee members were informed that this is already addressed in the Health Ordinance. A permit will not be given without a safe water supply. Ms. Nomm stated that the water demand is a health issue as well. Committee members continued review of the Stormwater Management Recommendations and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES). Committee members were reminded that the McHenry County Division of Transportation (McDOT) has wanted to add a staff member to implement NPDES regulations for a few years without success. Staff recommended that the background text read "NPDES is an unfunded mandate surface water protection program for MS4 communities by the EPA. McHenry County satisfies these program requirements through P & D's Stormwater Management Ordinance and Health Department Ordinances, in addition to McDOT staff efforts overseeing education, public involvement, the production of the yearly report, and incorporation into all County road projects, although there is no one person at this time who oversees and coordinates this program between departments and education efforts countywide. Committee members were informed that all of the other items are included within other chapters. The technical writer will put these items under the appropriate topics. Committee members questioned if the County could require a vegetated buffer around gravel pits. Committee members were informed they follow the recommendations from the gravel advisory committee and they already have screening requirements in place. They were also informed that of the gravel pits that are reclaimed, they already have a natural buffer. It was suggested that this be left as a mining operation with P & D review. Committee members felt it was a good idea to implement these into existing ordinances ad added to stormwater recommendations for consideration. Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes to recommend approval of the Resolution endorsing the Groundwater Recharge Model Policy of the Groundwater Protection Action Plan. Ms. Wheeler made a motion to amend the motion to recommend the staff recommended changes and committee amendments included for review. Ms. Peschke seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote. The original motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Barnes, Merkel, Miller, Peschke, Wheeler, McCann)

NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Water Authorities Act (HB 4757):

<http://www.ilqa.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=988&ChapAct=70%26nbsp%3BILCS%26nbsp%3B3715%2F&ChapterID=15&ChapterName=SPECIAL+DISTRICTS&ActName=Water+Authorities+Act%2E&Print=True>

Committee members were informed that the legislation that is being proposed by Representative Tryon is going to the rules committee. There were questions whether McHenry County should be involved with this. It was stated that since this could involve 300,000-400,000 people, the county should be involved. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Committee members were informed that they will also discuss a proposal that is being suggested from the western edge collar counties. SB1607, from Will County, suggesting it would be okay to put contaminants into gravel pits. It was suggested that Cook County wants to deport some of their contaminants out of Cook County. Committee members were informed that this could become a nasty issue. Information and a Resolution for consideration will be brought forward for consideration at a future meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Wheeler questioned committee members regarding the request by Mr. Randy Stowe above, to form a roundtable discussion with the watershed groups in the area. She stated she would like to put together a roundtable discussion with all the watersheds and the County to help with joint efforts of the groups. Committee members suggested that the open lands group included as well. Chairman McCann gave permission for Ms. Wheeler to coordinate a meeting between the County, open lands and watershed groups formed within the county.

Committee members were informed that a MCCD task force was formed to research windmills. They would like to provide a presentation in May 2010. Committee members agreed to a presentation in May 2010.

Ms. Wheeler provided committee members with a copy of the new brochure for ACE, the Agriculture Conservation Easement & Farmland Protection Program.

Chairman McCann reminded committee members that they would begin review of Chapter 10, Drought, of the Groundwater Protection Plan.

Committee members were reminded, if they know of any flooding issues in their area to please report these to Emergency Management Agency so this information could be included in the Hazardous Mitigation Plan.

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Ms. McKinney informed committee members that she will be providing presentations to Crystal Lake on April 6th, Fox River Grove on May 6th and Harvard on May 25th for those interested in attending.

Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to adjourn at 10:35a.m. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

Resolution endorsing the Groundwater Recharge Model Policy of the Groundwater Protection Action Plan

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