

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

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2010

Chairman McCann called the committee meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. The following members were present: Mary McCann; Anna May Miller; Virginia Peschke and Yvonne Barnes. Barb Wheeler, Pete Merkel, and Scott Breeden were absent. Also in attendance: County Board Chairman Ken Koehler; Pete Austin, County Administrator; Cassandra McKinney, Groundwater Resource Manager; Alicia Law, Monica Hawk and Mark Phipps, P&D; Ersel Schuster, County Board Member; Adam Lehmann, Administration Intern; Barry Valentine and Bob Ellsworth, EMA; 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 26, 2010. Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller to approve the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved as presented with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Monica Hawk was introduced to committee as a new Stormwater Engineer in the Planning and Development Department. She has 7 ½ years experience as a consulting engineer. It was stated that McHenry County is lucky to have her and committee members welcomed her to the County.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee members were reminded that the Resolution for Groundwater Recharge was pulled from the agenda at Tuesdays County Board meeting because of questions surrounding the plan. It was noted that with the additional 2030 plan being reviewed there is a lot to look at, at one time. Since sections of this plan are to be reviewed by various committees Chairman McCann questioned if there might be a better way to handle the review and approval of the sections. It was previously suggested that a COW (Committee of the Whole) be held to answer questions of the County Board member's. This will allow for an opportunity to discuss the process that will be taken to get the whole plan approved. It was stated that there are issues that need more thorough review by some of the departments. The sections will then be reviewed by the specific committees. There's a lot of misunderstanding of these documents and what the costs will be to implement some of the recommendations. There is a definite disconnect between the committees. Committee members received a copy of one of the sections received from the technical writer They questioned if the committee should wait until all of the sections are completed They stated that the items are being placed in the sections as proposed by the Technical Writer. This will bring uniformity to the document for the county board members. Committee members stated they are concerned about the purpose of the COW, they feel it is too soon to have a discussion on this document. It was suggested that the questions and concerns on this plan be answered at the morning county board meeting. Ms McKinney stated that she could again make a presentation to the County Board Members, exactly like the presentations given to the villages and townships to help explain the process of the plan. Chairman Koehler stated the COW allows for dialog without the requirement to take action. He stated there is a need to decide which document they are going to work off of, the task force version or the technical writer's version. Committee members stated that after looking at the outline received from the technical writer, the document makes more sense. The writer has put the appropriate issues in uniform area. It was stated that the county would still have to adopt those items that concern the County within the document. It is necessary to take the action plan and make it more concise and uniform but still take elements out that apply to just the County. It was stated that the task force version covers the whole county and is to be used as a guide for each entity in order for them to create a document that is their own. The task force plan has not been adopted, just accepted. This committee's job is to pull out the items that will go before different departments/committees for each of them to review and rewrite to fit the ordinances of the County. Committee members questioned if the plan with go to the County Board in sections or as a whole. It was stated that each section will be brought forward after being reviewed by the appropriate committee and department. Committee members voiced concern on those items that are not committee/department specific. Committee members stated that the committee should be forwarding on the technical writers rewrite to the appropriate committee or department for review and then forward the whole plan, after each chapter review is done, to the County Board. They stated that sending each chapter to the board is

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confusing. Committee members were informed that what the committee hopes to accomplish is to say that all of the issues in the plan have been addressed and as a County we support and have integrated the plan to the best of our ability. Committee members were reminded that the COW that has been scheduled for next week is regarding the 2030 plan, not the groundwater plan. Committee members stated that when Cassandra addresses the planning process she is to use the technical rewrite plan. This committee will review all chapters, section by section, of the rewritten plan. These sections will then be forwarded to the appropriate committee or department. As each section is completed a County Plan will be created with the applicable recommendations that would affect the county. Committee members stated that there have been questions why an Administrative Code from Wisconsin was used as a reference instead of using an Illinois Code. Committee members were informed that it is not unusual to use another states code as a reference and Wisconsin has been very progressive. Illinois codes do not address all of the issues and if there is no up to date code, other States will be used as a reference.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution authorizing an agreement with McHenry County Agricultural Conservation Easement Farmland Protection Commission (ACE) and The Land Conservancy (TLC): A Resolution will be brought forward for consideration to a future meeting.

Water Planning Area in Northern Illinois (NWPA): Chairman Koehler joined committee members for discussion on the Water Planning Area in Northern Illinois. He stated that the group has completed their water plan document. The plan is available for review on the County Board table. The Chair's from the collar counties met to discuss what should be done next. The Mayor of Aurora would like to continue the process and study the recommendations brought forward. Chairman Koehler stated he joined committee members today to provide an update and request a proclamation to allow the County to become a member of this planning group. He stated there is a small fee for this. Boone County will be asked if they would like to become a member as well. This will bring the group to 15 voting members. This will be an ongoing process and will continue, with or without, County involvement but, with what both Kane and McHenry County has accomplished on their water programs, it brings forward awareness of water supply issues and concerns of the Fox River and Kishwaukee. This is FYI only and a request for permission to join the water planning group. Committee members questioned if Winnebago County will be asked to join as McHenry County water comes from Winnebago County. Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller to recommend McHenry County join the Water Planning Area in Northern Illinois (NWPA). The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote. Committee members stated the resolution could be forwarded directly to the County Board for consideration.

Section 10: Drought Planning and Management: Section 11 Contingency Planning: Committee members were informed that this section is pretty straight forward. This section concerns EMA review and includes ideas on mutual aid on how to deal with specific issues. This section is more complex than what has been included in the document so it will require technical expertise for some of the issues. The McHenry County EMA will make sure these plans dovetail with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency plans. Drought is being addressed in the Mitigation plan and each section has different needs and the contingency planning already has processes in place. The Illinois contingency plan needs to be updated as well as they haven't updated the plan since the last drought in June of 1983. Tools have been provided to write this plan. This committee needs to acknowledge the plan. The local EMA will work with the State EMA to get the plan completed. Committee members stated that provisions for livestock should be included as well. Committee members questioned if the Northern Illinois Water Group has ever addressed the fact the State's plan is out of date. It was stated that they may have a plan available and it will be brought to the next committee meeting if available.

Ms McKinney stated she prepared Resolutions for the Drought Planning and Management and Contingency Planning if the committee would like to review them. Committee members took the resolutions to review but, stated the resolutions should wait for approval until the whole technical rewrite is complete and the COW has taken place.

Chairman McCann directed Ms. McKinney to create a flow chart for the various sections with the recommendations for each section. The chart will show how the process will flow.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

Agricultural Conservation Easement Farmland Protection Commission: Committee members were informed the brochures presented at the previous meeting were donated by a member of the commission. These will be presented at the Farm Day expo and County Fair. They have formed a 501c3 and are now able to take donations to market their plan.

Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning: Mr. Valentine reported they have two more meetings for this plan. One meeting will be held during the evening to address those who have found it difficult to attend a day time meeting. There has been great attendance during this process. He stated that it is important to have the inclusion of everyone.

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Green Team: Committee members were informed that there is an office supply swap scheduled in the near future. Earth Day events are being planned along with trash pickup for Adopt a Highway on April 23rd. They are also planning a "green promotional fair". More information will follow. Committee members questioned when the next "gym shoe" drop off event will be scheduled. Committee members were informed this has not been scheduled, but, they will be informed when plans have been completed.

NEW BUSINESS CON'T

HB 4757: Committee members were informed that this issue is in the "rules committee". Representative Tryon will be holding meetings this summer to discuss this proposal. Chairman McCann stated she would keep the committee updated.

SB1607: Chairman McCann stated Will County is not sure if this proposal will go anywhere. A proposal was originally put forward to dispose of contaminated soil and disposal of construction and demolition debris in quarries, mines and other excavations. Will County has been very vocal in its opposition to any legislation that would allow contaminated soil and other construction or demolition debris to be deposited in unlined quarries. Their position has not changed, though they do not think this issue will be moved forward. Will County had previously requested support for them in their fight on this issue. Committee members agreed to support this issue should it be brought forward

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

FUTURE TOPICS

Committee members were informed they would be reviewing applications and interviewing for an open position on the McHenry County Conservation District. There is only one position open.

A report regarding Windmills from MCCD is expected for review in the near future as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms Barnes to adjourn the meeting at 10:06a.m. The motion carried with all members present voting aye.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

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