

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

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2010

Chairman McCann called the committee meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. The following members were present: Mary McCann; Anna May Miller; Virginia Peschke; Scott Breeden; Pete Merkel and Barb Wheeler. Yvonne Barnes arrived at 9:45 a.m. Also in attendance: Matt Hansel, Mark Phipps and Kristy Hecke, Planning & Development; interested public and the press.

Mary McCann, Chairman	
Yvonne Barnes	JS "Scott" Breeden
Pete Merkel	Anna May Miller
Virginia Peschke	Barbara Wheeler

MINUTES: Committee members reviewed the minutes for the Natural and Environmental Resources Committee of May 14, 2010, along with the Joint Finance & Audit Committee and the Natural and Environmental Resources Committee meeting of June 8, 2010. Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wheeler, to approve both of the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved as presented with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

*McHenry County Conservation District Appointment:* Committee members interviewed Kent Krautstrunk, Stephen Barrett, Richard Jackson and John Stefani for consideration for appointment to the McHenry County Conservation District. It was discussed that this appointment is to fill a vacancy because of an unexpired term. All appointments to this commission are for a five-year term, but this appointment will be for the remainder of the unexpired term which is three years. After the interviews, Chairman McCann asked the Committee to postpone further discussion concerning this appointment until after the staff presentations. All Committee members in attendance agreed.

Yvonne Barnes arrived at 9:45 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

*Nuisance - Property Management Issues:* Mr. Hansel informed the Committee about the inclusion of a property maintenance code section in the request for proposals for the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). Committee members discussed the issues of nuisance issues including property maintenance, abandoned homes and inoperable vehicles. Also discussed was the issue of people who place garbage in front of their homes, along with abandoned vehicles. Concerns were addressed as to what was considered an abandoned vehicle. It was stated that a vehicle is considered working if the engine turns over. Mr. Hansel also mentioned that complaints concerning inoperable vehicles in urban areas are increasing. The Committee discussed the increase in the number of abandoned homes in the County, which is becoming a large problem. There are health ordinances that address weeds and garbage, but not abandoned homes. Also of concern are the number of barns in disrepair, some of which are falling down and may be a safety hazard. Concerning noise, there is nothing in any of our ordinances that address noise in residential areas. P&D has submitted information to Mr. Lehmann who is currently working on preparing a brochure of existing County Ordinances that may have an impact on property maintenance issues.

*Stormwater Update:* The Committee was informed that the County has received written approval of the proposed amendments to the Stormwater Management Ordinance from FEMA and the IDNR. The proposed amendments will be presented to this Committee for their approval at their next meeting. Also being presented to this Committee at their next meeting will be the proposed Ordinance Implementing the Wetland Restoration Fund.

*Agricultural Conservations Easement (ACE):* Ms. Peschke and Ms. Wheeler attended the McHenry County Council of Governments program and informed the Committee that it was very well received. They were able to assist many people attending this event with understanding the difference between easements and the use of land, along with explaining what an easement was.

*Wind Turbines:* Committee members were informed that a MCCD Citizen Committee did an investigation on wind turbines. The study is on the MCCD website. The Committee discussed looking at issues related to citing wind turbines. It was suggested having a moratorium on permitting wind turbines until more discussion about their citing. Discussion was had whether or not to appoint a task force, or a workshop, to look at the issues of wind generation and wind turbines.

Wind generation seems to be very popular for ecology reasons. It was mentioned that P&D had a meeting with municipal planners to discuss a possible county-wide ordinance that will bring municipal and county ordinances into similar compliance. He is continuing to work on this issue with the planners. The Committee would like to gather as much information from other counties concerning these issues before putting together a workshop.

Ms. Wheeler informed Committee members that a water forum hosted by Imagine McHenry County concerning the fundamentals of water and water education will be held on Saturday, August 7, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at McHenry County College. It will address the importance of groundwater and potential contamination, along with informing businesses on how to conserve water. It will include over 20 eco-friendly vendors that will provide information for this event. A press release will be available after July 4.

Mr. Merkel informed Committee members that the MCCD will hold a grand opening and open house on August 14, 2010 for the Lost Valley Visitors Center. Committee members will receive an invitation for this event. The dedication for this Center will be held on August 13. The renovations are complete, the staff is moving in, and the finishing touches are being completed on the outside of the building.

NEW BUSINESS - Continued:

*McHenry County Conservation District Appointment:* Committee members entered into a discussion regarding the appointment to the Board. Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wheeler to recommend the appointment of Stephen Barrett to the McHenry County Conservation District Board for a term of three years. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (McCann, Barnes, Merkel, Peschke, Breeden, Wheeler and Miller.)

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PRESENTATION: None.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE:

*Electronics Collection Update:* Ms. Hecke reported that they were able to hold a collection of residential electronics at McHenry County College on Saturday, May 22, 2010. They were able to work closely with various organizations, the Lions Club, the Crystal Lake Police Department, and MCC's security staff. There was also a collection for clothing and eyeglasses. The cost for this event was approximately \$1500 which paid for the vendor who provided the manpower, internal traffic control, sorting, packing, and loading and transportation back to Chicago. They provided the truck drivers, boxes and the shrink wrap. This was limited to only residences with a 10-item limit per residence. She reported that this event went very well and there were no problems with the event and no traffic problems on Rt. 14. A variety of electronics were accepted - CED's (covered electronic devices), computers, monitors, printers, and all brands of televisions. Many vans had large counsel televisions to drop off. Approximately 200,000 lbs. of electronics were collected, along with 600 lbs. of clothing, and 189 sets of eyeglasses which were collected by the Lions Club. 1700 vehicles passed through the event and nine semi-trailers were filled with items. It was suggested that a press release should be done about this event, along with putting it in the County newsletter. This type of event may be repeated in the fall.

*Paint Recycling Program:* Ms. Miller stated that she recently received information that the State of Illinois has reinstated the funding for the Paint Recycling Program.

*Mosquito Spraying Update:* None.

*Regional Water Task Force Update:* Chairman McCann stated that there was a recent meeting and they have a Contract that has been presented to the State's Attorney, but there is no action to report. Further reporting will be done in July.

OTHER: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

FUTURE TOPICS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Wheeler made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. The motion carried with all members present voting aye.

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**RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:**

Appointment of Stephen Barrett to the McHenry County Conservation District Board

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