

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

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2010

Chairman McCann called the committee meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. The following members were present: Mary McCann; Anna May Miller; Virginia Peschke; Scott Breeden; Pete Merkel; Yvonne Barnes and Barb Wheeler. Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator; Cassandra McKinney, Water Resource Manager; Dennis Sandquist, Matt Hansel, Alicia Law and Mark Phipps, Planning & Development; Jeff Levato, Health Department; Adam Lehmann, Administration Intern; 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 July 9, 2010. Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to recommend approval of the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved as submitted with a unanimous voice vote of all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PRESENTATION: None.

Chairman McCann requested that New Business agenda items be heard out of order at this meeting. She also requested that future agendas have "New Business" placed on the agenda before "Old Business".

NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance Amending the McHenry County Stormwater Management Ordinance #0-2004-10-009 Adopted January 20, 2004: Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Peschke, to recommend the County Board approve an Ordinance Amending the McHenry County Stormwater Management Ordinance #0-2004-10-009 Adopted January 20, 2004. Mr. Phipps joined Committee members and reported that they have been working on amendments to improve the Stormwater Management Ordinance and clarify it for the past 1 ½ years. The proposed amendments have been approved by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the McHenry County Stormwater Commission, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources-Office of Water Resources (IDNR). The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Barnes, Merkel, Peschke, Breeden, Miller, Wheeler and McCann).

Committee members entered into a discussion concerning the acceptance of parcels under a certain size. Committee members were informed that the Technical Committee has met two times, and the Stormwater Commission will make it a high priority and hopefully amendments will be fast tracked through FEMA and TAC. Planning and Development plans to send them one amendment with hopes that it is reviewed quickly by FEMA and TAC and then will be placed with the other amendments to the Stormwater Management Ordinance. The current procedure for amendments to this Ordinance is for an amendment to first go to the Stormwater Commission, then to the Natural and Environmental Resources Committee (NERC), then to FEMA and IDNR, then back to the NERC, and finally to the County Board. Members discussed whether or not amendments need to go to NERC after the Stormwater Commission. Committee members were in agreement that this amendment be heard at the Stormwater Commission and be moved directly to the public entities (FEMA and IDNR). It was discussed that future assignments would be heard on a case-by-case basis.

Resolution Amending Resolution R-201006-18-147 Authorizing a Budget Line Item Transfer from General Fund Non-Departmental to County Administration in the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget for a Local Match to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for Water Quality Analysis of Observation Wells. Ms. McKinney joined Committee members and presented this Resolution, along with informing them that it was recently brought to her attention that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will not be able to provide the required services prior to the end of the Federal fiscal year. This project was originally a multi-agency project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and McHenry County. Federal earmarked dollars could be at stake if funds from the USGS are not allocated prior to the end of the Federal fiscal year. Ms. McKinney informed the Committee that the USGS can provide the same services as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and will ensure that funds are not lost if analysis is not completed prior to the close of the Federal fiscal year. It was the consensus of the Committee to move this Resolution forward to the County Board's meeting scheduled for September 21, 2010.

OLD BUSINESS:

Observation Wells and Stream Gauges: Ms. McKinney presented Committee members with a map showing the locations of ISGS and USACE observation wells. Two wells are not included on this map. The USGS has completed three quarters of the installation of the real-time network for the wells. She will be in contact with the USGS concerning the design of the website that will host the data. When the website becomes available, hourly updates of the wells will be available, along with displays of stream gauges with precipitation and observation wells. She mentioned the USGS Project will assist the Illinois State Water Survey to calibrate the model groundwater flow.

Money would be needed to fund the equipment and its long-term management. Recently learned the Great Lakes Mapping Coalition will be mapping McHenry County geology and groundwater. There are other wells in the county that were put in by the ISGS that could have real-time equipment placed in them. More wells could be put in and outfitted with real-time equipment, but funding partners would need to be found, along with permission to the wells. The observation wells are currently more of an education tool to show people the impact of water.

Chairman McCann mentioned that the October Natural and Environmental Resources Committee meeting may include a field trip. It would involve travelling to view an observation well and stream gauge, along with viewing some of the issues for potential flooding areas and stormwater issues.

Quality of Life/Nuisance Ordinances: A brochure summarizing some of the neighborhood preservation ordinances was previously provided to the Committee. It was mentioned that this brochure was presented in a nice format and if anyone wanted to follow up on any of the listed ordinances, they would be able to obtain a complete copy of the ordinance from the specific department that oversaw the ordinance. Chairman McCann provided Committee members an expanded explanation of the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinances. Consensus of the Committee was to pursue this issue with evaluation of the information and topics. Discussion will continue on resolutions on these issues.

Ms. Miller left the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Water Resources Action Plan – Section II: Local Water Quantity and Quality: Committee members entered discussion regarding the Water Resources Action Plan – Section II: Local Water Quantity and Quality. Chairman McCann provided a summary of recommendations and Actions for each of the items in the Plan. Committee members entered into a discussion regarding these recommendations. It was stated that this is a plan, it has policies in it and some are easily implemented and some have long-term visions and statement of objectives. Some policy objectives are educational. Chairman McCann stated that each section may be approved in the near future, some in the next year or two, and some may be approved in the long term. Some items will fall under education. There will be continued discussion on these issues at a future meeting.

Ms. Wheeler left the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE:

McHenry County Conservation District, as applicable: Mr. Merkel stated that he will continue to forward weekly updates about the MCCD to Committee members. Yesterday was the grand opening for the Kishwaukee Headwaters Conservation Area.

Agricultural Conservations Easement Farmland Protection Commission: Ms. Peschke mentioned that the Commission will have a meeting on September 15, 2010. Food sheds and locally grown food and its use in broader communities will be discussed.

Northwest Water Supply Planning Group: None.

Greenways: None.

Green Team: None.

Update on 2010 Gypsy Moth Aerial Spraying Program and discussion on 2011 Program: Mr. Labaj was absent so this item will be placed on the next agenda for this Committee.

Drainage Workshop: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

FUTURE TOPICS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 a.m. The motion carried with all members present voting aye.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

Ordinance Amending the McHenry County Stormwater Management Ordinance #0-2004-10-009 Adopted January 20, 2004

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