

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

MINUTES OF MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2011:

Chairman McCann called the committee meeting to order at 8.25 a.m. The following members were present: Mary McCann, Chairman; Donna Kurtz; Pete Merkel; Bob Nowak, Virginia Peschke and Kathleen Bergan Schmidt. Donna Kurtz arrived at 8:35 a.m. and Marc Munaretto was absent. Also in attendance: Pete Austin, County Administrator; Cassandra McKinney, Water Resource Manager; Dennis Sandquist, Darrell Moore, Kim Kolner and Cory Horton, Planning & Development; Patti Nomm, Health Department; Barry Valentine and Bob Ellsworth, EMA; Ersel Schuster, County Board; interested public and press.

Mary McCann, Chairman	
Donna Kurtz	Pete Merkel
Marc Munaretto	Bob Nowak
Virginia Peschke	Kathleen Bergan Schmidt

MINUTES: Committee members reviewed the minutes for the Natural and Environmental Resources Committee of November 12, 2010. Chairman McCann noted a typographical error on page 2 with reference to the spelling of the word MCCOG. This will be changed in the minutes. Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Mr. Merkel, to recommend approval of the minutes, as presented, with the noted correction. The minutes were approved, as amended, with a unanimous voice vote of all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PRESENTATION: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Committee Meeting Schedule for 2011: It was the consensus of the committee members to hold all future 2011 Natural and Environmental Resources Committee meetings on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at 8:30 a.m. in the County Board Room.

Stormwater Ordinance Amendment: Mr. Sandquist introduced Cory Martin as the new Stormwater Engineer who replaced Mark Phipps. Mr. Martin has been a consulting engineer for the County and has reviewed permits and is familiar with the County's ordinances and procedures. Mr. Sandquist stated that they are recommending that the County Board adopt amendments to Article V, Section F4(a) of the Stormwater Management Ordinance. This change is located on page 44 of the ordinance. The proposed amendments are intended to reduce the burden on large property owners, such as farmers and the MCCD, when providing detention when doing relatively small developments on large parcels. This amendment provides guidance for determining when detention must be constructed on larger parcels. The development must create less than one acre of new impervious surface area and must be less than 10 percent of the total site area. Mr. Merkel mentioned that this was discussed during a recent stormwater meeting. An example was the MCCD wanting to build a small parking lot on a trailhead by a bike path. Ms. Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Peschke, to recommend the County Board approve an Ordinance Amending the McHenry County Stormwater Management Ordinance #0-200401-10-009 Adopted January 20, 2004. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote (Kurtz, Merkel, Nowak, Peschke, Schmidt and McCann).

Reappointment of Brian D. Jenkner, Robert R. LaPorta and Virginia D. Peschke to the Agricultural Conservation Easement and Farmland Protection Commission (ACE): Mr. Sandquist introduced Kim Kolner, Planning & Development's staff liaison for ACE. Chairman McCann provided members with a pamphlet which explains ACE and mentioned that it has been in existence for two years. Ms. Kolner requested the committee recommend the reappointment of Brian Jenkner, Robert LaPorta and Virginia Peschke to serve another three year term on the ACE Commission. She mentioned that they have all held leadership roles for the Commission and are wonderful assets to the Commission. Their expertise in the agricultural field has been vital. Ms. Kurtz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Nowak, to recommend the reappointment of Brian Jenkner, Robert LaPorta and Virginia Peschke to serve another three year term on the ACE Commission. Ms. Schmidt mentioned that she does not agree with appointing people she does not know, or know

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know about, to various commissions. She mentioned that the ACE brochure was helpful because on the back it lists who the committee members are and what their occupations are. Mr. Sandquist mentioned that in the past they have not provided committee members with copies of the previous applications for anyone seeking reappointment to commissions. If committee members would like to receive copies of the previous applications, they will need to let him know beforehand. Chairman McCann asked Mr. Sandquist to discuss with administration an approach to be taken in the future concerning the reappointment process. A suggestion was made to provide committee members with a background on all reappointments. Ms. Kurtz mentioned the Management Services Committee recently discussed the reappointment process. It was mentioned that it would be good for all new Board members, along with current Board members, to become familiar with applicants for reappointment and to provide them with background information before their reappointment is voted on. Ms. Peschke recused herself from voting on this motion. The motion carried with five ayes (Kurtz, Merkel, Nowak, Schmidt and McCann) and one recusal (Peschke).

Chairman McCann requested that Item #5.7 be moved up on the agenda:

Discussion on Implementation of Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan: Mr. Valentine and Mr. Ellsworth joined committee members and mentioned that the mitigation plan was developed last year. It allows them to apply for mitigation funds from the Federal Government with most of the situations being a 75/25 split, with the Federal Government providing 75% of the project. It mainly deals with reducing water impact on cities, villages and subdivisions with most of it dealing with flooding. It also takes into account natural disasters, storms, winds, tornados and blizzards. They have had very good cooperation from cities, villages and townships. It is not essential for towns to approve the plans, but if it is for cities if they want to participate in it. The County approved the plan in December. Currently ten out of 26 cities/villages have adopted the plan. They have until May 1st to approve the plan in order to be included because the state allows approximately five or six months after the County's approval for the cities/villages to approve it. If they don't approve it, then they cannot be a part of it. This is essential in order to obtain mitigation money. Even if they are not impacted with a disaster in Illinois, the mitigation could be made available to McHenry County. Mr. Valentine will provide committee members with a list of which cities/villages have approved the plan. There are other funds available through other programs related to stormwater, but they are dependent on the mitigation plan being in place.

Agricultural Conservation Easement and Farmland protection Commission (ACE) Hosting and Overseeing the Development of a Local Food Assessment/Inventory: Ms. Kolner stated that ACE is looking for direction from this committee as to the possibility of ACE overseeing the development of a local food assessment inventory and the creation of a local food council. At the September 15, 2010 ACE meeting, a presentation was given by representatives from Knox County Economic Development Debt about development of their local food council. ACE members thought it was a good idea and felt it may be something the County could adopt, but would need a broader range of expertise than what the ACE members could provide. At the ACE meeting held on January 19, 2011 over 40 participants from various organizations and businesses in the County participated in discussion about a local food council. It was concluded that a local food assessment should be the next step, which would inventory all of the stakeholders for both the supply and demand of local food. A task force will need to be formed to find out who would like to participate in this, which would include farmers, restaurants, chefs, school representatives, master gardeners, 4-H clubs, farmers markets, food pantries, and other businesses, to name a few. The question was raised as to who will be doing the initial legwork for this project, and what will the costs involved be. Mr. Sandquist mentioned that the P&D Department, in relationship with the ACE Commission, will be working on this. The ACE Commission feels this is a good idea and would like to move it forward. They will initially use ACE's meeting times, but it will be up to his staff to identify the ad hoc stakeholders, organize the committee, and organize sub-committees to begin planning. Ms. Kolner will do the majority of the work. They will come forward with their analysis for recommendation to this committee, and then to the County Board for adoption. Chairman McCann mentioned that they need to determine what the role of ACE should be at this point. Some Board members may be concerned that they are becoming involved with local food councils and that may be something the County should not be involved with. Ms. Kurtz would like to see more partnering with McHenry County College and would like to see it have community support. At the present time she cannot give her support for this because she is not sure what it is they will be doing. Mr. Nowak agreed with Ms. Kurtz and would like to know what the costs are, and what they are projected to be for budget purposes. He questioned if this could be controlled by the business community and not by the government. Mr. Sandquist questioned members if this was something they wanted his staff to do. It was suggested that the Farm Bureau

might facilitate and organize this project, in conjunction with MCC. Committee members would like a framework with more details so they can review options and see how it fits with the ACE program. Chairman McCann will meet with ACE members and interested stakeholders to discuss NERC's concerns.

Recap of Natural and Environmental Resources Committee Action in 2010: Chairman McCann provided members with a summary of the areas NERC dealt with in the last two years. NERC's primary focus in 2011 will be the adoption of the Water Resources Action Plan. Elements of the Plan will be reviewed by the committee and passed onto the County Board for adoption of the entire Plan.

Water Resources Action Plan (WRAP) Overview and Reset: Mr. Austin stated that the new committee members will be introduced to the Water Resources Action Plan (WRAP); they will be "resetting" the committee's understanding as to the responsibilities to the Plan; they will set goals and targets for staff to move toward; and they will move forward in the next six months in order to have the Plan reviewed and considered. Ms. McKinney joined committee members and presented an overview of the WRAP and mentioned that during the final part of the presentation Mr. Sandquist will provide a history of the WRAP and the next steps for the Plan. Ms. McKinney provided members with a copy of the WRAP. She mentioned that water is a finite resource and only a fraction of the water on the earth is fresh. McHenry County is solely dependent on ground water for all of its potable water needs. Water from Lake Michigan is not used for our county's water supply. Some areas of McHenry County use more water than other areas and water supply and water use are not evenly distributed across the county. We need to rethink the way we treat and value water in McHenry County and across the region. She mentioned creating a program to protect and preserve the quantity and quality of groundwater for our generation and future generations. She explained the Integrated Water Resources 7 Step Planning Process as follows: identify problems and opportunities; create a planning team; inventories and forecasting; formulate alternative plans; evaluate alternative plans; rank alternative plans; and plan adoption/implementation. In an effort to supply and present timely data to determine water conditions of the area, the USGS has a near real-time data network of groundwater wells with 41 being in McHenry County. For the past two years they have held a winter snow and ice training and certification course to provide information for the public and private sector and have trained nearly 400 people in the past two years. Mr. Sandquist provided a brief history concerning the development of a groundwater plan. In 1996 the County organized public workshops to discuss the development of a groundwater plan; in 1997 the Illinois State Geological Survey completed geologic mapping for McHenry County environmental planning; and in March, 2001 the County hired Baxter and Woodman to write the Groundwater Resources Management Plan (GRMP) with the second draft completed in 2006. The groundwater taskforce met on a monthly basis from July, 2007 through September, 2009 to develop the WRAP. In October, 2009 the County Board adopted a resolution to adopt and implement the WRAP over the next 12 months. 15 of 32 municipalities have adopted the same resolution with three more set to adopt it in the next two months. With the 2030 Plan moving forward, they will be hiring a consulting team and develop the UDO to make it consistent with the 2030 Plan. Another upcoming project is the greenways plan. The County, along with the watershed action team, has received grant funding that will provide a consultant to help with a greenways plan. Chairman McCann mentioned that the goal of this committee will be to review the WRAP in the next six months and they will be spending the bulk of their meetings discussing the WRAP. They will be reviewing the WRAP in sections and presenting it to the County Board in sections.

Ms. Nomm mentioned that they have been working on two major items in their department, one being the implementation of the revised burning ordinance in April, 2008. They looked at various options for several densely populated areas and how they handle their landscape waste. In February of 2010 the County Board approved a franchising agreement with a waste hauler for all of the solid waste in unincorporated areas of Wonder Lake and Pistakee Highlands. It covered approximately 4200 homes and has been extremely successful. Their number of complaints dropped from several hundred per year to approximately 40 to 50 per year which has been a time saver for staff. They have seen a huge jump in the amount of recycling in those two areas. They have been approached by other subdivisions and other areas that are interested in similar services. She also mentioned that they may hold another electronics recycling event similar to the one held in May, 2010. They obtained approximately 2000 lbs. of recycled items at that event. It has become more competitive and they hope to be able to obtain a better price this year and there are numerous vendors that are interested.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE:

McHenry County Conservation District: Mr. Merkel stated that he receives a weekly report from the Director of the MCCD and he will e-mail those to the current committee members on a weekly basis. He also mentioned that within the County there has been a healthy community study being conducted that has been spearheaded by hospitals and healthcare providers. He has been involved by being a liaison on behalf of the MCCD. They are getting near the end of the study and they will be giving a presentation to the public in March at MCC and he will provide the members with the date and time. He also mentioned that the Lost Valley Visitors Center located at Glacier Park was recently awarded an outstanding facility award from the Illinois Parks and Recreation State Conference from a green standpoint and overall renovation.

Environmental Health Advisory Task Force: Mr. Sandquist mentioned that they have had two meetings and they meet every other month. Ms. McKinney will be the speaker at their next meeting. Chairman McCann mentioned that it is important for the committee members to hear what the public perceives as environmental issues.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Farmland Protection Commission: None.

Regional Water Planning Group: Chairman McCann mentioned that this is a group of collar counties that are not eligible for Lake Michigan water. They have formed the Northeastern Water Planning Area (NWP). Each county has a representative on the committee. Chairman McCann and Ms. McKinney will be attending the meetings and will report back to this committee.

Greenways: None.

Green Team: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

FUTURE TOPICS: None.

Chairman McCann stated that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 9, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. in the County Board room. The NERC meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. will be with the UDO consultants. The Planning and Development Committee will be meeting with the UDO consultants at 10:00 a.m. on the same day.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schmidt, to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m. The motion carried with all members present voting aye.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION/APPROVAL:

Recommend the County Board approve an Ordinance Amending the McHenry County Stormwater Management Ordinance #0-200401-10-009 Adopted January 20, 2004
Reappointment of Brian D. Jenkner, Robert R. LaPorta and Virginia D. Peschke to the Agricultural Conservation Easement and Farmland Protection Commission (ACE)

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