

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

MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2011:

Chairman McCann called the committee meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. The following members were present: Mary McCann, Chairman; Donna Kurtz; Pete Merkel; Bob Nowak and Kathleen Bergan Schmidt. Marc Munaretto and Virginia Peschke were absent. Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator; Patti Nomm, Department of Health; Dennis Sandquist, Cory Horton, Alicia Law and Cassandra McKinney, Planning & Development; and interested public.

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

MINUTES: Mr. Merkel made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schmidt, to approve the minutes of July 27, 2011 and August 10, 2011. Ms. Schmidt noted a typographical error on the July 27, 2011 minutes. The two sets of minutes were approved, as amended, with a unanimous voice vote of all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PRESENTATION: None.

Chairman McCann mentioned that the Water Resources Action Plan (WRAP) the Committee has been reviewing is for the County's role in water resource management.

Ms. Kurtz arrived at 8:45 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Water Resources Action Plan (WRAP), Sub-Section B5) Facility Regulation: Ms. McKinney joined Committee members to review the amendment to this sub-section. The matrix provided to Committee members show the changes, in red, that were recommended at the prior meeting. Concerning item No. 24, this item was added to the matrix pursuant to the request of the Committee at the prior meeting. Chairman McCann questioned if County Board members will be confused when they review the WRAP and question whether or not many of the items mentioned in the WRAP are the role of the County. The County does not have a role in telling agriculture or golf courses how they can be managed with reference to water resources. Mr. Merkel mentioned that the County should promote education and encourage constituents to conserve water and agriculture in the County is the biggest user of water.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to have the WRAP's matrix, along with a summary of each section, be a part of the Resolution adopting the WRAP. Mr. Sandquist mentioned that the Resolution will be presented to the Committee at NERC's October 12, 2011 meeting and then will be forwarded to the County Board. Mr. Merkel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Nowak, to approve the amendments to the WRAP's Sub-Section B5) Facility Regulation and accept this section of the WRAP. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote of all members present voting aye (Kurtz, Merkel, Nowak, Schmidt and McCann).

Water Resources Action Plan (WRAP), Sub-Section B6) Winter Snow and Ice: Ms. Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Merkel, to approve the WRAP's Sub-Section B6) Winter Snow and Ice and accept this section of the WRAP. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote of all members present voting aye (Kurtz, Merkel, Nowak, Schmidt and McCann).

Water Resources Action Plan (WRAP), Sub-Section B7) Wastewater: Ms. Kurtz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Nowak, to approve the amendments to the WRAP's Sub-Section B7) Wastewater and accept this section of the WRAP. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote of all members present voting aye (Kurtz, Merkel, Nowak, Schmidt and McCann).

NEW BUSINESS:

Water Resources Action Plan (WRAP), Sub-Section B8) Pollution Prevention: Ms. McKinney reviewed this section of the WRAP. Item Nos. 1 and 2 were reviewed. Item No. 3 was reviewed and it was suggested that the words "the County

Groundwater” be added to the last column which will then make it read “Currently being discussed by the County Groundwater Task Force”. Concerning Item No. 4, it was mentioned that a model coal tar ordinance is being discussed in the Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (LIA) Committee. Concerning a model phosphorus ordinance, there was state legislation passed state-wide which states that a commercial applicator cannot use phosphorus fertilizer without a soil test, but there are no regulations stating that others cannot buy or use phosphorus without having a soil test. Chairman McCann requested that any legislation prepared and presented to the LIA Committee concerning either of these matters should be provided to this Committee. Ms. Kurtz mentioned that she has been working with a member of the Crystal Lake City Council, along with the City Manager of Lake in the Hills, concerning a coal tar ordinance. She has the legislative opinion and several articles explaining issues relating to coal tar and she will provide the information to Ms. McKinney. This information will be provided to the LIA and NERC Committees. Item No. 5 was reviewed and no changes were noted. Item No. 6a was reviewed and it was requested that “MCDOT” be added to the last column of this item since MCDOT also maintains a land application system. Item Nos. 6b, 6c, and 6d were reviewed with no changes noted. Concerning Item No. 7, it was stated that the Health Department is considering additional locations for medication disposal programs. Currently the IEPA has cut funding for this program, but there are currently two local drop-off sites for medication disposal, those being the Villages of Johnsburg and Fox River Grove Police Departments. These sites are funded by each individual police department. Ms. Nomm stated that there was a recent public act that will go into effect in January, 2012 which will make it easier for law enforcement agencies to have medication collections and it does include a funding source through particular types of drug-related cases. Item Nos. 8, 9 and 10 were reviewed and no changes were noted. Ms. Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Kurtz, to approve the amendments to the WRAP’s Sub-Section B8) Pollution Prevention and accept this section of the WRAP. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote of all members present voting aye (Kurtz, Merkel, Nowak, Schmidt and McCann).

Water Resources Action Plan (WRAP), Section 3) Water Conservation: Ms. McKinney provided members with a summary of this section. She mentioned that this section is very lengthy and the summary simplifies the sub-sections within Section 3, as well as the goals of the sub-sections. The summary also includes a “Committee Action Requested” section at the conclusion of the summary. She mentioned that this section has many large goals and will take a lot of time and effort to implement this section to its entirety. The Committee Action Requested states “At this time, there are not adequate resources to fully implement this section of the Water Resources Action Plan. The suggested recommendation, therefore, is for the Division of Water Resources to work through this plan and implement the actionable items as time and resources permit.” Mr. Merkel mentioned that one of the overriding issues not mentioned in this section that will drive this is the cost of water. Cost considerations will drive this, especially in the agricultural areas. Ms. Schmidt stated that water rates are mentioned under B5), Goal 3: Implement conservation-oriented rates and further explanation may be needed for County Board members. Ms. McKinney mentioned that the County does not have any control over water rates. The WRAP recommends in Sub-Section B5) to implement conservation-oriented rates and this may be accomplished through outreach and education programs to municipalities. Concerning Sub-Section B2) Golf Course Recommendations, Goal 1, which states “Form a McHenry County Golf Management Association”, Ms. McKinney mentioned that this is a suggestion to form an association or task force to discuss water and nutrient management among multiple golf courses located in the County to better understand the needs for water resources and water reduction. Mr. Merkel mentioned that many of the superintendents for golf courses located in the County do meet on a regular basis and if the County does not form its own association or task force, we should find out about the superintendent’s association and work with them. Chairman McCann stated that she feels it is not the role of the County to form a McHenry County Golf Management Association and requested that the word “Form” be deleted from Goal 1 and be replaced with “Partner with”. Chairman McCann mentioned that the ultimate goal of the County is to let constituents know that it is working on water issues and the need to conserve water. She requested that a general statement be added to the Committee Action section of Section 3 as follows: “Work with and utilize region-wide conservation materials available through partnerships with CMAP, Northwest Planning Water Alliance, and MCCOG”. Ms. Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Merkel, to approve the amendments to the WRAP’s Sub-Section 3) Water Conservation and accept this section of the WRAP. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote of all members present voting aye (Kurtz, Merkel, Nowak, Schmidt and McCann).

Water Resources Action Plan (WRAP), Section 4) Education and Outreach: Ms. McKinney summarized this section of the WRAP. This section states that we should continue to educate and enhance the community outreach program, along with creating additional educational materials regarding the prevention of chloride contamination of groundwater, the proper disposal of medications and household products, the proper use and disposal of pesticides, and household

hazardous waste collections. Educational materials should be placed on the County's website, along with being linked to other websites. Ms. Nomm stated that the Department of Health will continue to update and provide educational materials regarding private water wells and septic systems. Chairman McCann suggested that the following language be added to this section of the WRAP: "Support and develop a collection infrastructure system for collection of pesticides, household hazardous waste and medications." She also mentioned that it would be nice if McHenry County could have a permanent facility similar to the one Lake County has for the collection of these materials. Ms. Kurtz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Nowak, to approve the amendments to the WRAP's Sub-Section 4) Education and Outreach and accept this section of the WRAP. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote of all members present voting aye (Kurtz, Merkel, Nowak, Schmidt and McCann).

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE:

McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD): Mr. Merkel stated that the Trail of History is scheduled for October 15 and 16, 2011. A Board meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night and he will provide a report to the Committee at a later date. Mr. Sandquist mentioned that the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the County concerning stormwater management is on the agenda for this meeting. The IGA will allow flexibility on the size of stormwater management projects the MCCD can do.

Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan: Chairman McCann stated that Dave Christensen (EMA Director) is organizing a taskforce that will be comprised of fire chiefs and constituents who deal with flooding and emergency management issues on a daily basis.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Farmland Protection Commission (ACE): Chairman McCann mentioned that the Commission will not meet until next month. The food policy analysis that was started by ACE, which this Committee previously endorsed, is now lead by Open Lands.

Regional Water Planning Group: None.

NPDES: National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems: None.

Watershed Updates: None.

Stormwater Updates: None.

Solid Waste: Ms. Nomm mentioned that there are three areas that have requested franchised waste agreements and they are currently out for bid. There is a trend to provide curbside household hazardous waste pickup and this was built into the Request For Proposal (RFP).

Other: Northwest Water Planning Alliance (NWPA): Chairman McCann mentioned that all Committee members should have received information explaining what the NWPA is. The NWPA's by-laws are being revised and should be in place in approximately six weeks. Chairman McCann, County Board Chairman Koehler and Ms. McKinney attend the meetings which meet every two months. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is comprised of members who are very experienced and knowledgeable about water issues. Three upcoming projects include water loss goals for the region, develop a region-wide conservation ordinance, and work on a drought management plan for the region. After the completion of a project, the NWPA will bring their recommendations to the County for possible adoption. Several County Board members attended the recent meeting where Charles Fishman, author of "The Big Thirst" gave a presentation concerning water.

Chairman McCann mentioned that the Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (LIA) Committee recently discussed House Bill 3372 (HB 3372) which concerns stormwater utility fees. Discussion concerned how municipalities will respond to this House Bill and how monies will be collected and distributed between municipalities and the County. She mentioned that HB 3372 will be discussed during an upcoming Stormwater Commission meeting.

Green Team: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

FUTURE TOPICS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bless, to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 a.m. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION/APPROVAL:

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