

**Blackberry Creek
Watershed Action Planning – 13th Meeting**

Tuesday, October 18, 2011, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Hosted by:

Aurora Public Library – West Branch, 233 S. Constitution Dr., Aurora, IL60506

Meeting Notes

Attendees

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| Holly Hudson | - Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) |
| Tara Neff | - The Conservation Foundation (TCF) |
| Steve Andras | - City of Aurora |
| Megan Andrews | - Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District (KC SWCD) |
| Jerad Chipman | - Village of Montgomery |
| Jerry Elliott | - Sugar Grove Water Authority |
| George Hauser | - Prestbury Citizens Association |
| Candice Jacobs | - Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District (KD SWCD) |
| Dan Lobbes | - TCF |
| Karen Ann Miller | - Kane County Development Dept. |
| Dan Nagel | - Sugar Grove Township |
| Tim Paulson | - Engineering Enterprises, Inc. |
| Martha Price | - Cannonball Trail Civic League |
| Jim Schlay | - Property Owner/ Citizen |
| Angela Zubko | - Kendall County Dept. of Planning, Building & Zoning |

1. Welcome & Introductions

Tara Neff welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked The Aurora Public Library for hosting the meeting. Introductions by participants followed.

2. Review of August meeting

Tara Neff provided an overview of the August meeting. We heard presentations on nonpoint source pollution control projects in Sugar Grove Township. Kara DeGraff, Integrated Lakes Management, with input from Greg Huggins, Sugar Grove Township Highway Commissioner, presented information on a bioswale installation along Hankes Road. Holly Hudson, CMAP, presented information on the Lake Run Habitat Restoration Project and the Prestbury Lake Shoreline Stabilization Project which both received 319 grant funding. We heard from Megan Elberts, CMAP, who presented several maps to help illustrate various assessments to potentially help focus activities. We discussed the “Education and Outreach Activities Going Forward” section of the plan and the “Resource” development. Stakeholders also expressed interest in hearing about different models for how coalitions/networks formed as a result of watershed planning efforts.

Holly Hudson noted she has met with a number of stakeholders since our August meeting, and project recommendations from those meetings are being presented for review today.

3. Plan Implementation, Monitoring & Measures of Success – overview of Plan chapter, group discussion & input

Holly Hudson provided an overview of the components that will be included in the “Plan Implementation, Monitoring & Measures of Success” chapter. An implementation schedule is included in watershed action plans to help guide stakeholders’ course(s) of action. The implementation schedule for Policy and Planning Recommendations, Program Recommendations, Education and Outreach Projects, and On-the-Ground BMP Projects will be divided into two time periods as requested by Illinois EPA: short-term (implemented within 5 years of Plan adoption) and long-term (implemented within 5-10 years of Plan adoption). The general categories of local leads and potential partners were also outlined.

One of the recommendations for implementation within the next five years involves establishing an intensive stream monitoring program to get baseline data to better understand stream conditions. This would involve several partners. A Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) would be required for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to accept the data collected.

Holly noted various types of measures of success that could be used to track Plan recommendations. Examples included removing Blackberry Creek from the 303(d) List of impaired waterways, the total the number of BMP projects that are implemented each year, and the number of units of a BMP installed (e.g., linear feet of streambank stabilized, acres of buffer installed). Measures can also include a comparison of stream monitoring data over time.

Holly relayed a special request from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for two potential fish survey access points in Blackberry Creek within Kendall County, one location south of Route 30 and north of Galena Road, and the other north of Route 34 and west of Route 47. A few participants stayed after the meeting to look at aerial photo maps Holly had prepared of these stream reaches and provide input on potential access spots.

4. Draft BMP Project Recommendations – review and additional input

Holly Hudson distributed two tables that summarized the planning, on-the-ground, and educational best management practice project proposals and ideas gathered during her meetings with representatives of the various watershed communities (including municipalities, townships, counties, homeowner associations) over the past two months. The projects are divided into two time periods: short term (implemented within 5 years of plan adoption) and long term (implemented within 5 -10 of plan adoption). There are currently 9 “on-the-ground” projects on the short term list, for which additional information will be added including estimated quantities, costs, and pollutant load reductions, as required by Illinois EPA. The projects on the long term list do not require the same level of information as those on the short term list. The planning participants were asked to review the lists and provide corrections, clarifications, and any additional project ideas to Holly.

The watershed action plan will be a living document and thus can be updated to include other projects in the future.

As an FYI, Holly distributed the Water Environment Research Foundation’s “High Performance Green Infrastructure: Test Site Opportunities” fact sheet. Response to Senior Program Director Jeff Moeller is required by October 31, 2011.

5. Education & Outreach chapter, Resource section – review & additional input

Tara Neff presented changes to the Education and Outreach chapter that were recommended at the August meeting. In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently released a

new DVD called “Reduce Runoff: Slow It Down, Spread It Out, Soak It In!” that includes four educational videos that provide an introduction to controlling stormwater runoff in urban areas. Copies of the DVD can be ordered from the National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP) by emailing nscep@bbs-lmit.com or calling 800-490-9198. The DVD will be added as a resource for Education and Outreach Activities Going Forward, Recommendation #4.

The “Resource” document was intended to provide targeted audiences information/topics to increase awareness of and provide suggested activities to help protect water resources by reducing nonpoint source pollution. Targeted audiences could contact the organizations listed in the Resource for more information or assistance implementing activities. A draft of the document was presented to stakeholders for feedback and received a mixed response. Some stakeholders viewed parts of the document as not specific to the Blackberry Creek Watershed and not user-friendly. The “Resource” contact information will be included in the “Activities Going Forward” section of the Information and Outreach chapter.

Watershed Organization Moving Forward

Stakeholders expressed interest in learning about how other groups have organized following a watershed planning process. The planning process, including grant funding for both CMAP and TCF support, ends December 31. Stakeholders must determine what activities they want to pursue moving forward, what resources it would take to get those activities accomplished, and what kind of organizational structure/model would best fit the Blackberry Creek Watershed. An overview of four types of group models was provided: a) all volunteer, b) member-designated coordinator, c) paid, part time coordinator, and d) paid, full-time coordinator. Both CMAP and TCF are available for assistance and discussion pertaining to continued efforts. Tara will e-mail this information to stakeholders.

6. Announcements, Next Meeting

- Project Timeline: Holly provided an overview of the remaining timeline
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 15, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Blackberry Township Town Hall
43 W 390 Main Street Rd., Elburn, IL 60119
 - Topic: Draft BBC Watershed Action Plan
- FREP Noon Network: Wednesday, Oct. 19, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
Leroy Oaks Forest Preserve
Focus on Ferson-Otter Creek Watershed: Fish passage study & implementation plan—talk & tour
<http://foxriverecosystem.org/news.htm>
- Other Announcements
 - The DuPage County Technical Workshop will focus on TSS and is scheduled for 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM on November 30, 2011, in Wheaton. Agenda to be finalized.

7. Meeting Adjournment