

**Blackberry Creek
Watershed Action Planning – 14th Meeting**

Tuesday, November 15, 2011 ♦ 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Hosted by:

Blackberry Township
Municipal Building - 43W390 Main Street Rd., Elburn, IL

Meeting Notes

Attendees

Holly Hudson	- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Tara Neff	- The Conservation Foundation (TCF)
Ken Anderson	- Kane County
Megan Andrews	- Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District (KC SWCD)
Robert Davidson	- Kendall County
Jerry Elliott	- Sugar Grove Water Authority
E. Robert Hadzima	- Homeowner
Ellen Hadzima	- Homeowner
Fred Houdek	- Sierra Club/ Homeowner
Candice Jacobs	- Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District (KD SWCD)
Dan Larsen	- Waubensee Community College
Dan Lobbes	- TCF
Jim Michaels	- Blackberry Township
Karen Ann Miller	- Kane County Development Dept.
Dan Nagel	- Sugar Grove Township
Michelle Piotrowski	- Engineering Enterprises, Inc.
Bob Rung	- Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
Andy Shaw	- Northern Illinois University
Maggie Soliz	- Pizzo & Associates
Lori Wolf	- The Conservation Foundation/ Homeowner
Angela Zubko	- Kendall County Dept. of Planning, Building & Zoning

1. Welcome & Introductions

Tara Neff welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Blackberry Creek Township for hosting the meeting. Introductions by participants followed.

2. Review of October Meeting

Tara provided a review of our last meeting. We discussed *Plan Implementation*, including the BMP Projects lists which are divided into two categories: short-term (implemented within 5 years of Plan adoption) and long-term (implemented within 5-10 years of Plan adoption); *Monitoring*, including recommendation to establish an intensive-stream monitoring program within 5 years of Plan adoption, and a request by IDNR for potential BB Creek access locations for two fish survey points within Kendall Co.; *Measures of Success*, which can include

removing Blackberry Creek from the 303(d) List of impaired waterways, the total number of BMP projects that are implemented each year, the number of units of a BMP installed (e.g., linear feet of streambank stabilized, acres of buffer installed), etc.; and the *revisions to the Education and Outreach Chapter* which now incorporates the “Resource” document information in the Activities Going Forward section.

3. Draft Plan – Review, Discussion & Input

Holly Hudson reviewed the draft Plan--chapter by chapter--with the planning participants. Good discussion and input were received. Please send additional feedback to Holly however works best for you (fax, e-mail, telephone, etc.) by the end of November. There have been a number of authors working on the plan, each writing various sections, so please keep in mind that the draft presented today is a work in progress. CMAP will be able to print and bind only a limited number of copies of the Plan; stakeholders who have been involved in the planning process will receive preference in the distribution. CMAP also will prepare an executive summary, more copies of which will be printed. Both documents will be available on the FREP and CMAP websites as well.

The following summarizes points from our discussion:

Maps:

- Some fine-tuning is in order to make the map formats consistent (e.g., township boundaries, stream layers, citations); some maps need to be checked whether they are using the most recently available data (e.g., LUST sites, NPDES sites); the “dam” map will be removed since the available data is incomplete; and the Biological Stream Rating map will be split into 2 or 3 separate maps.
- Data layers for Kendall County’s major aquifers and aquifer sensitivity may not be received from the State Geological and Water Surveys by mid-December and thus will not be able to be incorporated into those two maps that currently display such data for Kane County.
- The equine and livestock land use map was based on 2005 Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission land use inventory information. Holly will find out if there was a certain capacity applied (herd, head, acre, etc.).
- All the maps from the plan will be placed on a CD and/or will be available online for stakeholders to use/reference during the implementation phase.

Other Comments/Concerns:

- In response to Holly’s question whether a recommendation could be made to increase the amount of agricultural land enrolled in voluntary programs (CCRP, WRP, Farmable Wetlands, CREP) to conserve natural resources on private lands, stakeholders noted that because of higher land values in this region, these types of programs would not be able to match what the land is worth, and thus such a recommendation is not realistic to include.
- Participants noted that biosolids are not included within the Watershed Resource Inventory (WRI) or mentioned in the Fecal Coliform Critical Areas Analysis section. SWCD representatives suggested that if biosolids is included in the WRI, it can be noted that biosolids application is a form of nutrient management being used more

and more. Another participant noted that IEPA considers biosolids a treated source, while others commented that biosolids are still a potential source of fecal coliform within the first 24-48 hours after land application.

- It is still unclear whether the dam at River Road will be removed or not when the bridge is rebuilt.
- Since the stream inventory was done in 2002, the twin box culverts under the railroad tracks in Sugar Grove Township (west of Orchard, north of Prairie St – caused flooding in Cherry Hill Subdivision) have been replaced with a tressel; at another location—east under Orchard to north side of Rt. 30 to Fox River—a much larger twin box culvert exacerbates flooding in Montgomery.
- Holly will check the Biological Streams Rating for Blackberry Creek as the rating tool has changed.
- IDNR has a mussel survey crew — we might recommend a survey be completed next year in Blackberry Creek as part of IDNR’s Fox River Basin survey work.
- Implementing BBC Plan recommendations will also provide ancillary benefits to the quality of the Fox River.
- The critical area analysis results shown on the maps by subbasins are relative to each other to help target critical areas for outreach and education efforts and prioritizing policies and BMP projects.
- Fox River Study Group’s (FRSG) HSPF (Hydrologic Simulation Program – Fortran) model was not able to be used since it was not yet calibrated or validated for our watershed.
- Michelle Piotrowski recommended that municipalities be asked that they are comfortable with having their name on a graph depicting their codes and ordinances worksheet scores. [Note from Holly: Labels on those charts will be changed to not identify the specific counties or municipalities.]
- We are still awaiting the pollutant load reductions for the proposed short-term BMP projects.
- We do not have an agricultural project – perhaps the Soil & Water Conservation Districts could help identify?
- Project ideas that are considered long-term can be submitted in generalized statements: grassed waterways, exclusions, etc. and will be included in the list appearing in the Appendix.
- Various organizational models and funding options to support an ongoing watershed coalition will be included in the Plan.
- The Education and Outreach activities will include Homeowner Associations and more detailed contact information will be included. The Kane-DuPage and Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District websites are switched in the current draft. The NRCS Yorkville and St. Charles Field Offices will be listed.

Holly will work toward preparing a revised draft Watershed Action Plan (with or without IEPA comments incorporated) by December 6.

4. Announcements, Next Meeting

- a) Project Timeline, Next Steps
- b) Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 20, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Waubensee Community College, Bodie Hall Room 150, Rt. 47, Sugar Grove

Topic: Revised Draft BBC Watershed Action Plan

- c) FREP meeting: Wednesday, November 16, 1:00 p.m., Kane Co. Gov't Center, Bldg. A, 4th Floor Conference Rm., 719 Batavia Ave., Geneva

Topic: Update on Fox River Basin Watershed Planning for Blackberry, Ferson-Otter, Silver-Sleepy Hollow, & Jelkes Creek Watersheds;

<http://foxriverecosystem.org/news.htm>

- d) Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant program applications due Dec. 15, 2011

<http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/financial-assistance/igig.html>

- e) Other Announcements

The Conservation Foundation and DuPage County Stormwater Management are hosting a technical workshop on Managing Total Suspended Solids on November 30 from 8AM-12:00PM in Wheaton. A flyer will be distributed.

5. Meeting Adjournment