

**Blackberry Creek
Watershed Action Planning – 11th Meeting
Meeting Notes**

Tuesday, July 19, 2011
2:00 – 4:00 PM

Hosted by:
The Village of Montgomery
Village Hall, 200 N. River St., Montgomery, IL 60538

1. Welcome & Introductions

Tara Neff	- The Conservation Foundation (TCF)
Holly Hudson	- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Chris Adesso	- Pizzo & Associates
Megan Andrews	- Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District
Jerad Chipman	- Village of Montgomery
Karen Clementi	- Deuchler Environmental
Candice Jacobs	- Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District
Dan Lobbes	- TCF
Karen Miller	- Kane County Development Dept.
Tim Paulson	- Engineering Enterprises, Inc.
Martha Price	- Cannonball Trail Civic League
Maggie Soliz	- Pizzo & Associates
Lori Wolf	- TCF
Angela Zubko	- Kendall County Dept. of Planning, Building & Zoning

Tara Neff welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Village of Montgomery for hosting. Introductions by participants followed. Jerad Chipman, Planner with the Village of Montgomery, gave an overview of some of the sustainable design elements the Village incorporated into their new Village Hall.

2. Review of Project Timeline, June Meeting Outcomes

The project planning timeline was reiterated by Holly Hudson. In August, we'll look at information and examples/opportunities for outreach and education and overview the draft plan recommendations chapter. We may take a recess from meeting in September so that CMAP and TCF staff can focus on plan writing. Thus the October meeting will cover final plan recommendations as well as a summary of the available monitoring data and an assessment thereof.

Holly summarized the outcomes from the June meeting. She presented four maps of the Blackberry Creek (BBC) Watershed showing various data layers for consideration in framing the green infrastructure network vision and thus planning, policy, and best management practice (BMP) project recommendations. Data layers included existing open space, regional trails, wetland and

natural area inventories, floodplains, Kane Co. aquifer sensitivity, community water supply wells and setbacks, Phase II wellhead protection zones, and hydric, muck, and excessive permeability soils. Holly noted that she is in the process of scheduling meetings with watershed stakeholders (e.g., municipalities, townships, counties, park and forest preserve districts, homeowner associations) to focus on identifying specific planning, policy, and on-the-ground best management practice project opportunities to protect water resources within the BBC Watershed. Recommendations will be included in the BBC Watershed Action Plan and thereby will be eligible for Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program grant funds through Illinois EPA. Plan recommendations are intended to also provide support for funding consideration under other local, state, and federal grant and technical assistance programs.

3. Village of Montgomery's Stormwater Management Codes, Planning Guidelines, & Projects

Tim Paulson of Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) gave a presentation on the conservation design principles the Village of Montgomery incorporated in designing and building their new Village Hall (which opened for business in Nov. 2008). A brief summary of the presentation is as follows: The project was designed in accordance with the Kane County Stormwater Ordinance which encourages the use of conservation design and stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs). EEI and the Village were able to use the flexibility within the ordinance to incorporate the BMP features into the stormwater calculations. This reduced the need for on-site detention requirements by taking into account the infiltration and storage features of the BMPs. The BMPs used included permeable pavers, a rain garden, detention storage in the stone base underneath the permeable pavers, dry wells for infiltration, naturalized vegetation, and fee-in-lieu of detention to address other existing downtown drainage issues. A key component of the project was the education of the Village leaders, community members, and other stakeholders through the project from concept level planning through construction. The key to achieving a successful project was working with willing partners within the Village and finding opportunities to incorporate both conservation and conventional design elements into the project to meet the Village's goals and budget.

4. Sources of Funding & Technical Assistance for Watershed Plan Recommendations

a. Illinois EPA Funding Programs – Holly Hudson presented information to the group on the following Illinois EPA grant programs: Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (applications due Aug. 1 of each year), Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant (IGIG) program (applications due Dec. 15 of each year), Infrastructure Loan Program (water pollution control and drinking water programs), Bureau of Land programs (Brownfields, Illinois Removes Illegal Dumps), Illinois Clean Lakes Program (including Phase 1 Diagnostic/Feasibility Studies, Phase 2 Implementation Programs, Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, Lake Education and Assistance Program, Streambank Cleanup and Lakeshore Enhancement program). She encouraged lakes within the BBC Watershed (e.g., Prestbury, Jericho) to become involved in the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. (A PDF of this presentation will be posted on the BBC page on the FREP website at <http://foxriverecosystem.org/blackberry.htm>.)

b. Soil & Water Conservation District & NRCS Grant and Technical Assistance Programs – Megan Andrews, Resource Conservationist with the Kendall County SWCD, distributed a handout

summarizing SWCD programs. Contact information for herself and her colleagues with the Kane-DuPage County SWCD -- Kelsey Musich and Candice Jacobs – is provided on the back of the handout. (The handout will be posted on the BBC page on the FREP website.) In response to a question regarding whether SWCDs give projects identified in a watershed plan any preference for funding, Megan stated that they did not. It's generally first-come, first-served, though project needs must be demonstrated. All programs are voluntary, and they wait for landowners to approach them. She did note that a watershed plan can provide the landowner with the background information and help identify needs for a project.

She then highlighted the SWCD funding and technical assistance programs including Partners for Conservation (technical assistance, cost-share grants through Illinois Dept. of Agriculture), Vegetative Filter Strip Certification Program (provides tax incentives), Natural Resource Information (NRI) Reports, and Soil Erosion & Sediment Control (cooperative agreements). SWCDs also offer several Education Programs for students and adults (education services vary by District office based on District needs) and provides Community Assistance programs to a wide array of agencies, organizations and residents on a variety of agricultural and natural resource related topics. SWCDs also offer various resources such as conservation sales (fish, trees, rain barrels, composters, soil test kits, water test kits), used oil collection events, maps (soils, floodplain, topographic, National Wetland Inventory, historic aerials), and various informational brochures on agricultural and natural resource related topics. See the SWCD websites for more information (<http://kendallswcd.org/>; <http://www.kanedupageswcd.org/>).

Megan then distributed literature on USDA-NRCS (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture – Natural Resource Conservation Service) programs and a handout of NRCS contacts at the St. Charles and Yorkville Field Offices (the contacts sheet will be posted on the BBC page on the FREP website). She noted that while SWCD offices are often co-located in the same building as NRCS as well as Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices, those are federal agencies with funding under the federal Farm Bill, while the SWCDs work with funds provided by the State of Illinois through the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture.

The federal 2008 Farm Bill provides the framework for USDA-NRCS programs. A new Farm Bill is up for Congressional approval in 2012—support for the Farm Bill was encouraged. Illinois NRCS conservation programs include the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP-EQIP), Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG-EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Conservation Security Program (CSP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), Technical Service Providers (TSP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), and Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP). The Farm Service Agency manages the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). NRCS is also developing a Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative. See <http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/> for more details on these programs.

- c. CMAP Technical Assistance – Holly Hudson overviewed CMAP's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). In support of CMAP's regional comprehensive land use and transportation

plan, GO TO 2040, CMAP received a \$4.25 million grant in October 2010 through HUD's Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. With these funds, the Local Technical Assistance Program was created to advance GO TO 2040 initiatives. LTAP provides assistance to communities (e.g., municipalities, counties, interjurisdictional groups, nongovernmental organizations) on local planning projects as well as assistance with public participation related to challenging local projects. Types of projects include comprehensive plans, interjurisdictional collaboration, sub-area plans, ordinance reviews and amendments, and topic-specific projects addressing such issues as water, sustainability, economic development, housing, and open space. Over 130 applicants responded to the first LTAP call for proposals, submitting more than 220 projects for consideration. In March 2011, the first wave of 64 projects identified for assistance was announced, and 22 projects are currently underway. Holly noted that one of the projects is in the Ferson-Otter Creek Watershed to our north in Kane Co., where the Village of Campton Hills is receiving assistance with developing their first comprehensive plan. Another request for LTAP project proposals is anticipated in fall 2011.

- d. Illinois DNR Grant Programs – Holly provided an overview of Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources grant programs. The Partners for Conservation – Ecosystems Program, provides grant funds for habitat restoration, land acquisition and conservation easements, watershed planning, research, outreach and education, and resource economics; and technical assistance for development of watershed plans and for project coordination. Unfortunately, Ecosystems Program has not been able to provide grant funds for the past few years. IDNR has a useful tool on their website to help identify potential funding opportunities for various types of natural resource grants (<http://dnr.state.il.us/orep/pfc/grants>). IDNR's Outdoor Recreation Grants Program includes the following grants: Open Space Lands Acquisition & Development (OSLAD), Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF; similar to OSLAD but federally funded), Recreational Trails Program (RTP – for both motorized and non-motorized trails and facilities), and Boat Access Area Development (BAAD). Priorities under the OSLAD program, which compliment many of our watershed plan recommendations, include protection or enhancement of a) significant natural areas, b) threatened and endangered species habitat, c) significant wildlife areas, and d) natural wetland areas; and promoting e) conservation education opportunities and f) recreational use of surface waters. (A PDF of this presentation will be posted on the BBC page on the FREP website at <http://foxriverecosystem.org/blackberry.htm>.)
- e. Other Programs – Open Discussion
Participants noted potential other funding sources or leads that might help support some of our watershed plan recommendations. These included IDOT's viewshed program; private foundations such as Grand Victoria, Donnelley, Boeing; top 200 corporations vying to be the greenest; and the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships.

5. Announcements, Next Meeting

- a. Holly announced that FREP's Annual Social event would be this coming Friday, July 22. At 3:30 PM, they'll be a tour of the Farnsworth House and the LumenHaus exhibit, 14520 River

Rd., Plano, followed at 5:00 PM by a picnic at Hoover Forest Preserve, 11285 Fox Rd., Yorkville.

- b. Tara noted that the *Citizen's Guide to Preserving the Fox River* is available at a number of locations throughout the Fox River Basin. Visit <http://preservethefox.org/> to view it online or see where you can pick up your free copy. (Funded in part through a generous donation from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation.)
- c. In an effort to reach out to community members who have not been able to attend our weekday watershed planning meetings, Tara noted that community events could be a good way to reach more people. Local festivals that are well attended could provide a more effective means to engaging residents throughout the watershed, instead of hosting one open house at one location this fall. Please send information on local events to Tara for consideration.
- d. Tara thanked Dan Nagel for hosting our next BBC Watershed Planning meeting at the Sugar Grove Township Offices (54 Snow St., Sugar Grove, IL 60554) on Tuesday, August 16 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. Topics will include an overview of the draft project recommendations chapter, and public outreach and education examples and opportunities.

6. Meeting Adjournment