



Ferson-Otter Creek Watershed Planning
Meeting Notes
Tuesday, July 26, 2011; 2:00 PM

Hosted by:
City of Elgin
Lords Park Pavilion
100 Oakwood Blvd.
Elgin, IL 60120

1. Welcome/Introductions

Amy Talbot	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Tara Neff	The Conservation Foundation (TCF)
Megan Elberts	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Alice Cairo	Property owner
Brian Herrmann	City of St. Charles
Diane & Bob MacNeille	Homeowners in Wildrose
John Pree	Plan Commission of Campton Hills and Homeowner
Jim Reuter	South Elgin
Jack Shouba	Campton Township and Deer Run East HOA
Nancy Williamson	Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

1. Introductions and Project Status

Tara Neff welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the City of Elgin for hosting the July stakeholder meeting. We are over half-way into the watershed planning process. We have been gathering information for projects throughout the watershed and distributed a list of projects that have been identified thus far. The draft plan is due to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) by November 1, 2011.

2. Updates and Feedback

Introduction, Inventory and Green Infrastructure

Amy Talbot gave the following updates on our plan chapters: Introduction chapter - revised to include the information Jayne Holley provided on the name and history of Otter Creek; Resource Inventory – IEPA requested additional information be incorporated into this chapter and we are working towards adding the requested information; Green Infrastructure – minor changes to be included.

List of Potential Projects

Projects that have been submitted will be included in the watershed action plan, whether in the highlighted list or appendix. Highlighted projects will be more “shovel ready” and more in tune with priorities we’ve identified and will be listed in the main section of the plan and the others will be included in the appendix. Amy received additional projects since compiling the list for review today, and may need to contact some stakeholders for more information to make sure all appropriate details are included. This list of projects will identify on the ground projects.

Policy recommendations, which are related to our ordinance reviews and are not site-specific, monitoring recommendations, and other subgroups will be addressed in the next couple months.

Agriculture Section

Our watershed action plan will include a section on Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) and general recommendations applicable to all agricultural land. There may be some site-specific areas to highlight and opportunities to identify other potential projects. We will base this chapter on the presentation Kelsey Musich gave at the June meeting along with information from other approved watershed plans in our region.

3. Watershed Critical Areas

Megan Elberts, CMAP, shared some data to help us identify critical areas in Ferson-Otter Creek’s subwatersheds. Watershed maps showing population density, impervious cover, septic system analysis, agricultural land use, and livestock/equestrian land were presented to the group. We will use these maps as tools to help target areas that will produce the best return on our investment.

Based on the data from the maps presented, our plan might include policy recommendations or stronger education and outreach in certain areas/subwatersheds. For example, population density maps may be used to determine where high pet populations are likely to be located in our watershed, and where our education and outreach efforts for pet waste should be prioritized. Likewise, the septic system analysis map may show us where to concentrate our septic education partnerships and efforts; agricultural land use map for where to make agricultural recommendations, etc. Other maps to consider might be recharge area in Lily Lake and high sensitivity green infrastructure.

IEPA asked CMAP to develop critical areas and CMAP created this methodology. CMAP is working on creating one large map that takes into consideration which subwatersheds have a higher priority (not necessarily to prioritize projects). This will help determine how to use our funds in a well-targeted area. The map will show a comprehensive approach to targeted areas. This map is under development and is planned to include:

- LTHIA modeling results (Total Phosphorus, Total Suspended Solids, Total Nitrogen)
- Protected open space
- Percent impervious land cover (using comprehensive plans)
- Future impervious land cover

It should be noted that we have no on the ground projects that will directly mitigate fecal coliform (Ferson Creek's only known impairment) because the source (location) and type are unknown. Our plan will address fecal coliform in an indirect way, by making policy recommendations. Furthermore the on the ground projects will also improve water quality and thus may reduce fecal coliform loadings as well.

Our plan will also address some concerns identified in our first meetings: flooding, erosion, natural habitat, and existing protected open space. For example, flooding is not an impairment, but promoting land use BMPs to minimize stormwater runoff and the risk of flood damage was identified as one of our goals. Because of this we may want to give projects that are in the floodplain a higher priority.

4. Education and Outreach DRAFT Chapter and discussion

Tara Neff, TCF, received feedback from stakeholders on the draft Education and Outreach chapter, and showed a US EPA video public service announcement (PSA) on lawn care. Stakeholders made the following recommendations:

GOAL: Develop an effective and lasting Watershed Stakeholder Coalition to foster continuing stewardship efforts in the watershed. Stakeholders recommended having a coordinator to provide overall coordination and communication with other watershed planning efforts. The coordinator should have grant knowledge/experience and be knowledgeable of regional resources. The coordinator would serve as a resource to local stakeholders for implementing project recommendations.

Specific target audiences were also identified for outreach:

- Homeowners Associations
- Municipalities

- Schools (as part of a curriculum)
- High Schools (in relation to future employment)

Specific potential partners were also identified:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Friends of the Fox River | • Libraries |
| • Fox River Ecosystem Partnership | • Schools |
| • Fox River Study Group | • Parent Teacher Associations |
| • Chicago Wilderness | • Churches |
| • Openlands | • Municipalities |
| • Delta Institute | • Township Offices |
| • The Conservation Foundation | • Wasco Sanitary District |
| • The Morton Arboretum | • Ferson Creek Utilities Sewage Treatment Plant |
| • Homeowners Associations | • Kane County Farm Bureau |
| • Forest Preserve District | • Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| • Park Districts | • Corporations |
| • Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District | • Illinois State Water Survey |
| • Kane County Health Department | • Illinois Department of Natural Resources |
| • Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program | |

Specific methods to the target audience and partners were offered:

- Use bullet points from the information contained in the draft chapter.
- Stakeholders stated that partnering with existing, well attended events would reach more people than hosting a separate event. For example, a number of people attend conferences/fairs and the coalition could be included in the form of a session at a conference or exhibitor at a fair to help promote education and outreach efforts.
- Promote the PSA on lawn care from US EPA

Tara will incorporate the formation of a coalition and the audiences, potential partners, and strategies into the revised draft plan for review at our next meeting.

5. Next meeting announcement
 - a. September 27, 2011 at 2:00PM - Location to be determined
Please note: there will be no meeting in August.
6. Meeting adjournment