



**Ferson-Otter Creek Watershed Planning
Meeting Notes
Tuesday, October 25, 2011; 2:00 PM**

Hosted by:
Kane County Farm Bureau
2N710 Randall Road
St. Charles, IL 60174

1. Welcome/Introductions

Amy Talbot	-Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Tara Neff	-The Conservation Foundation (TCF)
Matt Bardol	-Geosyntec Consultants
Kristin Bilar	-Campton Township
Alice Cairo	-Wild Rose Homeowner
Nancy Cox	-St. Charles Park District & Wildrose Springs
Fred Houdek	-Sierra Club/Homeowner
Jayne Holley	-Lake Campton Property Owners Association
Rob Linke	-Deer Run Creek HOA/Trotter and Associates
Dan Lobbes	-The Conservation Foundation
Julie Long	-Wild Rose Homeowner
Marc Mylott	-City of Elgin
Marc McLaughlin	-Village of South Elgin
Jim Reuter	-Village of South Elgin

Introductions and Project Status: Tara Neff welcomed everyone and thanked the Kane County Farm Bureau for hosting the October Ferson-Otter Creek Stakeholder meeting. At our last meeting we reviewed the plan project recommendations, discussed the completed draft plan chapters as presented, and started thinking about how stakeholders can continue to support the plan's goals into the future. Today we are reviewing the draft of the Watershed Action Plan and looking at different models stakeholders can use to continue efforts into the implementation phase. The draft plan will be submitted to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) on November 1, 2011.

2. DRAFT Watershed Plan

Amy Talbot gave an overview of changes she made based on feedback at our last meeting. Audubon Certification for golf courses was added; the schedule and milestones in Chapter 6 (relative timeline); Agricultural BMPs and recommendations were moved to the policy section; funding options were incorporated. Specific language was also included to address fecal coliform in several locations. The introduction chapter references the fact that there is

a lack of comprehensive monitoring data to identify the source locations and origins of fecal coliform throughout the watershed. Recommendations for designing a monitoring scheme (partnering with the Fox River Study Group and the Illinois Water Survey) and in stream monitoring are included in the monitoring section. It is noted in the text that after additional monitoring data is collected, stakeholders will be able to reevaluate the plan's recommendations and make appropriate adjustments to priorities.

There will be just over 20 short term projects in the plan including projects that address LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve bank stabilization and Hazelcrest Subdivision erosion. There could also be a project(s) located on the Lenkaitis Holstein Farm. The remaining long term projects, not all of which have identified exact locations, will be listed in the plan's appendix. Pollutant load reduction modeling will be included in the final plan in December. Hey and Associates has been retained to complete the modeling for Silver/Sleepy Hollow, Ferson-Otter Creek and Blackberry Creek Watershed Action Plans.

In late September, Amy met with several Kane County representatives. Take-aways from that meeting included: the Health Department might be interested in having a class to help homeowners learn to care for their septic systems; the possibility of updating ordinances was discussed, and educating staff and elected officials would be beneficial.

CMAP has a Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program that provides staff assistance to local communities for planning efforts. This program could be of use to the Ferson-Otter Creek stakeholders/communities for implementation, especially for ordinance review and updates. More information can be found here: www.cmap.illinois.gov/lta/

Projects in the plan will improve water quality, and we need to make sure the wording we use is not prohibitive. Matt Bardol, Geosyntec Consultants, recommended the plan include language that shows how project selection was developed and how each project was determined to be short-term or long-term. He also stated that a process to add a project to the plan at a later date would be helpful. Matt referenced the Hickory Creek Watershed Action Plan as an example of how to incorporate IEPA impairments that a project will address as criteria for future additions. It was also stated that the additional projects should be "consistent with and supported by the watershed goals."

The draft plan covers all of the 9 elements required to be an approved IEPA watershed plan, including some regional criteria. Writing the plan is very involved and Jayne Holley complimented Amy on a job well done.

3. Education and Outreach Chapter/Potential Coalition structures

Since the last meeting, 5 targeted recommendations have been included in the Education and Outreach Section. A list of initially targeted stakeholder outreach (contacted by TCF) efforts will be included in the plan's appendix.

The plan recommends stakeholders organize as a group or "coalition" and hire a watershed coordinator to help facilitate plan implementation. Tara asked stakeholders to discuss what types of tasks they would like to see the coalition do moving forward. These activities will guide what commitments/resources it would take to achieve them.

Tara also presented examples of how different watershed stakeholder groups have organized to accomplish their goals. Examples included: Tyler Creek Watershed Coalition; Chicago Wilderness Task Forces; Hickory Creek Watershed Group; Lower DuPage Watershed Coalition; and DuPage River/ Salt Creek Workgroup. These range in watershed size, number of members, planned activities/tasks, number of meetings, and level of staffing.

The staffing levels include volunteer, member-designated (as part of their job responsibilities), part-time, and full-time. Meetings range from monthly, bimonthly and quarterly. Activities include conducting outreach and education, coordinating meetings, coordinating implementation activities, overseeing data collection (contractors), coordinating funding and grant management. Stakeholders should consider these factors and available resources (does the group want to pay for coordination and if so, what level?) to determine what makes the best sense moving forward. One suggestion during the meeting was having a member designated coordinator, which might change as projects are implemented. Ultimately the stakeholders will have to determine the structure for the Ferson-Otter Creek Watershed Coalition. We hope to have more discussion that results in group consensus at the final meeting in December. It was noted that TCF can provide any of the activities above.

4. Next Meeting Announcements

Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, November 22, 2011 from 2:00PM-4:00PM at the Campton Township Community Center, located at 5N082 Old La Fox Road in St. Charles, IL 60175.

Due to the holidays, our last meeting in December will be held on Monday, December 19 from 2:00PM to 4:00PM at the Village of South Elgin's Municipal Annex located at 1 West State Street, South Elgin, IL 60177

The Fox River Study Group has their Annual Meeting this Thursday, October 27th from 9:30-12:30AM. For more information: www.foxriverstudygroup.org/.

5. Meeting Adjournment