



Ferson-Otter Creek Watershed Coalition
Meeting Notes
Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Hosted by the City of Elgin
The Centre of Elgin, Pioneer Room
100 Symphony Way
Elgin, IL 60120

1. Welcome & Introductions

Amy Talbot	-Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Tara Neff	-The Conservation Foundation (TCF)
Kristin Bilar	-Campton Township
Sean Glowacz	-Kane County
Megan Golden	-Village of South Elgin
Jayne Holley	-Lake Campton Property Owners Association
Dan Lobbes	-The Conservation Foundation
Tim Loftus	-Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Marc McLaughlin	-Village of South Elgin
Marc Mylott	-City of Elgin
Jack Shouba	-Campton Township
Dave Waden	-City of Elgin
Jodie Wollnik	-Kane County Water Resources Division

Tara Neff, TCF, welcomed everyone and thanked the City of Elgin for hosting our meeting at The Centre of Elgin. Introductions by participants followed.

2. Final FO Watershed Action Plan – overview, adoption

Amy Talbot, CMAP, thanked everyone for their work throughout the planning process. The final watershed plan was submitted and approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and contained 140 pages listing 84 projects and 30 policy and education and outreach recommendations. Our plan noted that more water quality monitoring is necessary to determine the sources and locations for which fecal coliform bacteria is entering our streams.

In an effort to show support and elevate the profile of the watershed plan, CMAP is asking communities to formally adopt the Ferson-Otter Creek Watershed Action Plan. The Cities of Elgin and South Elgin have approved the plan and CMAP is available to support efforts with other partner agencies like Campton Hills, Lily Lake, St. Charles, Campton Township and Kane County. A sample resolution is available for any interested parties.

3. CMAP's Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/lta>
CMAP is accepting applications for their LTA Program, which provides staff assistance for planning efforts including the review of existing ordinances and the incorporation of model ordinances. It is a competitive process for which applications that show collaboration are given priority. The watershed plan included a recommendation incorporate water use ordinances and this recommendation provides a good opportunity for a collaborative application. The call for projects deadline is May 1 and applications are due on August 1. Contact Amy if you are interested in pursuing this opportunity.

Amy provided examples of water related LTA opportunities:

- Orland Park developed a water conservation ordinance. Orland Park hopes to partner with neighboring communities to collectively adopt the completed ordinance language.
- Oak Park is developing a water conservation and efficiency plan.

4. 319 Grant Application technical assistance http://foxriverecosystem.org/319_grants.htm
We hope the recently approved Ferson-Otter Creek Watershed Plan will encourage agencies to apply for 319 funding. The program requires a 40% local match, and provides reimbursement for 60% of approved project costs.

The Fox River Ecosystem Partnership (FREP) Water Resources Committee is available after FREP meetings (3/21, 4/18, 5/16, 6/20) to review applications.

The 319 grant application deadline 319 is August 1, 2012

- Generally, it takes 30-40 hours to put an application together.
- Local match can include staff time and/or private grants.
- Grant funds are reimbursed after expenditure, which maybe a barrier for smaller groups.

The Committee will review applications and send comments to IEPA.

5. Community Reports –watershed activities, ideas, & news
Jayne Holley, Lake Campton Property Owners Association, stated that Pizzo and Associates created a proposal and made a presentation at their meeting. They plan to apply for 319 grant funding this year.

Megan Golden, South Elgin, attended FREP's February meeting and is working with a consultant to plan the implementation of the Village of South Elgin's short term projects not completed during the planning process.

6. Moving Forward – plan implementation discussion

a) Watershed activities, *such as*:

Water quality monitoring program.

Our Plan stated the need for more monitoring data. The DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup (DRSCW) conducts comprehensive basin assessments include chemical, biological, and habitat data points based on drainage area throughout each of their three basins. This year they will conduct an assessment in the West Branch DuPage River. The Fox River Study Group (FRSG) samples at the mouth of Fox River and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources conducts fish sampling every 5 years. This year

they will sample in the Fox River Basin.

The FRSG samples from Stratton Dam to Ottawa once per month and at the mouth of Ferson Creek, Blackberry Creek, and Tyler Creek (now 8 biweekly). The Fox River Water Reclamation District and Fox Metro assumed these costs, and their contract has ended. More parties are interested. The barrier is a lack of data. There are no other sampling points except at the mouth of the creeks.

A formal coalition must pay for monitoring, potentially by NPDES/ MS4 permit holders, as IEPA does not typically pay for monitoring activities. There is a need for data in order for there to be local control for future decisions. IDNR stated that further up the stream you go, sampling locations are located on the main stem only.

On page 56 in the Plan, a map showing “not impaired,” for Otter Creek can be confusing. Fecal sampling requires that you get both high and low flow data. Marc Mylott stated that baseline data is necessary to know if your projects made a difference quantitatively.

Regarding an information/education campaign, stakeholders appeared to be in agreement that citizen involvement, not only staff, is what makes things happen.

b) Group organization

All are interested in a monitoring program, however, we need to determine how to pay for it. Stakeholders feel that meeting once every 6 months (Elgin and South Elgin have agreed to host) is a good start, and that the frequency may change depending upon the monitoring outcome. We need to make sure there is a way for stakeholders to keep in touch and share information between meetings, and Tara will investigate the use of Google Groups as a potential tool. Another suggestion was to attend FREP meetings. Some watershed groups, like the FRSG and DRSCW, collect dues and have resources to hold meetings while others do not; this can be a barrier to a group’s longevity and productivity.

7. Announcements

FREP program: Lower Fox Land Conservation Planning
Wednesday, March 21, 2012 @ 1:00 PM (*John Church, TCF*)
Historic Kendall Co. Court House, 110 W. Madison St, Yorkville

FREP Noon Network: Norris Woods Creek Stabilization & WQ Improvement Project
Wednesday, April 18, 2012, 12:00 Noon – 1: 30 PM (*Denis Kania, SCPD*)
Norris Woods Nature Preserve, 3rd Ave., St. Charles
<http://foxriverecosystem.org/news.htm>

Elgin’s Green Expo – Watershed Wanderings
Friday & Saturday, May 4 & 5, 2012
The Centre of Elgin, 100 Symphony Way, Elgin ♦ <http://www.elgingreenexpo.org/>

Other announcements

8. Meeting Adjournment
9. Post-meeting Social – celebrating Plan completion!