

**Ferson-Otter Creek Watershed Planning
Meeting Notes**

Hawthorne Hill Nature Center
28 Brookside Drive; Elgin, IL 60123
March 29, 2011- 2:00-4:00 PM

1. Attendance/Introductions and Project Status

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| Amy Talbot | -CMAP |
| Erin Tuttle | -TCF |
| Tara Neff | -TCF |
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| Rolf Fredrick | -Village of Campton Hills |
| Sean Glowacz | -Kane County |
| Brian Herrmann | -City of St. Charles |
| Jayne Holley | -Lake Campton Property Owners' Association |
| Denis Kania | -St. Charles Park District |
| Rob Linke | -FREP/FRSG/Deer Run Creek Unit II HOA |
| Dan Lobbes | -The Conservation Foundation |
| Marc McLaughlin | -Village of South Elgin |
| Vince Pavlicek | -Deer Run East HOA |
| Ron Rudd | -City of Elgin |
| Maggie Soliz | -Pizzo & Associates |

Erin Tuttle announced that she is moving at the end of the month and that this will be her last stakeholder meeting. She introduced Tara Neff from The Conservation Foundation, who will assume Erin's watershed coordination responsibilities.

Amy summarized our current progress with the project timeline and tasks left to accomplish before the project end data, December 2011. We will have several future meetings that will focus on plan recommendations and we really need stakeholder input. Please share your project recommendations with Amy or write them on the sheets taped to the wall before you leave. For our April meeting Megan Elberts, CMAP, has been invited to talk about the pollutant loading model we're using.

2. Updates

Green Infrastructure Chart/Open Space Chapter

We reviewed the draft Green Infrastructure Framework document. There were a number of questions regarding the three classes shown in chart. Amy will provide maps and definitions at our next meeting. The framework is a starting point for green infrastructure recommendations. Flooding is a concern, but may be addressed in a separate area. All the text would revolve around the graphic for the Green Infrastructure section of the plan.

Introduction Chapter

The Introduction is pretty straightforward. A couple of updates: Amy spoke to Jack Shouba, who gave some history on Ferson Creek. Amy will check with Jerry Johnson at Garfield Farm, Mike Alft's 1872 Atlas, any township historical societies/ resources and public libraries in the area, and the St. Charles History Center.

Municipal Ordinance Review

We have received ordinance reviews from Campton Hills (Kane County); Elgin; South Elgin. We still need them from Lily Lake and St. Charles. We have received an 8-question survey from Lily Lake and South Elgin.

Municipal Outreach

We are beginning to schedule presentations to elected officials about the watershed plan. We need your help getting on an agenda to present information to municipal and county officials to deliver these posters and other important education materials around the watershed.

Fecal Coliform Education Posters

The Fecal Coliform posters are finished and are available for municipalities, libraries, etc.! We encourage all stakeholders to take copies of this entertaining and educational poster back to their communities.

FREP Noon Network

We will coordinate a FREP Noon Network on October 19 – it will be a larger group of around 40-50 participants. We will talk about the watershed plan and planning process, and visit something interesting (BMP, etc.). Marc McLaughlin stated that the South Elgin salinization facility might be ready by October.

All Ferson-Otter Creek stakeholders are invited to a Noon Network sack-lunch scheduled for May 18 at the Dick Young Forest Preserve, Nelson Lake.

3. Resource Inventory

Final Draft must be submitted to IEPA by May 1st. We will finalize our draft at the April meeting. Amy and Tara met with Denis Kania and Mary O at the Hickory Knolls Discovery Center to review previous projects that will be included in the inventory.

Overview of what will be included:

- Include the designated uses and their definitions. Primary uses, etc.
- Provide regional context of Fox River.
- Give physical watershed characteristics.
- We would like to include more/ continued (mussel counts) monitoring
- The existing policies and ordinance review can be here or with overarching/separate chapter.

Data that will be added:

- Sean Glowacz will update septic maps
- Fox River Basin Surveys (fish)
- IEPA monitoring data

Suggestions:

- Monitor above and below LeRoy Oakes dam modification site to see if smallmouth bass is moving.
- Ask Steve Pescitelli about 2 stations of ambient data (not rest of the data).

Related Discussion

HOAs

The Homeowners Association education initiative involving Pizzo & Associates and The Conservation Foundation was discussed and has the support of Kane County. Erin proposed that we add local HOA representatives to the stakeholder meeting agendas to present situations specific to their association.

Examples of opportunities for HOA education can be found by looking at perceptions homeowners have about issues (i.e. West Nile Virus/mosquitoes is something the Park District has dealt with). Homeowners are concerned with what looks good and expectations (Where's my fire hydrant?). Some HOAs have budgets to do/ purchase materials, others subcontract, which can be costly. Citizens for Conservation in Barrington highlighted their work on ravines in their 40th Anniversary newsletter. We may want to coordinate with them for a stream walk to give an example of what you can do (C@H). The Windings may be a good place to start with the education and project ideas.

Larger Watershed Planning Process and Connections in Kane County

CMAAP received a grant to complete 4 watershed plans in the Fox River Basin: Blackberry Creek; Ferson-Otter Creek; Silver Creek; and Sleepy Hollow Creek. The Kane/DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District is creating a watershed plan for Jelkes Creek. Municipalities and Counties that are found in more than one watershed will be included in multiple meetings. Watershed plans must contain 9 elements to be accepted by the IEPA, which results in opportunities to pursue 319 Grant Funding (60% federal funds with 40% local match). The plans are created for municipal and county entities to use as a tool, not enforcement.

4. Next Meeting Announcement and Open House

We will be hosting an open house this evening from 4:30PM – 6:30PM to make the watershed planning process available to a wider group of stakeholders that may not be able to attend our regular monthly stakeholder meetings during the day.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 26 from 2:00-4:00 PM. Rob Linke suggested meeting at Trotter & Associates in St. Charles. We will confirm there is a room available.

In May, Steve Belz, consultant for Norsewoods Creek, who helped with both previous 319 grants (for work in the watershed) will be visiting Hickory Knolls. We would like to take advantage of this unique opportunity to talk with Steve about the planning process, and combine the meeting with a stream walk. More details will follow.