



**Ferson-Otter Creek Watershed Coalition
Meeting Notes
Tuesday, April 23, 2013**

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

1. Attendance

Kristin Bilar	-Campton Township
Alice Cairo	-Wild Rose
Jayne Holley	-Lake Campton Property Owners Association
Rob Linke	-Trotter & Associates
Tim Loftus	-Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Marc McLaughlin	-Village of South Elgin
Marc Mylott	-City of Elgin
Tara Neff	-The Conservation Foundation (TCF)
Steve Pescitelli	-Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Jim Reuter	-Village of South Elgin
Ron Rudd	-City of Elgin
Jack Shouba	-Campton Township
Dave Waden	-City of Elgin
Jodie Wollnik	-Kane County Water Resources Division

Welcome and thank you to the City of Elgin for hosting our meeting at The Centre of Elgin. Introductions by participants followed.

Community Updates

- Rob Linke - The City of Elgin received a \$750,000 Green Infrastructure Grant. They are implementing a pilot project in the Lord Street CSO drainage basin to retrofit the area with bio-retention basins, structural infiltration BMP devices, and permeable alleys in the public right-of-way in an effort to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff volume entering the combined sewer system. They are half-way through and have 7 sites designed, which was a design challenge.
- Marc Mylott - The City of Elgin is working with Jason Navota and Holly Hudson to review all codes and ordinances through the Local Technical Assistance Grant they received from CMAP. The City of Elgin is also implementing a tree preservation ordinance.

- Jim Reuter – The Village of South Elgin is clearing debris from Otter to Stoney Creek that would create unstable conditions. The flow is better and they will address more in the upcoming year.
- Jayne Holley - Lake Campton Property Owner's Association was not awarded a 319 Grant. They plan to rewrite the grant and submit.
- Jack Shouba - Campton Township Open Space Project through Kane County Green Infrastructure process and partnered with the Forest Preserve District.
- Marc McLaughlin – The Village of South Elgin received a LTA grant from CMAP for a bike/pedestrian mobility plan. The plan will include regional trails creating connectivity for residents.
- Jody Wollnik - Kane County is working with The Windings on ravine conditions and requirements. They are also working with Mallard Lake North on stream maintenance issues and stewardship of the area.

Tim Loftus, CMAP, provided information on two Local Technical Assistance Projects. Exploring water-loss practices and constraints with permittees under the IDNR, Office of Water Resources, Lake Michigan Water Allocation Program. (The Center for Neighborhood Technology is also a project partner.). They are in the process of assessing how to eliminate maximum water loss. Current requirements include a loss of not more than 8% of water. Communities are allowed to write off lost water due to failing infrastructure. Communities do not have money to upgrade infrastructure and there are no penalties, aside from submitting a plan to reduce waste if out of compliance. To better understand what is happening, they sent a survey to recipients. To date they have received 70 responses. They will visit communities that are and are not in compliance. Plans include assigning a dollar value to the water loss.

Tim is also leading a strategic planning exercise and other work with the Northwest Water Planning Alliance. He is working with the Illinois State Water Survey to determine how much water we have to plan for. We need fundamentals in place that we do not yet have, for drought planning. This project is a result of their Water 2050 Plan and is

Steve Pescitelli provided a preliminary look at their 2012 Fox River Basin fish survey. Steve reported finding the American brook lamprey for the first time since 2006. Mottled sculpin, which is unique to the Fox River basin, was found in Silver Creek. Dams, gradient, and urbanization have the biggest impact on scores. Note that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency samples macroinvertebrates and the scores found in his presentation are fish only (including mIBI lowers scores). Steve also briefly discussed the Blackberry Creek Dam Removal.

Rob Linke discussed the Ferson-Otter Creek Watershed In-Stream Monitoring program. The Village of South Elgin, Campton Township and Campton Hills have all agreed to contribute to the monitoring program. The City of Elgin is supplying lab analysis. The Village of South Elgin contracted with Gary Swick, Friends of the Fox, to complete sampling at 7 sites once per month.

A map detailing the sample sites and list of constituents will be sent to stakeholders. Sampling is scheduled to begin May 28.

Rob stated Fox River Study Group's Watershed Implementation Plan will be reported in June 2015. They completed low flow data collection during last year's drought and began modeling scenarios for nonpoint source loading, nutrient loading and dam removals. There was quite a bit of discussion regarding dams. The new MS4 permit is scheduled to be released this year.

Due to lack of time, Tim Loftus did not present information on CMAP's Stormwater Utility document and the group did not discuss the remaining agenda items. We will include these (if possible) on the next meeting agenda.

Meeting adjournment