

*Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Stormwater Management Planning Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.*

DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
(March 20, 2014)

The DeKalb County Stormwater Management Planning Committee (SMPC) met on March 20, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in the DeKalb County Administrative Building, Conference Room East, in Sycamore, Illinois. In attendance were Committee members Norm Beeh, John Laskowski, Bill Lorence, Paul Miller, Joe Misurelli, Paul Stoddard, Tom Thomas, Derek Hiland, and Pat Vary. Also in attendance were Mike Richolson, Anita Zurbrugg, County Engineer Nathan Schwartz, and Planning and Zoning Department staff Rebecca Von Drasek.

1. **Roll Call** -- *Mr. Miller noted that Committee members Roger Steimel, Joel Maurer, and Donna Prain were absent.*
2. **Approval of Agenda** -- *Mr. Misurelli moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Laskowski, and the motion carried unanimously.*
3. **Approval of Minutes** -- *Mr. Lorence moved to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2013 meeting, seconded by Mr. Beeh, and the motion carried unanimously.*
4. **Status of Watershed Plan** – Mr. Miller explained that DeKalb County was awarded, on November 16, 2012, a Section 319 grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to undertake a watershed study. The watershed under consideration is the headwaters of the East Branch of the South Branch of the Kishwaukee River. DeKalb County partnered with the DeKalb County Community Foundation to create the watershed plan. Hey & Associates, along with Baxter Woodman, were selected as the engineers for the project last December. The watershed plan is intended to provide a more area-specific approach to stormwater management and water quality within the study area.

Mr. Miller highlighted the work on the watershed plan continues per its schedule. The Watershed Plan Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from DeKalb County, Kane County, the City of Sycamore and the Village of Maple Park, the Community Foundation, and others, has been meeting monthly. Products and activities to date include:

1. Drafting of goals and objectives for the plan;
2. A bus tour in September of 2013 for interested property owners and citizens, conducted as part of the public outreach portion of the watershed plan. Approximately 35 people participated. A second bus tour is scheduled for March 20, 2014;
3. Computer modeling (HEC-HMS and PLOAD) of the watershed by the consultant engineer, Hey & Associates;

4. Identification of specific “problem areas” within the watershed;
5. Refinement of the format and development schedule of the plan; and
6. Review of best management practices “fact sheets” to be included in the plan, and review of possible solutions for problem areas;

Mr. Miller emphasized that the Steering Committee is anticipating a report on the findings from partners and volunteers who conducted site-specific tests of stream segments to produce water quality data for the plan. He noted that the goal is to have the plan completed by July 2014 and ready for adoption by the County and the other affected units of government soon thereafter.

Ms. Zurbrugg handed out a flyer announcing the April 24, 2014 meeting for appointed and elected officials. The purpose of the meeting is gather input from the appointed and elected officials for the final watershed plan. Ms. Zurbrugg noted that the April 24<sup>th</sup> program includes an update of the Watershed Planning Project by project engineer Hey & Associates, funding opportunities presented by Amy Walkenback, from the Watershed Management Section of the Illinois EPA, and Brent Denzin, from Ancel, Glink Law Firm who will offer an overview of watershed legal and policy considerations. She encouraged Committee members to attend.

The Committee briefly discussed the future of watershed planning in DeKalb County and possible future grant applications for either additional planning grants or project grants.

**5. Wetlands Refinement** – Ms. Von Drasek explained that the Stormwater Management Planning Committee, in June of 2013, decided to undertake a project to refine and improve the boundaries of wetlands depicted on the County’s GIS maps. The project would adjust those boundaries to better match the soils and contour information. In December of 2013 the DeKalb County Community Foundation awarded a grant to DeKalb County for \$4,000 to pay for persons who would actually conduct the wetlands refinement. Staff met with doctoral students Shannon McCarragher and Stephen Strader, Associate NIU Professor Mike Konen, Mike Richolson of the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Dean Johnson of the DeKalb Soil Water Conservation District on January 22, 2014 to discuss the wetlands refinement project.

Mr. Richolson provided the Committee with a handout which detailed the process being used to determine the wetlands boundaries by the doctoral students.

Ms. Von Drasek also explained that following completion of the refinement project the County would send correspondence to all effected property owners to inform them of the update.

Mr. Miller emphasized the importance of the wetland refinement as the lines as depicted with the County’s GIS system are used to determine if additional oversight and review is necessary for a

particular project. The Committee briefly discussed the ability of property owners to seek map changes through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

**6. Committee By-Laws** – Mr. Miller briefed the Committee on the review at the County-level of all Committee by-laws and the questions posed to staff regarding the Stormwater Management Planning Committee. Mr. Miller referenced proposed changes within the March 7, 2014 staff report.

Ms. Vary asked if term limits had been considered and observed the importance of having some historical knowledge on the Committee. Mr. Miller responded that there had been no suggestion to limit the number of terms a Committee Member can serve.

Mr. Beeh suggested that the County Engineer be assigned a ex-officio post on the Committee as a non-voting member. The Committee supported this suggestion and also decided to add the County Planning Director as an ex-officio member.

The Committee agreed with the March 7<sup>th</sup> memos suggested revision to the Officers terms and the addition of the approval by the County Board.

Mr. Miller agreed to finalize the By-laws for final review by the Committee prior to forwarding the regulations to the County Board.

#### **7. Election of Committee Chair and Vice-Chair**

*Mr. Thomas nominated Mr. Miller to remain as Committee Chair, seconded by Mr. Misurelli. Mr. Lorence moved to close the nominations, Mr. Stoddard seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Miller as chairman.*

*Mr. Stoddard nominated Mr. Maurer to be the Committee Vice-Chair, seconded by Mr. Thomas. Ms. Vary moved to close the nominations, Mr. Lorence seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Maurer as Vice-chairman.*

#### **8. Next Meeting:**

The Committee will next meet at 3pm on June 19, 2014 in the Conference Room East.

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9. **Adjournment** -- *Mr. Lorence motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hiland, and the motion carried unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Paul R. Miller, AICP

Chairman, DeKalb County Stormwater Management Planning Committee

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