

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Union / Virgil Ditches & East Branch of the Kishwaukee River Watershed Steering Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.

**UNION /VIRGIL DITCHES & EAST BRANCH OF THE KISHWAUKEE RIVER
WATERSHED STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

April 9, 2014

The Union /Virgil Ditches & East Branch of the Kishwaukee River Watershed Steering Committee (WSC) met on April 9, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in the DeKalb County Administration Building, in Sycamore, Illinois. In attendance were Committee members Paul Miller, Dean Johnson, Nathan Schwartz, Roger Steimel Karen Miller, Anita Zurbrugg, and Brian Gregory. Also in attendance were Deanna Doohaluk (Hey & Associates) and Rebecca Von Drasek.

1. Roll Call – *Donna Prain and Jeremy Lin were noted absent.*

2. Approval of Agenda – Ms. Zurbrugg requested that the Agenda be amended to include a discussion of the review process of the Watershed Plan

Ms. Miller moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Ms. Zurbrugg, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes -- *Mr. Gregory moved to approve the minutes from March 12, 2014, seconded by Ms. Zurbrugg, and the motion carried unanimously.*

4. Programmatic Action Items Rating

Ms. Doohaluk reported that she had received review comments for Chapter Five from Kane County and DeKalb County representatives. She indicated that by early May, 2014 a draft needs to be provided the IEPA. She also suggested that one additional outreach meeting to report the results was necessary for the general public. Ms. Doohaluk informed the Committee that she would request an extension to June 30, 2014 for the final draft of the Watershed Plan. She stated that this type of extension would be typical and likely to be approved.

Ms. Zurbrugg suggested that requesting the extension is acceptable provided it is approved and that the project is still on target to meet all the State's grant requirements.

Ms. Zurbrugg moved to direct the consultant, Hey & Associates, to seek IEPA approval of an extension to June 30, 2014, seconded by Mr. Miller, and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Doohaluk agreed to seek the extension.

Ms. Zurbrugg suggested that the bus tour could be planned in June. She stated that the presentation of the final plan should be done separately of the bus tour and the Committee agreed.

Ms. Doohaluk asked the Committee to continue to review the chapters of the draft plan and provide feedback. She showed the Committee maps of the prioritized “sub-watersheds”, and noted that the transition from agricultural use to urban use was the main reason for choosing these “sub-watersheds”. Ms. Doohaluk emphasized that the plan would include watershed wide ideas and site specific suggestions. She stressed the importance of these “sub-watershed” areas and noted that by highlighting them the plan would encourage positive practices and note opportunities for improving water quality in the future.

The Committee opined that redevelopment was preferable to new development.

Mr. Miller noted that the land use plans for many of the communities may change significantly from previously approved land use plans due to economic factors.

The Committee debated the site specific consideration for parking lots. Mr. Gregory did not want to make an example of any specific property owner. Ms. Doohaluk observed that the plan as impact if specific examples are given. Mr. Miller offered that the County’s parking lots as an example, noting that they are within the watershed and will be improved once the jail expansion begins.

Ms. Miller reported that she was approached by Gerard Fabrizio regarding a project on his farm for improving the watershed.

5. Outreach Program Update

The Committee discussed the April 24th Outreach meeting for decision makers. Ms. Zurbrugg encouraged members to reach out to elected and appointed officials to attend.

The Committee mentioned the project web page hosted on the DeKalb County web site and discussed necessary improvements to better present the final plan to the public.

Ms. Zurbrugg noted that the bus tour will be scheduled late May or early June.

6. Review Process of the Watershed Plan

Ms. Doohaluk asked for Chapter 3 review comments by April 25, 2014. She asked that in early June the public be presented the final draft in June.

7. Next Meeting -- The Steering Committee will next meet on May 14, 2014 at 3:00 pm in the Conference Room East.

Union/Virgil Ditches & East Branch of the Kishwaukee River
Watershed Steering Committee Minutes
April 9, 2014
Page 3 of 3

8. Adjournment -- *Mr. Gregory motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Steimel, and the motion carried unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Johnson
Chairman, DeKalb County Union Ditch/Virgil Ditch Watershed Steering Committee

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