

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**

July 9, 2014

The Union /Virgil Ditches & East Branch of the Kishwaukee River Watershed Steering Committee (WSC) met on July 9, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. in the Depot Freight room of the DeKalb County Community Foundation Building, in Sycamore, Illinois. In attendance were Committee members Dean Johnson, Karen Miller, Paul Miller, Donna Prain, and Anita Zurbrugg. Also in attendance were Rich Gentile, Peggy Doty, Lana Haines, Greg Milburg, and County staff Rebecca Von Drasek,.

1. **Roll Call** – *Nathan Schwartz, Roger Steimel, Brian Gregory and Jeremy Lin were noted absent.*
2. **Approval of Agenda** – Ms. Zurbrugg requested that the Agenda be amended to include a report on the June 14th bus tour.

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

3. **Approval of Minutes** – *Mr. Miller moved to approve the minutes from April 9, 2014, seconded by Ms. Zurbrugg, and the motion carried unanimously.*

Mr. Miller observed the May 14, 2014 meeting of the Committee lacked a quorum. *Mr. Miller therefore moved to retain the draft minutes for record purposes, seconded by Ms. Prain, and the motion carried unanimously.*

4. June 14 Bus Tour

Ms. Zurbrugg provided the Committee with a handout recapping the survey results from the June 14, 2014 bus tour. She summarized the results stating that the majority of participants reported learning a great deal about the watershed.

5. Final Watershed Plan - Review and Recommendation

The Committee and members of the DeKalb County Community Foundation Land Use Committee briefly discussed the status of the Watershed Plan. It was noted that the final plan was due to the IEPA by June 30, 2014.

Mr. Miller observed that the conclusions on which he focused were the needs to encourage riparian buffer strips and to increase the number and quality of wetlands within the watershed.

Mr. Johnson agreed with Mr. Miller that the riparian buffer strips and wetland protections would be good tasks to focus on because they would be comparatively simple to accomplish. There are existing programs from the NRCS and SWCD to work with property owners. Mr. Johnson briefly explained the various programs (i.e. USDA, CRP, etc.).

Mr. Johnson and Ms. Miller agreed to reach out to Kane County counter-parts to push for these two steps to be prioritized.

Ms. Zurbrugg suggested that the Steering Committee might be well suited to coordinate the implementation of these goals.

The Committee asked Mr. Milburg from the DeKalb County Farm Bureau for his thoughts on these two ideas. He observed that agricultural producers would always need to consider the fiscal aspects of any farm program.

The Committee also discussed setting a specific number of acres for lands to be converted to wetlands within the watershed. A total of 150 acres are suggested to be converted to wetlands within the entire 78,000 acre watershed.

Mr. Zurbrugg also suggested the goal of cooperative education programs to continue to promote water quality was attainable.

Ms. Doty encouraged the Committee to not limit their educational programs to school children but to encourage property owners to participate.

Mr. Zurbrugg suggested that future printing and distribution costs might be grant appropriate.

6. Discussion - Continuing Role of the Watershed Steering Committee

Mr. Miller suggested that the Steering Committee needs to recommend approval of the Watershed Plan, and to recommend that the Stormwater Management Ordinance be amended to adopt the Watershed Plan officially. Mr. Miller also pointed out that the adoption would need to be recommended and supported through both County's boards as well as each of the municipalities within the Watershed.

7. Discussion - Next Steps - Project Priorities and Planning

The Committee discussed if it would be worthwhile to consider future projects or planning before adopting and implementing this Watershed plan.

Ms. Prain offered that she just did not want to see momentum lost to continue to pursue watershed work else where in the County.

Mr. Miller suggested that the focus on start with confirming IEPA approval of the Plan and then working on adoption.

8. Next Meeting -- The Steering Committee will next meet on September 10, 2014 at 3:00 pm in the Conference Room East.

9. Adjournment -- *Ms. Aurbrugg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Miller, and the motion carried unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

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

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