

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**

March 12, 2014

The Union /Virgil Ditches & East Branch of the Kishwaukee River Watershed Steering Committee (WSC) met on March 12, 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 and Brian Gregory. Also in attendance were Deanna Doohaluk (Hey & Associates), Scott Horlock Sycamore High School, Chris Moreno, NIU student, Bayle Foresman, Maggie Meyer, Alex Handel, Dan Gible, Sycamore Park District, and Rebecca Von Drasek.

1. **Roll Call** – *Karen Miller, Anita Zurbrugg, Donna Prain, and Jeremy Lin were noted absent.*
2. **Approval of Agenda** – *Mr. Miller moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, and the motion carried unanimously.*
3. **Approval of Minutes** -- *Mr. Gregory moved to approve the minutes from February 5, 2014, seconded by Mr. Miller, and the motion carried unanimously.*
4. **Status of Modeling**

Ms. Doohaluk gave a brief presentation of the PLOAD data. Ms. Doohaluk explained the ranking system of water quality. She reported that there were no specific red flags and observed the dissolved oxygen levels was showing signs of degrading water quality.

The Committee briefly discussed the results with Ms. Doohaluk.

Mr. Schwartz asked if the results were characteristic of the agricultural nature of the watershed. Ms. Doohaluk noted that the levels were not surprising nor unexpected.

Mr. Miller asked if the results would lend themselves to recommendations in water quality improvements. Ms. Doohaluk noted that the results would indicate a need for general best management practices, but not a particular, specific project or program.

Ms. Doohaluk anticipated including the modeling data within the inventory portion of the Watershed Plan.

5. Outreach Program Update

The Committee discussed the March 20th Outreach meeting to the agricultural community. Mr. Johnson encouraged members to reach out to others to attend.

Mr. Johnson also confirmed with the Committee that the Appointed and Elected officials meeting was suggested to be held in April. The Committee confirmed that an evening meeting on April 24, 2014 would be an acceptable date and should allow the Committee enough time to advertise the meeting to their boards.

Mr. Gregory requested an executive summary to explain the project and its importance to his board. Ms. Doohaluk agreed to provide the summary.

6. Report on Stream/Detention Basin Data

Scott Horlock, Bayle Foresman, Maggie Meyer, Alex Handel from Sycamore High School and Chris Moreno, NIU made a brief presentation regarding the stream field study and the resulting data which will be included within the watershed plan.

The Committee praised the collaboration by NIU and Sycamore High School and thanked Mr. Horlock for his efforts to continue to study the watershed in the future. He noted his hope to receive a small grant from 3M to fund the environmental studies class.

7. Grant Implementation Planning

The Committee had a brief discussion with Dan Gibble from the Sycamore Park District regarding possible applications to the IEPA for grant funds to complete a project within the watershed. The discussion focused whom and how the grant application would be created.

Mr. Miller observed that since the projects proposed by the watershed plan were still in a draft form, it might be premature to discuss grants for those projects. He suggested that a sub-committee meet to discuss what if any projects the plan might support and the timing for applying in future grant cycles.

Mr. Gibble thanked the Committee for the discussion.

Mr. Johnson indicated that his hope was that the Sycamore Park District would understand that the Watershed Steering Committee represented willing partners in future endeavors.

8. Programmatic Action Items

Ms. Doohaluk noted the time and agreed that Committee member's could consider the reviewing the action items as homework. Ms. Doohaluk agreed to forward staff an e-mail detailing the review requirements.

9. Next Meeting -- The Steering Committee will next meet on April 9, 2014 at 3:00 pm in the Conference Room East.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

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