

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 19, 2015)

The DeKalb County Stormwater Management Planning Committee (SMPC) met on March 19, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in the DeKalb County Administration Building, Conference Room East, in Sycamore, Illinois. In attendance were Committee members Derek Hiland, Bill Lorence, Paul Miller, Joe Misurelli, Nathan Schwartz, Roger Steimel, and Pat Vary. Also in attendance was Planning and Zoning Department staff Marcellus Anderson.

1. **Roll Call** -- *Mr. Miller noted that Committee members Norm Beeh, John Laskowski, Joel Maurer, Paul Stoddard, Tom Thomas, and Donna Prain were absent.*
2. **Approval of Agenda** – *Mr. Schwartz moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Misurelli, and the motion carried unanimously.*
3. **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Vary noted a few typographical errors within the minutes.

Mr. Schwartz moved to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2014 meeting as amended, seconded by Mr. Misurelli, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Watershed Steering Committee – County Planning Director

Mr. Miller noted that the SMPC created the Watershed Steering Committee in December of 2012 to oversee creation of the East Branch South Branch Kishwaukee River Watershed Plan. That Plan was completed and adopted by the County and other local governments in December of 2014. Mr. Miller explained that the Watershed Steering Committee has continued to meet since completion of the Plan, focusing on implementation efforts, such as: the creation of a website for DeKalb County Watersheds; working with the Soil and Water Conservation District to create a filter-strip program for properties that abut or include waterways, whether natural or man-made; and beginning discussions with the Sycamore Park District over a potential implementation project on Park District property.

Mr. Miller noted that the members of the Watershed Committee are committed to continuing to work on implementation of the goals, objectives and recommendations of the East Branch South Branch Kishwaukee River Watershed Plan. He stated that they were also interested in continuing to serve

when the County decides to initiate the next watershed plan project. To that end, the Watershed Steering Committee requested that the SMPC consider making the Watershed Steering Committee a permanent, standing committee.

Ms. Vary inquired as to the roll of the SMPC itself and whether they should remain a committee or be replaced by the Steering Committee. Mr. Miller answered that SMPC is required because the County has a Countywide Stormwater Plan and Ordinance and explained the purpose it served. He then explained the reason for the Steering Committee and how it operates. He also elaborated on how the Steering Committee would likely evolve and change as new plans were developed and adopted, including partnering with new entities as watershed plans for other portions of the County were created.

Ms. Vary commented that it appeared that the current Steering Committee could be retained to oversee the development and implementation of future plans, or that the SMPC could instead create a new steering committees for each plan, as it is developed. Mr. Miller responded that those were the two alternatives, and then presented his argument as to why a single steering committee would be the better option.

Mr. Lorence moved to make the Watershed Steering Committee a permanent standing committee, with the understanding that the membership could change over time as necessary, seconded by Ms. Vary, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Miller noted that as the SMPC is a committee of the DeKalb County Board, he would contact the County Administration to verify that no other steps need to be taken to confirm their decision.

5. Stormwater Release Rate – County Engineer

Nathan Schwartz, the DeKalb County Engineer, reported that he is aware of a rumor that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) is looking to change the maximum stormwater release rates for municipalities or MS4s. He investigated those rumors and presented a summary of his findings on that issue, as well as a brief look at few other items future concern to MS4s.

Mr. Schwartz indicated that at this time nobody knows if the release rates will be changing or not, because the issue is tied to the unresolved controversy around just what constitutes, “Waters of the United States.” He explained several of the issues involved in the controversy, and also directed the Committee to a page on the official EPA website called “Ditch The Myth,” which is dedicated to answering questions regarding the Clean Water Rule.

Mr. Schwartz discussed the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy, which is a statewide effort to reduce phosphorus and nitrogen pollution in the Mississippi River basin. He explained what it was, and cautioned the Committee that while nothing has been proposed yet, the final proposals could potentially impact all MS4s in the future.

Mr. Schwartz briefly discussed Illinois House Bill 1426 and Senate Bill 762, which seek to amend

the local governmental and local governmental employees tort immunity act so that a local public entity is not liable for damages to property caused by climate-related events, flooding, or the design, construction, or improvement of infrastructure intended to mitigate climate-related events or flooding.

Mr. Schwartz informed the Committee that the Illinois Drainage Law has been updated. He noted that he had been unable to find a list of the changes before the meeting, but that he would be able to compile a list by the Committee's next meeting.

Mr. Steimel inquired what the County's release rates were. Mr. Lorence responded that the rate is 2.0, unless within a mile of a city in the County, all of which have a more restrictive rate of 1.5.

6. **Next Meeting** – The Committee will next meet at 3:00 p.m. on June 25, 2015 in the Conference Room East.

Mr. Miller asked the Committee members to give some consideration to what the next plan the Committee will work on should be and be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting. Ms. Vary and Mr. Lorence added that thought should also be given to setting a list of priorities regarding future plans.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Paul R. Miller, AICP
Chairman, DeKalb County Stormwater Management Planning Committee

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