

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**

December 9, 2015

The Union/Virgil Ditches & East Branch of the Kishwaukee River Watershed Steering Committee (WSC) met on December 9, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room East of the DeKalb County Administration Building, in Sycamore, Illinois. In attendance were Committee members Dean Johnson, Karen Miller, Donna Prain, Roger Steimel, Brian Gregory, and Paul Miller. Also in attendance DeKalb County staff Marcellus Anderson.

1. Roll Call – *Jeremy Lin, Nathan Schwartz, and Anita Zurbrugg were noted absent. Brian Gregory arrived late.*

2. Approval of Agenda – *Ms. Miller moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Steimel, and the motion carried unanimously.*

3. Approval of Minutes – *Ms. Prain moved to approve the minutes from November 10, 2015, seconded by Ms. Miller, and the motion carried unanimously.*

4. Participation in Sycamore Park District Watershed Project – Mr. Johnson informed the Committee that the Sycamore Park District would be having a “Kick-off” meeting for its projects that are intended to implement recommendations of the East Branch Kishwaukee River Watershed Plan. One item to be discussed at the meeting was the use of signage as a component of the project. Mr. Johnson believed that some input from the Committee was expected regarding the appearance and wording of the signage. Mr. Johnson stated that Ms. Zurbrugg had indicated that she would be participating in the meeting. Ms. Prain indicated that she would also be there.

Brian Gregory arrived at 3:02 pm.

Ms. Miller inquired as to the nature of the project. Mr. Johnson responded that the project would include the removal of invasive species, and stream bank restoration along the portion of the East branch of the Kishwaukee River that goes through the park. Mr. Miller added that the Park District had received a grant from the Community Foundation for the project.

5. Watershed Plan Implementation Coordinator – Mr. Johnson related that at the last Committee meeting, the idea of a Watershed Implementation Coordinator was introduced, and that it was suggested that the DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) would be a good source for someone to fill the position. He then presented a description of the position, elaborating upon its purpose and the reasoning behind it. He noted that SWCD had recently met and had indicated that such a position would fit well with their mission. He noted that a position like this would need the support and recommendation of the County and the local Municipalities.

Mr. Steimel asked whether the Community Foundation would be funding this position. Mr. Johnson responded that he had been working with them to see if that would be possible.

Ms. Prain voiced concerns that as the project moves along, the percentage of time he would have to devote to the project might come to completely dominate his time. Mr. Johnson agreed that such was a possibility, as was the possibility of eventually having to hire someone else to replace him.

Mr. Johnson noted that the position would be focused primarily on the implementation of the East Branch Kishwaukee River Watershed Plan and the coordination of projects, and that he would not be doing planning per se.

Mr. Miller explained his thoughts regarding why a single coordinator would be the best method for implementing the Plan, and that the Committee could be dissolved, to be reformed in the future at such time as the next watershed plan is funded.

Mr. Miller made a motion to recommend to the Stormwater Management Planning Committee that an Implementation Coordinator position be appointed by that Committee, that it be Dean Johnson, subject to funding from the Community Foundation and charged with the duties as laid out in the presentation by Mr. Johnson, and that the Watershed Steering Committee be dissolved.

Mr. Miller noted that the Committee might want to meet at least one more time before forwarding this recommendation, so that absent Committee members could give their input.

Mr. Steimel seconded the motion.

Mr. Johnson elaborated on the funding levels for the SWCD.

Ms. Prain noted that she agreed with all of Mr. Miller's motion, except that the proposal to dissolve the Committee. Mr. Miller elaborated on how the Stormwater Management Committee would take over the oversight functions currently handled the Steering Committee.

Mr. Steimel noted what he saw as the benefits of having a Watershed Implement Coordinator.

Ms. Miller related some of Kane County's experiences with Watershed planning and implementation.

Ms. Prain once again voiced her concerns over dissolving the Steering Committee. Mr. Miller responded to her concerns.

Miller withdrew his motion and suggested waiting until the January 13, 2016 meeting of the Steering Committee to formalize a motion concerning the Watershed Plan Implement Coordinator and possibly dissolving the Steering Committee.

6. **Next Meeting** -- The Steering Committee will next meet on Wednesday January 13, 2015 at 3:00 pm in the Conference Room East.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

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