

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 11, 2015

The Union/Virgil Ditches & East Branch of the Kishwaukee River Watershed Steering Committee (WSC) met on March 11, 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, Nathan Schwartz, Roger Steimel, Anita Zurbrugg, Adam Orton (for Committee Member Brian Gregory), Karen Miller, and Paul Miller. Also in attendance were Dan Gible, John F. Mayer, Alex LaBee, Candice Jacobs of the Kane/DuPage County SWCD, Kane County staff Rob Linke, and DeKalb County staff Rebecca Von Drasek.

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

2. Approval of Agenda – The Committee members requested four additions to the agenda: a brief discussion on application guidelines; an announcement by the Kane/DuPage County SWCD; an update into Kane County municipal adoptions; and the new watershed web site.

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

3. Approval of Minutes – *Ms. Zurbrugg moved to approve the minutes from February 11, 2015, seconded by Mr. Steimel, and the motion carried unanimously.*

4. Sycamore Park District, Airport Road Property

Dan Gible, Sycamore Park District's Executive Director, made a brief presentation to the Committee detailing future development plans for the Park District's 80-acre parcel located on the east side of Airport Road. He explained the District's need to expand soccer facilities, and highlighted the District's abundance of flood-prone property. He noted that although the District has no financial resources to commit to development of those flood-prone areas, there is a willingness to partner with the Watershed Steering Committee on possible projects which could implement elements of the East Branch South Branch of the Kishwaukee River Watershed Plan. Mr. Gible introduced the District's civil engineer on the project, John F. Mayer. Mr. Mayer provided the Committee with handouts detailing the proposed park development.

Nathan Schwartz arrived at 3:10 p.m..

The Committee thanked Mr. Gible and Mr. Mayer for their presentation and discussed possible projects suggested by the Watershed Plan which might be appropriate on the property. Mr. Gible added that the Committee could also consider the District property west of the river as well.

Ms. Zurbrugg asked Mr. Johnson if there were grant funds that the SWCD was aware of that might be appropriate for this type of project. Mr. Johnson suggested that an RCPP grant is intended for watershed type projects, but noted that the grant would include some restrictions.

The Committee also talked about engaging other neighboring properties to the north and south to gage their interest in a project along the river on their properties. Mr. Miller suggested that allowing the river to meander within the confines of the Park District property might be an appropriate implementation project on these parcels. Mr. Miller suggested that a “working group” of Committee members could meet to develop a consensus and report back to the Committee as a whole.

Ms. Zurbrugg agreed that if funding could be combined from a variety of sources that a larger-scale project might be viable.

5. Grant Application Format

Ms. Zurbrugg informed the Committee that now that the Watershed Plan is completed, the DeKalb County Community Foundation is starting to receive inquiries for grant funding for various implementation projects. She asked that the Committee review, prior to the April meeting, a draft application which could be given to interested applicants. The Committee agreed to do so.

6. Kane County SWCD

Candice Jacobs from the Kane/DuPage County Soil Water Conservation District (KDSWCD) announced an upcoming seminar on March 24 at the Kane County Farm Bureau to explain nutrient reduction and cover crops.

7. Municipal Plan Endorsement in Kane County

Ms. Miller reported that correspondence had been sent to the Kane County municipalities that are within the East Branch South Branch of the Kishwaukee River Watershed, inviting them to consider adoption of the Plan. Ms. Miller asked if there was an intent to hold another public forum to invite municipalities to learn more about the Plan.

Mr. Miller suggested that the four targeted municipalities might be more likely to consider acting on the Plan with direct outreach. Ms. Miller indicated that the Kane County staff would not be following up with the municipalities, but would be available to answer any questions about the Plan should community representatives reach out to them. The Committee briefly discussed the greater likelihood of agencies to qualify for IEPA grants if they choose to endorse the Watershed Plan.

8. Watershed Web Site

Mr. Johnson highlighted the various features of the draft DeKalb County Watershed web site. He encouraged Members to take time to look at the site and report back any suggestions to Donna Prain.

9. Next Meeting -- The Steering Committee will next meet on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 3:00 pm in the Conference Room East.

10. Adjournment -- *Ms. Miller 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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