

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**

May 13, 2015

The Union/Virgil Ditches & East Branch of the Kishwaukee River Watershed Steering Committee (WSC) met on May 13, 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, Anita Zurbrugg, Adam Orton, Roger Steimel, and Paul Miller. Also in attendance were Dan Gible, Sycamore Park District, Susan Rowley, Encap Inc., Kane County staff Rob Linke, and DeKalb County staff Rebecca Von Drasek.

1. **Roll Call** – *Jeremy Lin, Karen Miller, and Donna Prain were noted absent.*
2. **Approval of Agenda** – *Ms. Zurbrugg moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Orton, and the motion carried unanimously.*
3. **Approval of Minutes** – *Ms. Zurbrugg moved to approve the minutes from April 8, 2015, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and the motion carried unanimously.*

4. Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Shannon Allen from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) State Office in Champaign explained to the Committee via conference call an overview of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program which is a relatively new USDA program that takes advantage of existing cost share programs available through the NRCS. Mr. Allen detailed the benefits of this grant funding to the Committee noting that if awarded the money goes directly to the grant project rather than competing against other in-state projects. He noted that these projects are often awarded when the RCPP funds are leveraged with in-kind contribution or other funding sources.

The Committee briefly discussed the applicability of this grant to projects called for within the Watershed Plan, as well as, the Stormwater Management Commissions goal for future watershed planning.

The Committee thanked Mr. Allen for his time and agreed to consider an application in July of 2016 if an appropriate project or planning initiative is found.

Mr. Schwartz arrived at 3:40 pm.

5. Sycamore Park District Watershed Projects Application Review

Mr. Gible introduced Susan Rowley and Melissa Wheeler of Encap. Mr. Gible explained that Encap had designed the watershed improvement projects proposed for the Sycamore Park District golf course which were described in detail within the “Kishwaukee River Shoreline with Riparian

Restoration and Education / Interpretation” grant application to the DeKalb County Community Foundation.

Ms. Rowley highlighted the native plant restoration and the interpretative project signs to inform the public using the golf course about steps being taken to protect and improve the watershed.

Mr. Orton asked how long once funded would the work require for installation. Mr. Gible responded that the initial work would only take a few months, however, he noted that Park District staff would require training to properly maintain the features after they were installed.

Mr. Gible also highlighted the staff time which is saved by the shoreline restoration.

Brian Gregory arrived 4 pm.

The Committee briefly discussed if the project could be further broken into pieces rather than funding the entire proposal.

Mr. Gible informed the Committee that the Park District was open to suggestions for what information should be included on the educational / interpretative signage.

Mr. Miller made a motion to recommend approval of the Sycamore Park District’s Kishwaukee River Shoreline with Riparian Restoration and Education / Interpretation grant application to the DeKalb County Community Foundation Land Use Committee for funding, seconded by Mr. Steimel, and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Next Meeting -- The Steering Committee will next meet on Wednesday, August 12, 2015 at 3:00 pm in the Conference Room East.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

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