

*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**

October 14, 2015

The Union/Virgil Ditches & East Branch of the Kishwaukee River Watershed Steering Committee (WSC) met on October 14, 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, Anita Zurbrugg, Donna Prain, and Paul Miller. Also in attendance were Kane County staff Rob Linke, and DeKalb County staff Rebecca Von Drasek.

**1. Roll Call** – *Jeremy Lin, Nathan Schwartz, Roger Steimel, and Brian Gregory were noted absent.*

**2. Approval of Agenda** – Ms. Zurbrugg asked to brief the Committee on the DeKalb County Community Foundation's partners.

*Ms. Zurbrugg moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Ms. Prain, and the motion carried unanimously.*

**3. Approval of Minutes** – *Ms. Prain moved to approve the minutes from September 9, 2015, seconded by Ms. Miller, and the motion carried unanimously.*

**4. South Branch Kishwaukee River Watershed Plan Implementation** -- At its meeting of September 9, 2015, the Committee reviewed the Prioritized Action Plans in Chapter Five of the East Branch of the South Branch of the Kishwaukee River Watershed Plan. The Committee decided among the listed priority items to focus implementation efforts on three areas; bridge signage to identify waterways and the watershed boundaries, identification of site-specific projects (i.e. clearing snags, bank stabilization, etc.) following surveys of waterways in the watershed, and the application of best management practices (BMPs) to the construction of new parking lots associated with the expansion of the DeKalb County jail.

Mr. Miller reported to the Committee regarding a memorandum, dated October 7, 2015, from Jim Sparber of Baxter Woodman, engineer for a proposed parking lot to be constructed by the County on the north side of State Rte. 64 in Sycamore, IL. The report included three possible BMPs that could be included in the proposed parking lot, along with probable costs. These included permeable pavers, a filtration strip, and an infiltration basin within the associated dry detention area. The Committee discussed these items and agreed that an application to the DeKalb County Community Foundation for a grant to finance one or all of these BMPs should be sought.

Mr. Johnson indicated that after construction of the BMP, he would want signage and the website to advertise that the feature had been included within the parking lot design.

Ms. Zurbrugg noted that Mr. Sparber's report included costs for each proposed feature. She suggested that the Land Use Committee might be interested in directing funds be spent to cover the gap between the cost of standard design and the BMP design.

The Committee agreed to further discuss the priority of the other parking lot projects associated with the jail expansion project with Baxter & Woodman, with the goal of including BMPs where feasible.

Mr. Linke presented the Committee with a version of the Kane County Streams signage for the Committee's discussion about waterway-crossing and watershed-boundary signage. The Committee members agreed that signage would be a good opportunity to raise awareness about the watershed. The Committee also discussed the particulars of possible signage, with the idea of one standard sign that would identify DeKalb County Watersheds and the logo of the County Watershed website. Below these could be standard signs to identify the name of the waterway or watershed boundary. The Committee asked Ms. Prain to create a mockup of such signage for review at the November meeting.

Mr. Miller suggested that the Committee defer discussion of item 4c on the agenda to a future meeting, and there was no objection.

**5. Criteria for Choosing Next Watershed Plan --** The Committee considered if the next watershed plan should be southwest or northwest of the Union/Virgil Ditches & East Branch of the Kishwaukee River watershed. After a brief discussion the Committee decided to continue its consideration until the November meeting.

**6. DeKalb County Community Foundation Partnership --** Ms. Zurbrugg asked the Committee for a volunteer to represent the Watershed Steering committee in a photo for the DeKalb County Community Foundation. Mr. Johnson agreed to participate.

**7. Next Meeting --** The Steering Committee will next meet on Tuesday November 10, 2015 at 3:00 pm in the Conference Room East.

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

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Respectfully submitted,

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

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