

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**

September 9, 2015

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

- 1. Roll Call** – *Jeremy Lin and Karen Miller were noted absent.*
- 2. Approval of Agenda** – *Mr. Schwartz moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Zurbrugg, and the motion carried unanimously.*
- 3. Approval of Minutes** – *Ms. Zurbrugg moved to approve the minutes from August 13, 2015, seconded by Mr. Steimel, and the motion carried unanimously.*

4. South Branch Kishwaukee River Watershed Plan Implementation

The Committee reviewed the Prioritized Action Plans in Chapter Five of the Watershed Plan. Each member was asked which of the Action Items were a priority. The Committee decided among the listed priority items to focus implementation efforts on three areas; bridge signage to identify waterways and the watershed district, identifying site specific projects (i.e. snag, stabilization, etc.) by surveys of waterways in the watershed, and the application of best management practices (BMPs) to the construction of new parking lots for the County jail.

Ms. Prain praised the creek signage in Kane County as an example of effective community outreach. Mr. Linke explained that a contest was held and a drawing chosen for the signage. He offered to provide the Committee with additional information regarding the Kane County signage.

Mr. Schwartz agreed to get pricing for signage made at the Highway Department.

The Committee debated how to begin a monitoring of waterways project. Ms. Zurbrugg suggested drones could fly the waterways. Ms. Prain encouraged discussion with property owners if such a project is undertaken.

The Committee briefly discussed the County parking lot project. Ms. Zurbrugg noted that she felt funds could be provided to bridge the difference between a standard design and the BMP design. Mr. Miller was asked by the Committee to follow-up this idea with the County Administration.

5. Criteria for Choosing Next Watershed Plan

The Committee discussed methods for selecting a future watershed to be the subject of a written plan.

Mr. Miller outlined the process by which the Stormwater Management Committee selected the first watershed to be studied. He suggested there was no pressing need for a formal process for selecting the next watershed. Ms. Zurbrugg agreed that the selection process need not be formal, provided there was a rationale for the next location. Ms. Prain expressed concern about a patchwork of plans and noted the importance of consistency in the approach. Mr. Johnson suggested, and Mr. Miller agreed, that the next plan should be for an area contiguous to the Union/Virgil Ditches & East Branch of the Kishwaukee River Plan. These would be the watershed to the north (Genoa) or southwest (DeKalb). The Committee briefly discussed the need to engage stakeholders, and agreed to select the next watershed for study at its next meeting. The recommendation would then be forwarded to the Stormwater Management Planning Committee.

6. **Next Meeting** -- The Steering Committee will next meet on Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 3:00 pm in the Conference Room East.
7. **Adjournment** -- *Mr. Miller motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Gregory, and the motion carried unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

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

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