

BOONE – DUTCH CREEK WATERSHED PLANNING ♦ MEETING #8

Thursday, November 12, 2015 ♦ 1:00 – 3:00 PM

McHenry Township, 3703 N. Richmond Rd. (Rt. 31), Johnsburg, IL

DRAFT Meeting Notes

1.0 Welcome & Attendee Introductions

Holly Hudson, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. Holly introduced Craig Adams, McHenry Township Supervisor, and thanked him and the township for hosting. Craig thanked everyone for coming and gave an overview of McHenry Township. He explained that the township is responsible for maintenance of over 100 miles of roads, hosts 9-10 recycling events each year, and runs a number of senior services including a senior express bus service. The township also offers a number of recreational amenities including playground equipment, picnic shelters, a sledding hill, and baseball, soccer, and football fields at its local park. The township also maintains 4-5 other small parks, a cemetery, and a boat launch on the Fox Chain O'Lakes.

2.0 Agenda Changes

There were no agenda changes.

3.0 October Meeting: brief recap, questions, etc.

Holly briefly recapped the October 15, 2015, Boone-Dutch meeting. Key topics included a discussion of detention basin inventory work conducted by CMAP, an overview of the Boone & Dutch Creek fish inventory work led by Ders Anderson of Openlands, a presentation and discussion of suggested watershed-wide BMPs/scenarios led by Geosyntec, and a summary of LUREC's efforts to restore natural areas on campus grounds.

4.0 Local Watershed Activities, News

Randy Schietzelt said that MCCD was seeking grant assistance to address stormwater runoff coming from the 150 acres site it recently purchased within the Nippersink Creek Watershed. The area is near Woodstock, Illinois near Silver Creek.

Holly mentioned that she came across a site with high streambank erosion while conducting the streambank erosion assessment along the Dutch Creek "west branch" tributary. Brad Woodson noted that this area was recently repaired by an MCCD crew. Holly speculated that the area may still need more robust stabilization, especially since there were several long sections of large diameter corrugated metal pipe lying in the stream within the neighboring landowner's property.

5.0 Draft Plan / Watershed Resource Inventory Update

Holly gave an overview of McCullom Lake shoreline erosion data and existing riparian conditions. Excessive shoreline erosion is not an issue at the lake, though native riparian buffer vegetation is largely lacking. Holly noted that she spoke with a couple homeowners while out on the lake and they were willing to install a five foot native buffer between their property and the lake to benefit lake habitat.

Holly highlighted previous efforts that were undertaken to first study the lake through a federal Clean Lakes Program Phase 1 Diagnostic/Feasibility Study in the early 1990s, and then implement study recommendations through a Clean lakes Program Phase 2 Implementation Program during the mid- to late 1990s. The City of McHenry was the local project sponsor and NIPC staff (including Holly) conducted the Phase 1 Study and oversaw the Phase 2 implementation. Major projects included a rehabilitation of the fishery which had become overabundant with common carp, installation of a wintertime aeration system, management of the invasive aquatic plant Eurasian water milfoil (thanks to the milfoil weevil), acquisition of additional lake bottom, shoreline and near-shore critical watershed areas by the City of McHenry (a ~45 acre parcel immediately north of Peterson Park), a public education program on septic impacts and pet waste management, and conversion of the Lakewood Road subdivision and the Village of McCullom Lake from septic to sanitary sewer. Since that time, common carp and Eurasian water milfoil became abundant again, and management efforts have continued.

6.0 Draft Plan: Watershed Protection Measures

a) Planning & ordinance recommendations

Holly reminded the group that a general planning and ordinance review of all municipal ordinances within the watershed was conducted by Brian Daly of CMAP. Referring to the provided handout, she noted that Brian's review revealed that all plans stressed the importance of preventing sprawl by pursuing landuse patterns that support and preserve open space and community character. It also showed that most plans aim to restrict development on areas with significant resources. However, very few plans included policies to limit impact development on areas without these resources.

Recommendations from the review include aligning local plans and ordinances with best practices using the McHenry County Plan and Stormwater Management Ordinance as frameworks for local plan updates. They also included updating comprehensive plans every 10-12 years, while incorporating water protection elements. These updated plans should also pay attention to the role of transportation and parking policies in the protection of water resources. Lastly, the local plan review recommends that communities within the watershed jointly advocate for revisions to the McHenry County Stormwater Management Ordinance, adopt the McHenry County Water Resource Action Plan, and coordinate efforts to advocate for bike trails and public transportation.

Dennis Dreher commented that McHenry County would be updating the McHenry County 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Updates may incorporate a discussion of greenways, trails, and bike plans to protect greenways that serve as connections between larger areas of open space. Dennis noted that he and Ed Weskerna, District Manager for the McHenry-Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, will be involved in updating McHenry County's comprehensive plan. Holly reminded that communities can apply for planning assistance when updating comprehensive plans and ordinances through CMAP's Local Technical Assistance Program. This recommendation will be included in the watershed plan.

Dennis applauded CMAP's review of local plans and ordinances within the watershed. However, he suggested that the review should also highlight exemplary actions already undertaken from neighboring communities focused on watershed protection.

b) Ecosystem services analysis

Holly gave an overview of an ecosystem services analysis that CMAP's Brian Daly conducted for the Boone-Dutch Creek planning area. Citing the provided handout, she noted that the area's natural assets perform a variety of valuable ecological functions. Forests, wetlands, prairies, and waterbodies remove pollutants from the air and water, protect areas from flooding, supply marketable crops, and provide habitats for wildlife and recreation. These priority areas are captured in the region's Green Infrastructure Vision.

Based on a study to estimate the value of the region's green infrastructure, the Boone-Dutch Creek planning area contributes approximately \$91.5 million per year from groundwater recharge, water purification, carbon storage, and flood control. Results from this study are based on the "core landscapes" of lakes, streams, wetlands, woodlands/forests, and prairies/savannas.

c) BMPs update

Holly reviewed that Geosyntec utilized our list of suggested watershed-wide BMPs and developed implementation scenarios for each, estimating pollutant load reductions and implementation costs by subwatershed study unit. A revised summary table was provided as a handout. Since the October meeting, Geosyntec made some corrections and adjustments to the implementation percentages and cost calculations, and total estimated costs have dropped more than half to about \$170,000,000. Dennis acknowledged that the costs were still quite high but stressed that a municipality should look at the long term costs and benefits of implementing a BMP. Holly suggested that the BMP estimated costs list be broken into costs per unit and requested that Geosyntec submit a revised draft before November 30. Dennis suggested that the plan describe the costs a municipality would spend if conventional methods were used to address issues related to stormwater management, detention basin retrofits, etc. As an example, the plan could include comparison of costs between a conventional pavement and a permeable pavement parking lot. This could then be used as a basis to support installing a recommended BMP.

7.0 Draft Plan: Monitoring Success

a) Implementation schedule

Holly presented a general 10-year implementation schedule for the group's consideration. She asked if the group thought a separate Dutch Creek Watershed Group should be established, or if the Boone Creek Watershed Alliance (BCWA) might consider expanding their boundaries, in order to help implement the watershed plan. Nancy Schietzelt suggested these efforts could be joined with the already existing BCWA. Dennis suggested asking municipalities if they wanted to join the Alliance or if they wanted to form their own group to support plan implementation. The group requested that CMAP stay involved in the watershed implementation planning process. Based on protocols established under CMAP's Local Technical Assistance program, Holly offered that CMAP could be involved

for two years after the Boone-Dutch Creek Watershed Plan is adopted to help with implementation activities.

b) Interim measureable milestones

Holly presented a draft list of interim measureable milestones for the watershed plan. The list included each watershed plan goal, several potential indicators for achieving each goal, and measurable milestones for two, five, or ten years for each indicator. Under the first goal (“Improve and protect ... surface water resources”), Dennis suggested that an indicator be added regarding converted acres of degraded habitat. Under the second goal (“Build on local partnerships...”), Holly noted that the hiring of a dedicated water resource planner by McHenry County was listed, and asked if the group agreed with that, and they did. Under the third goal (Protect groundwater...”), the group noted some communities have adopted the McHenry Co. Water Resources Action Plan and suggested contacting the McHenry Co. Planning and Development Dept. to get that list. Finally, Holly noted that we did not have a separate information and education type goal and offered an example, which the group agreed to include and then suggested some indicators. Holly asked the group to review the handout further and get any comments/suggestions to her within the next week.

c) Criteria for determining progress

Holly distributed a table that listed several suggested criteria for determining progress in load reductions to attain or maintaining water quality standards or criteria and associated 5- and 10-year targets. The group suggested a few target revisions, including at least maintaining current mIBI and QHEI scores as the 5-year target. Dennis suggested that the BSC rating be added for the streams. Ders suggested that the milestone for the number of fish species in greatest need of conservation be at least the number they found in the 2014-15 surveys.

d) Monitoring to evaluate effectiveness

Referring to a handout, Holly overviewed a list of existing and suggested water quality monitoring programs for the Fox River, Boone Creek, Dutch Creek, and McCullom Lake. The group suggested adding a program for the other, smaller tributaries and discussed possible components.

8.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting is planned for Thursday, December 10, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. The location had not been determined yet. Holly asked for offers to host. The draft watershed-based plan will be the main topic.

9.0 Announcements

There were no additional announcements to those already listed on the agenda.

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting ended at approximately 3:05 p.m.

ATTACHMENT

ATTENDEES

Boone-Dutch Creek Watershed Planning Meeting #8

Date: November 12, 2015

Hosted by: McHenry Township

| <u>NAME</u> | | <u>ORGANIZATION</u> |
|-------------|------------------|--|
| Craig | Adams | McHenry Township |
| Ders | Anderson | Openlands |
| Sue | Draffkorn | McHenry County Board |
| Dennis | Dreher | Boone Creek Watershed Alliance |
| Holly | Hudson | Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning |
| Bobbi | Lammers-Campbell | Loyola University - LUREC |
| Nancy | Schietzelt | Environmental Defenders of McHenry Co. |
| Randy | Schietzelt | The Land Conservancy of McHenry Co. |
| Dawn | Thompson | Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning |
| Brad | Woodson | McHenry Co. Conservation District |

-- DRAFT -- prepared by D. Thompson & H. Hudson, CMAP, rev. 12/3/2015