

# BOONE – DUTCH CREEK WATERSHED PLANNING ♦ MEETING #1

Thursday, June 5, 2014 ♦ 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Loyola University Retreat and Ecology Campus, 2710 S. Country Club Rd., Woodstock, IL

## Meeting Notes

### 1.0 Welcome & Attendee Introductions

Tim Loftus, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. Self-introductions by each attendee followed (attendee list attached). Tim thanked Fr. Stephen Mitten and Dr. Bobbi Lammers for hosting us today at the Loyola University Retreat and Ecology Campus (LUREC) and introduced them both. Dr. Lammers noted that as of July 1, she will become Director of Academic Programs in addition to Director of Restoration at LUREC. She presented an overview of the campus' land cover changes over time, highlighting the fen and oak-hickory woodland restoration work they would like to accomplish. She would also like to see the university purchase some adjacent property in order to expand the fen and buffer restoration area. [Note: a PDF copy of Dr. Lammers' slides will be posted on the project webpage on the FREP website.] Fr. Mitten, Director of Biodiversity and Research, noted he has a great interest in birds as indicators of habitat health. He has three interns who are working with Dr. Lammers' three interns to conduct invasive species clearing and restoration work on the site following U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biodiversity protocols. Dr. Lammers also noted there are several piezometers around the site. Throughout their presentations, good exchange of questions, answers, and discussion took place among the attendees.

### 2.0 Agenda Changes

Tim noted there will indeed be a post-meeting tour of LUREC's wetland and oak-hickory restoration sites led by Dr. Lammers. Also, under agenda item #5, we won't be drilling down to objectives today, keeping our focus on a problem statement and initial goals.

### 3.0 Project Purpose, Timeline, and Key Dates

Tim stated this planning process is under a two year agreement with Illinois EPA, from January 2014 through December 2015. We've been doing some background work to date and are now beginning the public participation phase. Tim overviewed CMAP, its regional plans *Go To 2040* and *Water 2050*, and noted the complementary regional planning processes of the Northwest Water Planning Alliance and its 2014-2016 strategic plan. Regarding the project timeline, the first major commitment is the draft watershed resource inventory, due to Illinois EPA on Sept. 1, 2014. We will be busy over the summer compiling a variety of available data and information, along with conducting field work to assess detention basins for their potential to be retrofit for water quality benefits. We learned from our last watershed planning process that the process of potential best management practice (BMP) identification needs to start early, and thus May 31, 2015, will be the cutoff date for submitting BMP recommendations. A draft plan and executive summary are due to Illinois EPA on Sept. 1, 2015, with the final plan and summary due on November 1, 2015. We've planned two more

meetings this year, on September 25 and December 4. In 2015, we expect to have meetings on a bi-monthly basis.

Tim noted that since 2003, watershed plans must meet nine minimum elements as outlined by U.S. EPA in order to be eligible for Clean Water Act, Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program grant funding. Q&A and discussion followed covering CMAP's role in Areawide Water Quality Planning; detention basins, roadside ditches, and identification of other BMP opportunities; inclusion of groundwater protections; and collecting additional data such as water quality and species inventories.

Tim referred to the handout with a map and a slide of the ~46 square mile planning area and pointed out the 7 delineated "study units": northeast direct drainage, Dutch Creek, McCullom Lake, central direct drainage, southeast direct drainage, upper Boone Creek, and lower Boone Creek. Discussion followed with suggestions to further subdivide the Dutch Creek and upper Boone Creek Watersheds. For Dutch Creek, it was suggested to delineate the drainage area for the northeastern tributary since it drained a more rural area with more conservation land than the western tributary area. In upper Boone Creek, it was suggested that the Powers Creek watershed be delineated since it is less biologically diverse and exhibits poorer water quality conditions than the upper main stem.

#### **4.0 Boone Creek Watershed Alliance**

Dennis Dreher presented an overview of the Boone Creek Watershed, the Boone Creek Watershed Alliance (BCWA) and its accomplishments, and the *Watershed Protection and Restoration Strategy for Boone Creek* (Watershed Restoration Action Strategy or WRAS). [Note: A PDF copy of Dennis' presentation will be posted on the project webpage on the FREP website. Please refer to this for an overview of his presentation. Dennis is a Boone Creek Watershed resident, member of the BCWA, and one of the authors of the WRAS when he was a water resources engineer with the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission.] Dennis added that July 2014 will mark the 15 year anniversary of the BCWA. He also noted that the WRAS, completed in 2003, is less quantitative than what the current watershed planning effort will produce.

Good discussion occurred during and after Dennis' presentation, touching on increasing chloride concentrations in groundwater and incorporating anti-degradation recommendations in the plan to protect groundwater quality and quantity and aquatic species.

#### **5.0 Problem Statement and Goals**

Holly Hudson started by providing context to the problem statement and goals discussion in that a watershed-based plan's focus is on nonpoint source pollution. [Note: A PDF of Holly's presentation will be posted on the project webpage on the FREP website.] She offered some problem statement definitions and presented a draft Boone-Dutch Creek Watershed (BDCW) problem statement. Questions and discussion followed and edits were suggested, resulting in the following, revised draft statement (revisions in red type):

Surface water bodies (i.e., lakes and streams) must meet water quality standards sufficient to achieve designated uses. Boone Creek and McCullom Lake within the watershed planning area fail to meet all of their designated uses due to known **and unknown** causes that are often related to land use. Best management practices, including new or improved policy initiatives, must be identified and implemented by landowners and managers as resources allow to improve water quality and to restore designated use attainment. A plan must be completed by December 31, 2015, that **outlines protective actions** to solve the problem and guide remedial activities during the following 5-10 years.

Holly then provided a definition/description of a goal and offered several draft BDCW goals:

- Improve ecological integrity to attain designated uses of aquatic life support and aesthetic quality. (Citing Karr and Dudley, Holly noted that the term “ecological integrity” was used since it encompasses the need for chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the water resource. She further noted that four major variables – flow regime, energy source, water quality, habitat structure – which when modified by human activities, play primary roles in determining the ecological integrity of running water ecosystems.)
- Build local partnerships and expertise to protect our streams and lakes via plan implementation.
- Protect the quality and quantity of groundwater.
- Others...?

Discussion, questions, and suggestions followed. Topics included building on the Boone Creek WRAS goals and recommendations; understanding why Boone Creek does not meet IEPA’s aquatic life designated use; focusing not only on streams and lakes but on wetlands, prairies, and woodlands as well; focusing on headwaters protection; using new technologies to raise awareness; and much discussion on how to engage local municipal and township governments in this planning process.

## **6.0 Resource Inventory**

### **6.1 Water Quality and Impervious Surface**

This agenda item was postponed until the next meeting.

## **7.0 Next Meetings**

Tim announced the next two meetings are scheduled for September 25 and December 4, 2014. Locations are to be determined. Please let us know suggestions for meeting locations or if you are willing to host.

[Post meeting note: The September 25 meeting will be held at the Village of McCullom Lake – Village Hall, 4811 W. Orchard Dr., McCullom Lake, IL. The December 4 meeting will be held at the City of McHenry Municipal Center - City Council Chambers, 333 S. Green St., McHenry, IL.]

## **8.0 Announcements**

Tim and Holly noted FREP's bi-monthly meetings and the Beyond the Basics seminar and workshop to be held in September. No additional announcements were made by the attendees.

## **9.0 Adjournment**

The meeting ended a little after 4:00 p.m.

## **Post-meeting tour of LUREC's wetland and oak-hickory restoration sites**

Dr. Lammers led a tour through the campus' wetland and oak-history restoration areas.

## ATTACHMENT

### **ATTENDEES**

Boone-Dutch Creek Watershed Planning Meeting #1

*Date:* June 5, 2015

*Hosted by:* Loyola University Retreat and Ecology Campus, Woodstock, IL

<u>NAME</u>		<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Ders	Anderson	Openlands
Joe	Araiza	Urban GIS, Inc.
Linda	Balek	The Land Conservancy of McHenry Co.
Sue	Draffkorn	McHenry Co. Board
Dennis	Dreher	Boone Creek Watershed Alliance
Carol	Ellinghausen	Boone Creek Watershed Alliance
Ed	Ellinghausen	Boone Creek Watershed Alliance; Vlg of Bull Valley Board
Cory	Horton	McHenry Co. Water Resources Division
Holly	Hudson	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Bobbi	Lammers	Loyola University
Tim	Loftus	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Stephen	Mitten	Loyola University
Jeff	Murray	McHenry Co. Conservation District
Adam	Rex	McHenry Co. Conservation District
Lisa	Rhoades	Boone Creek Watershed Alliance
Nancy	Schietzelt	Environmental Defenders of McHenry Co.
Randy	Schietzelt	The Land Conservancy of McHenry Co.
Cindy	Skrukud	Sierra Club
Dawn	Thompson	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Brad	Woodson	McHenry Co. Conservation District

*-- prepared by H. Hudson, CMAP, rev. 07/16/2014*