

Blackberry Creek Watershed Coalition

Tuesday, October 30, 2012
2:00 – 4:00 PM

Blackberry Township Office
43W390 Main Street Rd.
Elburn, IL 60119



MEETING NOTES

1) Welcome & Introductions

Ken Anderson	- Kane County
Megan Andrews	- Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District
Matt Bardol	- Geosyntec & Fox River Study Group
Karen Clementi	- Deuchler Environmental
Ellen Hogate	- The Conservation Foundation
Holly Hudson	- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Jay Labelle	- Citizen
Dan Lobbes	- The Conservation Foundation
Karen Ann Miller	- Kane County
Tara Neff	- The Conservation Foundation
Warren Rogers	- Resident Landowner
Sue Sarkauskas	- Daily Herald
Angela Zubko	- Kendall County

Thank you, Blackberry Creek Township, for allowing us the use of your facility. Introductions followed. Welcome to two new landowner participants, Warren and Jay.

2) Staff & Organizational changes at CMAP & TCF

Dan Lobbes, TCF, stated that the organization is in the process of restructuring the staffing pattern. Staff will now be organized by geography, instead of specialty. Each core county in our service area, Kane, Kendall, Will and DuPage will have a county director. The director will serve as the integrated point person for TCF. Dan will begin his role as the Kane County Director in July. John Church transitioned to the Kendall County Director following the open space project he completed earlier this fall. This new structure will offer TCF the opportunity to help with project implementation. TCF is pursuing funds to help secure staff and offices.

Holly Hudson, CMAP, stated that former Blackberry Creek coordinator, Hala Ahmed, is moving to Abu Dhabi.

3) BBC Watershed Action Plan – Resolutions of Support

Holly gave a presentation outlining the Blackberry Creek Watershed Plan planning process and geography. Blackberry Creek is impaired for the designate used “secondary contact” due to the presence of fecal coliform bacteria; the source unknown.

4) Watershed Activities, Ideas, & News

a) Community Updates: planning, policy, grant apps, on-the-ground projects...

- i) 319 grant applications (were due Aug. 1 @ IEPA)
- ii) Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant Program for Stormwater Management (IGIG)
(applications due Dec. 14 @ IEPA)
<http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/financial-assistance/igig.html>

The City of Aurora received a \$1.45M IGIG grant in the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) category to construct rain gardens at 28 intersections throughout Aurora's Combined Sewer System; two of the intersections will also have porous pavement installed. This project is a partnership between the City of Aurora, Fox Metro Water Reclamation District, and the Valley of the Fox Group of the Sierra Club. Public education and outreach efforts are currently underway and construction is scheduled to begin in April/May of 2013 and be completed in May/June of 2014. Eric Schoeny was not able to attend the meeting but supplied the City of Aurora's narrative proposal; the project concept plans, including a map of the project area and plant lists; and a project summary.

- iii) Kane County Riverboat Fund Program (applications due Dec. 15 @ Kane County)
<http://www.countyofkane.org/Pages/kcci/rfp.aspx>
Karen Miller, Kane County, provided handouts for the program. This is a reimbursement program – with a \$100K ceiling for capital purposes. Applications must fit education/environment or economic development and be completed in one (1) year, or construction projects within two (2) years. Kane County will have new administration so there may be a reduction in program funding.
- iv) CMAP's Local Technical Assistance and Community Planning Programs
Review comprehensive and stormwater plans for water quality protection in line with CMAP's 2040 plan.
Holly stated that within the watershed, North Aurora received LTA for a transportation study; Oswego will conduct a village-wide market analysis for what will be most useful to community; Yorkville was not awarded LTA for their zoning request, however, depending upon CMAP resources, it may be possible to conduct this review in the second part of the program year. Previously awarded LTA to Elburn for an updated land use plan will be completed by March.
- v) IKE Disaster Relief Funds
Big Rock received funds but we do not believe the Village of Montgomery received funds.
- vi) Programs/grant funds offered through county SWCDs
Megan Andrews stated that there is typically one Soil & Water Conservation District in every county in Illinois. Many are co-located at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) service center with a Farm Service Agency (FSA) or Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) previously Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Soil Water Conservation Districts offer are independent local governments and the bulk of operating budget is funded by the State of Illinois. USDA - NRCS offers federal cost share funds geared toward agricultural best management practice (BMP) implementation (nutrients, livestock grazing, confinement management, row crop), wetlands, wildlife and the program expired before it could be renewed through congress. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQUIP) are both still operating and their application deadlines are coming up. They offer other cost share programs:
 - Partners for Conservation (PFC) (formerly Conservation 2000)
 - Streambank Stabilization and Restoration Program (SSRP)

While the SWCDs are feeling a pinch in both operating and program funding from the State, there are still funds for some projects in both Kane & Kendall Counties. Contact Megan in Kendall County or Candice Jacobs in Kane County.

- vii) Others? – NONE
Additional notes from a telephone conversation with Jerad Chipman, Village of Montgomery:
Route 30 IDOT Phase I study for potential expansion from Rt 31 to Rt. 47. They have a community advisory group; the next meeting date is to be determined.
Kendall County FEMA remapped the floodplain which is out for comment
Stuart Sports Complex expansion is coming along – grading and planting trees/grass

Kane County expansion on Orchard Road added detention along the corridor just north of Rt. 30 in affected area.

b) Education and Outreach Opportunities

i) Conservation@Home

Dan Lobbes discussed an application to implement an education and outreach program recommended in the Blackberry Creek Watershed Plan. The program will help change how people think about or manage rainwater on residential and commercial properties. The program would include community presentations on stormwater management to municipalities and/or groups of HOAs. Site visits would help provide landowners with suggestions for best management practices they can implement and recognition for those that incorporate these suggestions.

It would capitalize on exhibit opportunities at fairs and promote an online ordering rain barrel program through the municipality. TCF is looking for municipal partners. There would be no cost for municipalities to participate as other things will be used as match. Five (5) municipal partners would be a good number for one year. If you are interested, please contact Dan at 630.428.4500 X25.

Karen Miller stated that the Fox River Ecosystem Partnership (FREP) used Riverboat funding to produce an educational piece on rain gardens.

Matt Bardol stated that the City of Batavia would benefit from being connected to other municipalities that have been successful in maintaining a native planting ordinance instead of reverting to manicured areas.

Jay Labelle stated that Pizzo contractors are doing the right thing at their HOA.

ii) The Morton Arboretum - presentation offered on emerald ash borer (EAB)

Andrea Dierich, Illinois Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator, at The Morton Arboretum is available to deliver a presentation on the emerald ash borer. The presentation typically takes 1.5-2 hours and helps landowners explore options for managing their EAB situation. She can be reached at adierich@mortonarb.org.

The Village of Montgomery, Oswego and Yorkville received an EAB grant to remove trees.

iii) USEPA's Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program (*Holly*)

(applications due Oct. 26) <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/buildingblocks.htm>

This is a one-day workshop.

Karen Miller - There are several groups that provide technical assistance, but only some from the list are available in this area.

iv) Others?

FREP's website and newsletters provide information on various grants and technical assistance activities.

5) Watershed Monitoring Activities

a) IEPA & IDNR Fox River Basin survey, BBC fish survey (*Bob Rung, IDNR*)

Bob Rung was not able to attend the meeting.

b) Fox River Study Group: modeling and monitoring update (*Matt Bardol, FREP*)

Matt Bardol, FREP, provided an overview of the Fox River Study Group (FRSG), their data collection and modeling plans. He reviewed their progress to date and a list of what they want to address. Low flow data was gathered this year. The FRSG is working with IEPA to determine which modeled scenarios will be incorporated (i.e. "what if" scenarios regarding Dam removal).

The FRSG will compare the results of different management strategies (i.e. integrated planning approach to include green infrastructure and phosphorus limits). Matt stated that IEPA uses the FRSG as a model to promote data collection. While their efforts have focused on the Fox River's mainstem for nutrients (algae and phosphorus), the newer subwatershed groups are an additional resource to consider for monitoring efforts.

The modeling being done is not at a subwatershed level, and this is where subwatershed data collection efforts would be helpful. For example, if there was a grant for rain gardens, where in the watershed would they be most effective? Modeling components can be used by point source discharges: HSPF – storm driven and Qual2K – low flow.

Stormwater Regulations – Illinois has not yet invested in data driven decisions.

c) Establishing a BBC monitoring program (*Holly*)

Holly stated that plans for establishing a monitoring program in the Blackberry Creek Watershed should include the formation of a subcommittee. The Yorkville-Bristol Sanitary District, Andy Kaczmarek with the Village of Montgomery, and Illinois Water Sentinels, like Fred Houdek with the Sierra Club may be approached. Stakeholders expressed the following concerns:

Karen Clementi – what is the timeline – every other month for a year? Fecal coliform is everywhere. Matt Bardol – if we had the data, what process would we go through, what tools, what data do we need? Who is going to analyze the data? There are a number of questions that need to be considered and probably won't be until after the first of the year.

6) **Group Organization**

a) Formal/Informal, Meetings, Communication...

i) Leads, hosts

There was no discussion about the next meeting date, location or future leadership.

ii) Electronic communication options

TCF will investigate i-neighborhoods and review feedback from the Ferson-Otter Creek Watershed Coalition's use of Big Tent for keeping in touch between meetings.

iii) Utilizing Fox River Ecosystem Partnership and/or Fox River Study Group (FRSG)

To maintain contact with others, stakeholders may want to become members of the FREP or FRSG. Becky Hoag, FREP Communications Manager, is a good point person

7) **Announcements**

The Conservation Foundation is celebrating their 40th Anniversary this year. An appreciation dinner to recognize partners over the past 40-years is scheduled for Thursday, November 8. For registration information, please see their website.

The Conservation Foundation and the Stormwater Management Division of DuPage County are hosting a free technical workshop on Gross Solids on Wednesday, November 7th at DePaul University's Naperville Campus. Flyers were made available at the meeting.

8) **Meeting Adjournment**