

**Blackberry Creek
Watershed Action Planning – 12th Meeting**

Tuesday, August 16, 2011, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Hosted by:

Sugar Grove Township, 54 Snow St., Sugar Grove, IL 60554

Meeting Notes

Attendees

Tara Neff	- The Conservation Foundation (TCF)
Holly Hudson	- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Megan Elberts	- CMAP
Steve Andras	- City of Aurora
Megan Andrews	- Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District (KC SWCD)
Jerad Chipman	- Village of Montgomery
Kara DeGraff	- Integrated Lakes Management (ILM)
Jerry Elliott	- Sugar Grove Water Authority
Greg Huggins	- Sugar Grove Township Road District
Dan Lobbes	- TCF
Karen Miller	- Kane County Development Dept.
Kelsey Musich	- Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District (KD SWCD)
Dan Nagel	- Sugar Grove Township
Mary Ochsenschlager	- KD SWCD
Tim Paulson	- Engineering Enterprises, Inc.
Martha Price	- Cannonball Trail Civic League
Mary Roe	- Prestbury Citizens Association
Ray Roe	- Prestbury Citizens Association
Dale Willerth	- Waubensee Community College
Lori Wolf	- TCF and BBC Watershed homeowner
Richard Young	- Village of Sugar Grove
Angela Zubko	- Kendall County Dept. of Planning, Building & Zoning

1. Welcome & Introductions

Tara Neff welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Sugar Grove Township for hosting the meeting. Introductions by participants followed.

2. Review of July meeting

Tara provided an overview of the July meeting: Holly Hudson presented four maps of the Blackberry Creek Watershed containing information that can be applied to framing the green infrastructure network vision via planning, policy, and best management practice (BMP) project recommendations. Holly provided information outlining potential sources of funding and technical assistance for watershed planning recommendations. Megan Andrews, with input from Candice Jacobs, provided information and handouts pertaining to Soil & Water Conservation District and NRCS programs and services. Tim Paulson and Jerad Chipman

presented information on the conservation design principles the Village of Montgomery incorporated in designing and building their new Village Hall.

3. Local Spotlight: NPS Pollution Control Projects in Sugar Grove Township

Kara DeGraff, ILM, with input from Greg Huggins, Sugar Grove Township Highway Commissioner, presented information on a bioswale installation “test/demonstration” project along Hankes Road. The bioswale was installed to reduce maintenance costs and better manage stormwater runoff by slowing flows, reducing sediment and nutrient loadings, and allowing stormwater to infiltrate, recharging the groundwater system. The project area is approximately 540’ X 15’ and construction began in early May 2011. Turf herbicide was applied and the Township provided rock to help slow the flow of water. Seeding and matting followed, and at the end of May, approximately 1300 native plant plugs were installed. Hearty plants with a lower profile (under 4’ tall) were installed approximately 1.5 – 2’ apart. ILM is contracted to maintain the area through next year, and the Township plans to train staff for maintenance thereafter. It will take at least 3 years for the bioswale vegetation to become fully developed, depending on the plugs and water levels. The seed bank will provide ongoing material, and the biomass is growing from seeds now.

Holly Hudson, CMAP, presented information on two other projects within Sugar Grove Township that received Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program grant funding through Illinois EPA and for which CMAP provided administration and technical assistance: the Lake Run Habitat Restoration Project in the Aurora West Forest Preserve and the Prestbury Lake Shoreline Stabilization Project. The Lake Run project was implemented by Kane Co. Environmental Management and the Forest Preserve District. Project elements included reconnecting the stream to the floodplain, stabilizing streambanks, providing in-stream habitat, and restoring wetlands. The Prestbury Lake Shoreline Stabilization Project was implemented by the Prestbury Citizens Association (PCA). The project reconfigured and stabilized the western and southern shoreline through regrading, creation of a wetland planting shelf, and establishment of native wetland and prairie vegetation. PCA also conducted a wetland enhancement project (not part of the 319 grant) at the same time immediately downstream of the lake.

Copies of these two presentations as well as the bioswale project’s plant list can be found on FREP’s website: <http://foxriverecosystem.org/blackberry.htm>.

4. Draft Plan Recommendations Chapter – overview and discussion

Holly reviewed the goals for the BBC Watershed Action Plan as developed by the community members at the beginning of the planning process, went over the Green Infrastructure Framework that was formulated for framing watershed wide recommendations, and noted the various local policy and planning documents and codes that have been and are continuing to be reviewed for opportunities to protect our water resources. Holly then overviewed the various strategies under which best management practices (BMPs) to reduce nonpoint source pollution will likely be grouped: stream channel, riparian corridor, and shoreline protection & rehabilitation; education & outreach; agricultural/rural BMPs; urban BMPs; and strategies to protect groundwater resources.

Holly stressed an important consideration in protecting water quality, helping to maintain groundwater supplies, and reducing flooding is to allow and provide for rainwater infiltration wherever and whenever feasible in both new development and redevelopment. She also noted that education and outreach recommendations will address community concerns that were voiced by stakeholders in the beginning of our planning process.

In the BBC Watershed Action Plan, potential projects will be generally divided into “short term” (implementation could begin in 1-5 years) and “long term” (implementation might begin in 5-10 years) categories. All the proposed projects will be listed in a table and include the project lead (landowner), potential partners, general cost estimate, and pollutant load reduction estimate. A brief paragraph describing the short term projects also will be given, and their locations will be identified on a map. It is intended that the BBC Watershed Action Plan can be used as a source of information and support for applying for various grant and foundation funds, not just 319 grants.

Regarding estimating project costs, the Soil & Water Conservation District noted that they have an average cost sheet that they use and would share that with Holly. Holly reminded that group that for 319 grants, the Illinois EPA can provide up to 60% of the total project costs while the local sponsors must provide at least 40% of the total project costs – but that the local match doesn’t have to be all in cash but can be in in-kind services (e.g., staff labor, volunteer labor, machine time, donated materials).

Holly is currently scheduling meetings with watershed municipalities, counties, townships, park districts, homeowner associations, and any other group as requested. Please give her a call if she has not contacted you already to set up a meeting by the end of September. She will provide a summary of the proposed projects at our next meeting in October.

A copy of Holly’s slide presentation can be found on FREP’s website:
<http://foxriverecosystem.org/blackberry.htm> .

5. Blackberry Creek Critical Areas Assessment

Megan Elberts, CMAP, presented several Blackberry Creek Watershed maps to illustrate various assessments to potentially help focus water quality protection, education/outreach, and/or monitoring activities. The assessment and mapping exercise utilized impervious land cover, population density (which may correlate to pet populations due to where there are more people there tend to be more pets, and with goose populations due to the presence of detention ponds), septic systems, and livestock and equestrian land use for consideration in targeting fecal coliform areas at a subwatershed level. Stakeholders noted that information on biosolids was not considered and that the septic information used in the analysis does not appear to reflect current development trends. Megan will investigate both and would welcome any information stakeholders provide.

Megan also presented a map for considering critical areas to mitigate based on results from L-THIA (Long-Term Hydrologic Impact Assessment) modeling results. The subwatersheds (numbered 1 through 28) are prioritized relative to each other. Megan noted that the model considered total phosphorus, total nitrogen, and total suspended solids loadings, and that the model is not specifically calibrated to our watershed. The L-THIA model uses soil type and land use and their associated event mean concentrations to arrive at the loading estimates. Stakeholders noted that the high priority critical-to-mitigate subwatersheds appear to be mostly agricultural land.

Also presented was a map of the subwatersheds showing anticipated future impervious land cover based on municipal and county comprehensive land use plans. This map’s results do not take into consideration existing efforts to reduce runoff: it assumes none are taken. The map shows estimated impervious land cover as it relates to the health of streams. From current conditions to the estimated results, Blackberry Creek Watershed would move from no

subwatersheds with 26-47% impervious land cover (a level considered non-supporting of stream health) to ten such subwatersheds. Holly noted that this exercise demonstrates that we can't continue to do "business as usual" as the watershed develops if we wish to even maintain the level of water quality we have now.

A copy of Megan's presentation is available at <http://foxriverecosystem.org/blackberry.htm> .

6. Education and Outreach Examples & Opportunities – draft chapter overview, group discussion & input

View this presentation at: <http://foxriverecosystem.org/blackberry.htm> .

Tara received feedback from stakeholders on the draft education and outreach chapter. The last section of the chapter, "Education and Outreach Activities Going Forward," will be changed to be more inclusive of current programs and services. Additional comments from local environmental educators will be sent to Tara. A "Resource Resource" (RR) will be developed, which will include comprehensive information for specific targeted audiences (the messages, methods, and potential resources). The RR may be fashioned after the SWCD/NRCS grant programs table, and can be used as a stand-alone tool. Stakeholders provided a list of additional potential partners (omitted from the presentation) and stated that a short 20-minute presentation that explains what a watershed is, how we affect it, why we should care, and what we can do about it would be an effective tool. NRCS has a web soil survey that has a national resource inventory. We can post the RR online for MS4 Communities.

Many stakeholders expressed that continuing our efforts after the watershed plan is finalized would be beneficial. It would take money and staff to help move efforts forward. There are different models for how coalitions/networks have formed resulting from a watershed planning process. Karen Miller spoke briefly about the Tyler Creek Watershed Planning group. While we will not convene a watershed planning meeting in September, examples of different models will be sent for stakeholders to review for discussion at our October meeting.

7. Announcements, Next Meeting

- a) Project Timeline update: Holly overviewed the remaining timeline.
- b) Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 18, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., at the Aurora Public Library - West Branch (233 S. Constitution Dr., Aurora, Illinois 60506)
Topics: Plan Recommendations update, Education & Outreach update, Monitoring and Assessment chapter overview.
- c) FREP Noon Network: Talk and tour of Oakwood Hills Fen Nature Preserve (Sleepy Hollow Creek Watershed, McHenry Co.), Wednesday., August 17, 12:00 p.m.;
<http://foxriverecosystem.org/pdfs/eventsinfo/oakwoodhillсноoner8-17-11.pdf>
- d) Tour of Sterne's Fen and Wingate Prairie (Silver Creek Watershed, McHenry Co.): Sunday, August 28, 12:30p.m.; visit http://mcdef.org/Calendar_events.htm for more information.
- e) Other Announcements: Dan Lobbes noted that TCF's Beyond the Basics: BMP Technical Workshop is September 29 at Bobak's Signature Events in Woodridge.

8. Meeting Adjournment