

Ferson-Otter Creek Watershed Planning Meeting
Thursday, December 16, 2010; 10:00 a.m.
Campton Township Community Center

1. Attendance/Introductions

Tim Loftus	-CMAP
Amy Talbot	-CMAP
Erin Tuttle	-TCF
Bill Cox	-Wildrose Subdivision
Doug Dirks	-Windings of Ferson Creek
Sean Glowacz	-Kane County
Jayne Holley	-Lake Campton Property Owners' Association
Dan Lobbes	-TCF
Julie Long	-Wildrose Subdivision
Marc McLaughlin	-Village of South Elgin
Jeannine Norlander	-Landowner
Steve Pescitelli	-ILDNR
Jim Reuter	-Village of South Elgin
Paul Schuch	-Kane County
Bernie Schroeder	-Resident
Jack Shouba	-Campton Township
Peter Vargulich	-Landowner
Brian Herrmann	-City of St. Charles

- 2. Groundwater Protection: Should you care?**—Tim Loftus introduced this topic, noting that there are two important questions we must consider as we address the issue of groundwater. We must ask questions concerning quality (Is it safe to drink?) and quantity (is the supply being used sustainably?).

Concerning groundwater quality, Tim noted that the EPA has recorded an increase in Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) sites, as well as Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), pathogens, and chlorides. Recommendations in our watershed plan could include urging municipalities to implement a wellhead protection program (WHPP). Under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1986, WHPP's are voluntary on the local level, but are a valuable supplement to existing state groundwater protection programs. A WHPP, once implemented, reduces the susceptibility of wells to contaminants.

Tim also pointed stakeholders to CMAP's *Water 2050: Northeast Illinois Water Supply/Demand Plan* for recommendations on sensible salting, private water softeners (demand-based rather than timed), and principles of conservation design (minimization of impervious surfaces and promotion of rainwater infiltration).

Concerning groundwater quantity, Tim noted that most municipalities in the Ferson-Otter Creek watershed are reliant on deep aquifers. He once again pointed to CMAP's *Water 2050*, which provides 240 recommendations for keeping our water supply demands in check. At our current rate of usage, we will see an increase of 38 percent in the demand for water over the next 40 years. *Water 2050's* 240 recommendations aim to keep our water supply need to a 7 percent increase.

CMAP also developed an updated *Model Water Use Conservation Ordinance*, to provide assistance to communities that wish to promote water conservation initiatives, which may be of help in this watershed planning process and is a potential recommendation for the watershed plan itself.

A link to both documents can be found at <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/regional-water-supply-planning>.

3. **Shallow Groundwater Aquifers in Kane County** – Paul Schuch, Water Resource Director for Kane County offered a presentation on the County's work with the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) and Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) to determine the status of current and future groundwater resources.

The population in Kane County is projected to surge 70 percent from 2000 to the year 2030, undoubtedly boosting water demand. In order to ensure continued availability of a clean water supply, Kane County Development Department commissioned the study, and ISWS researchers developed regional- and local-scale groundwater flow models to determine the effects of current and future groundwater usage and stressors.

Using computer models and other data and analyses, ISWS researchers predict that groundwater withdrawals will increase significantly in the years between 2003 and 2050. These increased withdrawals will cause water levels to decline, and "drawdown" (declines in water levels in wells) may lead to supply interruptions and increases in concentrations of radium, barium, arsenic, and salinity. In deep wells, drawdown, or declines in water elevation, will be greatest in the Aurora area. In shallow wells, ISWS researchers identified two large areas of significant drawdown in the Kane County area. The largest included parts of northeastern Kane County and southeastern McHenry County and resulted from pumping from various villages and cities, including Crystal Lake and Algonquin. The second area identified is in response to pumping by the City of West Chicago. A third area will likely develop around public-supply wells operated at Batavia and Geneva.

Withdrawals from aquifers (via wells) have also caused the base flow of creeks to drop by 17 percent in 2003 since the 19th century, which adversely affects the local ecology. The model

predicts that continued development will further this trend and groundwater discharge to Mill Creek (upstream of Batavia) may end completely by 2050.

Paul stressed the fact that surface watershed boundaries (as well as municipal boundaries) do not coincide with groundwater recharge areas. As a watershed stakeholder committee, our concerns about groundwater will transcend our watershed.

More details on this study can be found at

<http://www.isws.illinois.edu/docs/pubs/ISWSCR2009-07>. Paul recommended that the Committee invite a representative from the ISWS attend a future meeting and further interpret the study's findings.

4. **Model Water Use Conservation Ordinance** – Amy Talbot introduced this project, which was developed by CMAP to provide assistance to communities that wish to promote water conservation initiatives. The Model Water Use Conservation Ordinance addresses indoor and outdoor water use in both the residential and commercial/industrial/Institutional sectors. By adopting all or some of the requirements of the proposed ordinance, communities may achieve significant water use reductions while deferring the need for water infrastructure expansion.

Amy asked stakeholders to consider utilizing this tool, as it addresses many of the groundwater quality and quantity issues, as well as some of our watershed concerns. The MWCO is aimed at municipalities, is flexible, and locally appropriate.

5. **Discussion:**

- a. How do we get the word out about groundwater protection to general public and elected officials? Tim Loftus urged stakeholders to utilize the *Northwest Water Planning Alliance* and connect officials with them. The Alliance includes the northeastern Illinois counties of Lake, McHenry, Kane, DeKalb, and Kendall, along with the Lake County Municipal League, Barrington Area Council of Governments and three other councils of government. They are collaborating to implement strategies from the [Water 2050: Northeastern Illinois Water Supply/Demand Plan](#) with a focus on ground and surface water. The Alliance's main goal is to ensure the availability of clean water for household and commercial use through the year 2050.
 - b. Would there be a benefit to determining where the private wells are? The folks on private wells don't pay for water and may use more of it. Knowing this information may help us tweak our message.
 - c. Stakeholders expressed interest in focusing on ground water protection in particular...just because of the area. Especially water softeners.
6. **Meeting Adjournment** – The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 25, 2011, at the St. Charles City Hall, Council Chamber Room (2 E. Main St, St. Charles)