

Ferson-Otter Creek Watershed Planning Meeting
Tuesday, February 22, 2011; 2:00 p.m.
South Elgin Village Hall

1. Attendance/Introductions

Amy Talbot	-CMAP
Erin Tuttle	-TCF
Kristin Bilar	-Campton Township
Alice Cairo	-Landowner
Bill and Nancy Cox	-St. Charles Park District/TCF
Rolf Fredrick	-Village of Campton Hills
Sean Glowacz	-Kane County
Jayne Holley	-Lake Campton Property Owners' Association
Rob Linke	-FREP/FRSG/Deer Run Creek Unit II HOA
Dan Lobbes	-The Conservation Foundation
Julie Long	-Wildrose Subdivision/TCF
Brook McDonald	-The Conservation Foundation
Marc McLaughlin	-Village of South Elgin
Erin Pande	-Engineering Resource Associates, Inc/Lily Lake
Ron Rudd	-City of Elgin
Jack Shouba	-Campton Township
Maggie Soliz	-Pizzo & Associates
Mary Zaander	-Witness Tree Native Landscapes, Inc

- 2. Continuation of Open Space Discussion**—Brook McDonald, President/CEO of The Conservation Foundation, told stakeholders about the Forest Preserve District of Kane County's April 5, 2011 Open Space Referendum. The FPD is seeking \$30 million of voter-approved funds. This money will protect an additional 2,000 acres of land and will put the district's land holdings over the 20,000-acre mark. The cost per average homeowner is about \$1 per month and the district will focus on lands that expand existing preserves, link open space lands together, and protect rivers and watersheds. Some of the fund will be used to provide access to existing preserves, expand trails and create outdoor recreational facilities. For more information or if you are interested in helping pass this important referendum, please contact Brook McDonald at The Conservation Foundation at (630) 428-4500, ext. 12 or bmcdonald@theconservationfoundation.org.

Brook then told stakeholders about a new project in the works by The Conservation Foundation and the Fox River Ecosystem Partnership. Funded by a grant from the Donnelly Foundation, this project will aim to develop and distribute 25,000 copies of a coffee-table style "magazine" promoting the ways Fox River communities can support and care for their watershed. The publication will direct people to a detailed website, which will offer instruction on BMP's like rain barrels and rain gardens. The magazines will be made available in town/village halls, libraries, FPD's, and Park District facilities along the Fox River in McHenry, Kane, and Kendall Counties. Targeted mailings will point people to these locations.

Erin Tuttle recapped last month's stakeholder meeting and offered some thoughts on the term, "open space." As determined by January's stakeholder discussion, the term holds different meanings for different people. Instead, we may want to use the term, "green infrastructure," pointing to a system of interconnected lands which reside in a predominantly natural state. Green infrastructure provides certain functions: it offers habitat for wildlife; reduces flooding; filters pollutants; lessens stream bank erosion; and cools stormwater as it enters a waterway, making it able to hold more oxygen. As we have expanded "human infrastructure," we have done so often at the expense of nature's green infrastructure, covering much of our land with impervious surfaces. Data show that increases in storm water runoff, erosion, sedimentation, stream channelization, and degradation of stream habitat and biodiversity accompany areas with greater imperviousness. For the health of the Ferson-Otter Creek watershed, it will be important to incorporate into our plan, recommendations for green infrastructure preservation strategies.

Jack Shouba shared the example of the Campton Township Open Space Program, explaining the way former Campton Township Supervisor, Edward Malek, appointed an Open Space advisory committee in May of 2000, in response to the concerns of a group of citizens. At that time, Kane County was the fastest-growing county in Illinois, with the lowest percent of open space in a six-county region. The committee, in accordance with the Township Open Space Act, gave birth to an Open Space Plan, which strives to preserve and protect the semi-rural character of Campton Township by "acquiring open land for passive and active recreational purposes and for the protection of farmland, historic landmarks, scenic roadways, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife and geologically significant features" (taken from mission statement). The Program has received funding from open space referenda in 2001 and 2005, as well as \$6 million worth of grants over the years. In some cases, it has worked jointly with the Forest Preserve District of Kane County to acquire and preserve land. This program has made a profound impact throughout Campton Township and on the health of the local watersheds.

Finally, Amy returned to the Green Infrastructure Framework (formerly called "Open Space Reserves"), which she had revised since the January meeting. Stakeholders offered suggestions for changes, and Amy will adjust the chart accordingly. Amy then showed a map of the Ferson-Otter Creek Watershed with an NRCS Soil Survey Hydric Soil data layer vs. a Hydrological Soil Group (HSG) data layer. Stakeholders agreed to use the former for the purposes of the watershed plan. She then shared a map of the known and speculated septic systems in the watershed courtesy of Kane County.

- 3. Introduction Chapter**—Stakeholders reviewed the draft of the Plan's Introduction chapter, offering comments. Amy will revise accordingly.
- 4. Municipal Ordinance Review**—Erin updated stakeholders on this process, asking for help from municipalities on filling out the Center for Watershed Protection's Code and Ordinance Worksheet. As well, municipalities were asked to complete a brief questionnaire on present municipal stormwater BMP's, roadway management procedures, education and outreach activities, as well as suggestions for possible implementation projects. She will follow up with municipalities for this information, and eventually set up meetings with elected officials to make sure they are aware of this planning process.

5. **FREP Noon Network Events**—Erin made stakeholders aware of these gatherings, held every other month at a site of interest within the Fox River Watershed. We would like to host a Noon Network in the Ferson-Otter Creek watershed, and the event is scheduled for October 19th, 2011. Suggestions for locations are welcome.

6. **Next Meeting**—The March Stakeholder Committee meeting will be on the 29th, from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. After the meeting, we will host an open house for members of the community that cannot attend daytime gatherings. The open house will be held from 4:30pm-6:30pm and will serve to bring members of the community up to speed on the project. The location for both the stakeholder holder meeting and open house will be the Hawthorne Hill Nature Center (28 Brookside Drive; Elgin, IL 60123).