

Silver Creek / Sleepy Hollow Creek Watershed Action Planning

Meeting Notes

Thursday, February 10, 2011 • 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Crystal Lake, City Council Chambers

100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

1. Welcome & Introductions

Liz Maxwell, Planner with the City of Crystal Lake, welcomed participants. Introductions of participants (see attendance list). Lynn Rotunno reviewed the meeting agenda.

2. Overview

Lynn Rotunno, Holly Hudson, and Dawn Thompson provided an overview of the watersheds and the planning process for new participants.

3. Project Updates

Holly and Dawn provided a planning update for planning participants including an overview of the watershed planning goals, objectives, and watershed resource inventory development efforts.

4. Ordinances, Codes, Planning Activities, and Our Watersheds

Holly presented information on challenges and opportunities to protect urbanizing watersheds. Information was presented on the relationship between impervious cover, stormwater runoff, and stream health. She also introduced information about the Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) Code & Ordinance Worksheet that will be utilized to review local code and ordinances to assess successes and opportunities for protecting water resources. The results of this review will be presented and discussed at the March meeting.

5. Green Infrastructure Planning and Our Watersheds

Dawn presented an overview of open space, green infrastructure planning, the relevance of green infrastructure to watershed planning, examples in the region, and some of the benefits including improved water quality and flood mitigation. She gave an overview of a Green Practices for Local Government Survey conducted by CMAP in 2008. The survey identified green practices of most interest to local governments, park districts, and other jurisdictions to better target technical assistance and educational programs. Dawn reviewed some of the results of that survey conducted within the watersheds.

Elizabeth Maxwell provided information on the recently developed Crystal Lake Green Infrastructure Plan. Crystal Lake's Green Infrastructure Vision identifies a variety of green resource areas and provides logical links among these to establish a green infrastructure system. Information included an overview of the planning process, grant funding resources to support plan development, engagement with stakeholders, identifying green resources, and future objectives that include active recreation and habitat connections. The Crystal Lake Green Infrastructure Vision will be a stand alone report and elements will be integrated into the city comprehensive plan. Elizabeth mentioned the fortunate timing of this watershed planning process that coincides with the development of the city Green Infrastructure plan. The Silver Creek and Sleepy Hollow Creek watersheds have been identified as important resource protection opportunities in the plan.

6. Wastewater/Stormwater Management Planning and Our Watersheds

Dawn gave a brief overview of stormwater and wastewater management planning concepts.

Ken Krueger, Pre-Treatment Environmental Coordinator with the City of Crystal Lake, gave a presentation on wastewater/stormwater management planning for the city. Presentation included information on pretreatment program stormwater management practices / policies/objectives, information on Wastewater Treatment Plant #3 that discharges to the Sleepy Hollow Creek, review of the NPDES discharge permit requirements, pollutant removal information, and some results from recent water quality monitoring. Crystal Lake is a certified community under the McHenry County Stormwater Management Ordinance and implements its own stormwater ordinance. Additional information about stormwater/wastewater management in the city can be found in the city

code at www.crystallake.org .

7. **Open Discussion**

Open discussion included questions about provisions in the city Unified Development Ordinance that support conservation development standards and the triggers for required use ([more information](#)), support expressed to identify opportunities for reuse of wastewater. Discussion about stormwater management and park district property. Comments on the benefits of naturalizing detention ponds. Ken shared support for the watershed planning process and benefits for local planning efforts. Discussion also included the importance of controlling erosion and reduced fertilizer use around Lake Killarney. Suggestion to support public education to increase natural landscaping around the lake shore and provide buffers. Discussion about developing lake-specific recommendations in the watershed plans.

8. **Next Meeting**

Thursday, March 17, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Village of Oakwood Hills, 3020 North Park Dr., Oakwood Hills. Topics will include results of local ordinance and code reviews and the draft introduction chapters for the watershed plans. For more information, visit <http://foxriverecosystem.org/planning.htm> .