

Silver Creek / Sleepy Hollow Creek Watershed Action Planning

Meeting Notes

Tuesday, June 14, 2011 ♦ 1:30 – 3:30 PM

City of McHenry, Council Chambers, 333 S. Green Street, McHenry, IL 60050

1. Welcome & Introductions

Doug Martin, Deputy City Administrator with the City of McHenry, welcomed attendees. The attendance list can be downloaded at <http://foxriverecosystem.org/silver-sleepy.htm>.

2. Funding Watershed Plan Project Recommendations with Nonpoint Source Management Program Funds (Barb Lieberoff, IEPA)

Barb Lieberoff with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), presented information on how to write an effective [Section 319](#) grant application. The presentation included matching requirements, eligibility, and types of projects funded under the program. Project proposals should be tied to impairments identified in the watershed plan. Questions about the grant application process included discussion about how to identify impairments in watersheds that have not been assessed by the IEPA. Water quality modeling results from the watershed plan should be included on the grant application form.

It was noted that watershed plans should include information on the types of best management practices that will address identified water quality impairments. Information was also presented on other grant funding sources available through IEPA including the [Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant Program](#) (IGIG). It was noted that IGIG would be a good grant to consider for permeable pavement projects.

If there are any questions about the Section 319 program, contact Barb at barb.lieberoff@illinois.gov or 217/782-3362. Her presentation is available at <http://foxriverecosystem.org/silver-sleepy.htm>. The presentation includes information on other IEPA grant programs and contacts for more information.

Lynn asked participants to share other ideas on potential funding sources for watershed planning projects. Keith Wozniak mentioned that [USACE](#) is now considering watershed plan project recommendations for mitigation funds under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Projects need to be on land with hydric soils. He suggested we consider integrating project recommendations into a GIS database so they can be more easily identified. Erika Turner talked briefly about federal funding programs available for farmers through [NRCS](#) such as the [Conservation Reserve Program](#) and [Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program](#). Nancy Williamson also mentioned the IDNR [OSLAD](#) and [Conservation Stewardship Programs](#) as potential sources of grant funding.

3. Green Infrastructure Planning Update

Dawn presented a revised green infrastructure network map and green infrastructure opportunity areas identified by planning participants. Identified opportunities include new trail connections, natural area restoration and conservation, and conservation development. The revised green infrastructure network map is available at <http://foxriverecosystem.org/silver-sleepy.htm> under the plan documents section.

4. Project Plan Recommendations

Dawn discussed how project recommendations should support identified watershed goals and management objectives. She reviewed some of these types of project and planning recommendations submitted to date. Examples include watershed education exhibits, a wastewater reuse study, groundwater monitoring, wetland restoration, and installing permeable pavement in existing public parking lots. Several projects have included a strong educational component as well. A suggestion was made to identify specific opportunity areas for mitigation funding. Participants identified additional projects on maps and submitted note cards. Dawn asked for specific project information to be submitted where available including the type/size/location of the proposed project, project leads, and potential planning partners. Newly identified projects included stormwater detention retrofits, streambank stabilization, and natural area restoration. Participants briefly discussed an IDOT transportation project Preliminary Engineering and Environmental (Phase1) Study for Illinois Route 31 from Illinois Route 176 to Illinois Route 120 in McHenry County. Visit <http://ilroute31.com/> for more information.

5. **Planning Update**

Dawn provided a brief plan outline update.

Lynn noted that we have a considerable amount of work to accomplish over the upcoming months and that it may be beneficial to form a temporary committee to review the green infrastructure planning progress we have made to date and discuss what additional considerations still need to be addressed. The committee meeting could be held the same day as the next meeting to make it more convenient. There were no objections. She asked participants to contact her if they would like to participate on this committee. Stream assessment volunteers asked when the reporting forms would be distributed. Dawn will follow up with Holly on this.

If there are any additional comments or questions on the topic covered at this meeting, contact Lynn Rotunno at watershedinfo@mcdefenders.net.

6. **Announcements, Next Meeting**

The Defenders are hosting a Sleepy Hollow Creek stream clean up day on Saturday, June 18 at Prairie Ridge High School. John Heisler announced that he will have trees available for community members to pick up this September at the Nunda Township Supervisor's office. He will provide additional information soon.

Silver Creek Watershed Tour: At noon on Wednesday, August 17, the Fox River Ecosystem Partnership and the Village of Oakwood Hills will host a Noon Network event. Kerry Leigh will share information on her work with the Village of Oakwood Hills to restore 10 acres of savanna habitat in the community park adjacent to the beautiful Oakwood Hills Fen Nature Preserve. Kerry and Steve Byers of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission will lead a tour of the restoration area and nearby fen. Visit <http://foxriverecosystem.org/news.htm> for more information.

Sleepy Hollow Creek Watershed Weekend Tour: Beginning at 12:30p.m. on Sunday, August 28, the Defenders will host a hike at two Crystal Lake Park District preserves, Sterne's Fen and Wingate Prairie. These unique natural areas are dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves. The tours are lead by Steve Byers and Wingate Prairie Steward, Jim Wigman. For more information, call 815-338-0393 or send an e-mail to watershedinfo@mcdefenders.net.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 20, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Crystal Lake Park District, 1 E. Crystal Lake Ave. At the next meeting, Dawn will distribute a preliminary draft of the plan recommendations chapter for review. Technical and financial assistance for plan implementation and outreach and education recommendations will also be discussed.