

Minutes – June 13, 2013
Silver & Sleepy Hollow Creeks Watershed Coalition

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Dawn Thompson at 12:00 p.m. at Dukes Alehouse and Kitchen in Crystal Lake.

Members present were: Nancy Schietzelt (EDMcHC), Ken Krueger (City of Crystal Lake), Dawn Thompson (CMAP), Jeannine Smith (Village of Prairie Grove), Doug Martin (City of McHenry), Cory Horton (Stormwater Manager, McHenry County), Kathy Martinez (Terra Cotta Realty), Kathy Bergan Schmidt and Dave McLean (Nunda Township residents), and Randy Schietzelt (TLC).

2. Approval of Minutes and Appointment of Meeting Secretary

Minutes were approved from the June 19th meeting. Nancy volunteered to take minutes at this meeting.

3. Water Quality Monitoring Report

Ken provided an update of monitoring locations and a summary of the data for the Fox River. An increase in silt was noted in June due to the heavy rains. Phosphorous levels were also up due to lawn fertilization, but they were not high enough to be a concern. Chloride levels were noted to be lower at Plant 3 in C. L. due to diversion of water to Plant 2 for treatment. Sleepy Hollow data will be provided for the next meeting.

Cory informed the group that Baxter and Woodman had been hired by the County to rewrite the County's Stormwater Ordinance over the next 18th months. Stakeholder meetings about the ordinance will be held by the County on September 4th and 5th. Cory also said that the County will be putting into effect some changes in the next 6th months to specifically help protect the Crystal Lake watershed. Compilation of all the data from McHenry County's groundwater studies is now in draft form, called "Groundwater Studies of Environmental Planning". He'll let the group know when it will be available for the Coalition to obtain.

- *Action Item: Ken Krueger will provide Sleepy Hollow data next meeting and a yearly graph early next year that will compare the Sleepy Hollow locations.*
- *Cory will notify members of availability of groundwater studies draft.*

3. Education Committee Report

Kathy, Dawn, and Jeannine (to a limited extent), agreed to work with Nancy to form goals for the Education Committee. Dawn will be meeting with Cindy Skrukud to learn more about Sierra Club's educational efforts.

The Education Committee will plan to man a booth, along with representatives from other watersheds in the County, at the 2014 County Fair. Cory pointed out that Darryl Moore, with the County P & D Dept., will provide large watershed maps to be used as part of the display at the Fair. Volunteers for the booth will be lined up as we move closer to that time.

- *Action Item: Dawn will meet with Cindy Skrukrud from the Sierra Club to discuss education funding goals.*
- *Action Item: The Education Committee will meet to develop goals.*
- *Action Item: Nancy will arrange for booth at County Fair and will obtain watershed maps from County P & D.*

4. Watershed Signs Committee report

One sign still has to be installed once it is located. As administrator for the SSHCW Coalition Facebook page, Kathy will be posting photos of the signs to build interest.

- *Action Item: Jeannine will locate the last sign.*
- *Kathy will be posting photos to Facebook.*

5. Local Technical Assistance Grant

Dawn explained that meetings have been held with Crystal Lake and McHenry, both of which were very receptive to the idea of updating their ordinances relating to water. Meetings will soon be held with Prairie Grove and Oakwood Hills for the same purpose. Doug said that McHenry has surveyed all of their ordinances related to water and has found many ways to improve them. As part of the technical assistance grant, CMAP is planning a seminar about this topic for municipal elected officials, staff, and other interested individuals to be held in late September. Cory pointed out that the County will be contacting all of the municipalities to see if they can provide help with green infrastructure mapping, which Doug said McHenry needs help with to improve water quality. Cory suggested that all of the changes that come out of this grant process be suggested to the County for incorporation into the revision of the County Stormwater Ordinance.

6. Update on Draft Lake Addendum to Plan

There was nothing new on this topic.

7. Route 31 Widening Plans update

There is nothing new at this time on Route 31. Nancy brought up the idea that support is now needed for a “complete streets” approach to all highway improvements as MCDOT and the County’s Transportation Committee work on the McHenry County 2040 Transportation Plan.

- *Action Item: Nancy will prepare a letter of support for complete streets from the coalition.*

8. Fundraising Letter

A draft letter to promote the coalition and solicit funds from private companies and organizations for the purpose of educating the public on Silver and Sleepy Creek Watersheds, prepared by Jeannine, was approved with two wording changes related to alternatives to using coal tar sealants and to the 501c3 designation of the Defenders.

- *Action Item: Jeannine will be sending out these letters.*

9. Nunda Township Water Concerns

Nancy shared concerns about the newly elected Nunda Township Road District Commissioner and the projects that he has taken on around the township that are causing complaints. Everyone thought it would be a good idea to meet with him as well as the new Nunda Township Supervisor to discuss possible joint projects as part of the Coalition Plan. Nancy, Jeannine, and Kathy agreed to do so.

- *Action Item: Nancy will arrange a meeting with the Nunda Township officials.*

10. TLC Thunderbird Lake Project

Randy informed the group that TLC is moving forward with preliminary steps necessary to apply for grants to fund the project in the Plan involving the portion of Sleepy Hollow Creek between Route 31 and The Fountains. They are trying to get together a plan of action so that when funding becomes available, they will be ready to move forward with the project to rehabilitate the stream and wetlands along this portion.

11. Planning for 2013 – 2014 Projects

Jeannine said that she had spoken with Ed Collins with MCCD about their projects in the Plan and the feasibility of them moving forward in the near future. Ed said that there are three projects mainly involving removing invasive species that will need to be decided by November 1st in order to be included in their budgeting process. It was decided that a meeting between Ed, Dawn, Jeannine, Nancy, Ken, and Cory, needs to be held prior to November 1st.

It was also suggested that a meeting involving the same Coalition members be held with the CL Park District to discuss possible progress with their proposed projects in the Plan.

The discussion on the potential for other projects is ongoing.

- *Action Item: Nancy will set up meetings with Ed Collins and with the CL Park District.*

9. Other

It was noted that Cary Park District has still not adopted the Plan. Nancy reached out to them again in August and was told that they may act on this in the near future.

10. Next Meeting

October 8th (12:00 PM to 2:00 PM) at Dukes Alehouse and Kitchen