

Silver Creek / Sleepy Hollow Creek Watershed Action Planning

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, December 1, 2010, 1:30 – 3:30 PM

Prairie Grove Village Hall, 3125 Barreville Road, Prairie Grove, IL

1. Welcome & Introductions

Jeannine Smith, Village Administrator of Prairie Grove, welcomed participants. Participant introductions. Lynn Rotunno gave a brief overview of the planning process and meeting agenda.

2. Special Teams Update

Holly Hudson shared information on the stream assessment efforts for both the Silver Creek and Sleepy Hollow Creek Watershed Planning Areas. Local volunteers and organizations will be conducting an assessment of stream characteristics and conditions during fall 2010 and possibly spring 2011. The information collected in the field assessments will be incorporated into watershed action plans. The assessments will note channel conditions, stream bottom composition, fish habitat, size and location of hydraulic structures, and water quality indicators. A stream assessment volunteer training was held on November 19th. Stream reaches were assigned and volunteers are beginning work in both Watersheds Planning Areas.

3. Introduction to a Composite Watershed Land Use Planning Map

Dawn Thompson and Holly presented information on a draft Composite Watershed Land Use Planning Map for each Watershed Planning Area. These maps “stitch” together the existing municipal, township, and county future comprehensive land use plans to develop a picture or “vision” of future land use in the watersheds. The maps also provide land cover information needed for the development of the Hydrologic Simulation Program FORTTRAN (HSPF) model which will calculate future pollutant loading.

4. Review & Discuss Initial Watershed Goals & Indicators

Planning participants reviewed updated draft goals, management objectives, and indicators for the Silver Creek and Sleepy Hollow Creek Watershed Planning Areas. Input was provided for additions and revisions. Although there will need to be a separate goals document for each final watershed plan, suggestions were provided to have a combined document for the purpose of stakeholder review. This combined document should identify goals, management objectives, and indicators that can be shared for each planning area, as well as identify those unique to either watershed. A suggestion was made to create a separate quality and quantity goal related to groundwater resource protections. These and other recommended revisions will be integrated into a new goals document and shared with the stakeholders via email, and on the FREP website (<http://foxriverecosystem.org/planning.htm>).

5. Watershed Resources Inventory Data

Holly and Dawn presented information on the process to develop a comprehensive Watershed Resource Inventory for each planning area. The inventories will describe the natural, physical, and biological features of the Silver Creek and Sleepy Hollow Creek Watershed Planning Areas. Population information, current land use characteristics, watershed conditions, and other information will be included in the inventories. Holly and Dawn are collecting information with the assistance of stakeholders. The inventories will support development of the watershed action plans. Holly and Dawn presented a list of initial Geographic Information System (GIS) data layers. Planning participants reviewed the list and made additional suggestions for layers to include such as McHenry County Natural Area Inventory sites, sensitive aquifer recharge areas (SARA), potential green infrastructure opportunities, lakes, and hydric soils. Planning participants expressed interest in having access to the PDF version of the map layers.

6. Outreach Efforts

Lynn presented an outline of an outreach brochure being developed to communicate information about the watershed planning projects, describe the watersheds, and introduce ways community members can help protect watershed health. Participants suggested including information on why watersheds are important, phosphorus ban information, proper disposal of pharmaceuticals and household hazardous waste, support for sustainable practices, well testing, and rain gardens.

7. Next Meeting

The meeting topic for January will be groundwater resource protections. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 11, 2011, 2:30p.m. – 4:30p.m., at the Nunda Township Meeting Hall, 3510 Bay Road, Crystal Lake.