

**MCHENRY COUNTY STORMWATER COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2009**

Present: Chairman Anna May Miller, Sue Low, Virginia Peschke, Scott Breeden and Pete Merkel

Absent: Aaron Shepley, Bob Wagner, Tom Kierna, Stan Duda, Mary McCann, Barb Wheeler and Brian Sager

Staff: Mark Phipps, Alicia Law, Dennis Sandquist and Audrey Martin

Others: Victor Ramirez, City of Crystal Lake, pending alternate for Aaron Shepley.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Miller stated a quorum was not present. The meeting started at 7:32 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were not approved due to lack of a quorum.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

PRESENTATION

Wetland restoration Fund

Mr. Ken Anderson, Kane County Department of Environmental Management, spoke to the Commission about Kane County's Wetland Restoration Fund. He stated their Ordinance has been in effect since 2002. Kane County's wetland mitigation portion of the ordinance is regulated in their Environmental Management Department. He explained if a developer is impacting a wetland, they are required to get a permit. This is the process for all of their certified communities. There are 3 options the developer has when impacting wetlands; they can mitigate onsite, buy into a wetland mitigation bank, or they can pay the wetland fee in lieu. It is the applicant's choice on how they want to proceed with mitigating those impacts. If they choose to pay in lieu, it is set by how much it cost to buy the land, install the improvements to create the wetland and maintain those improvements for five years versus how much it costs if they were to buy from a wetland mitigation bank. Whichever is the lesser of the two is the cost. The cost is set by the market, not the County.

Kane County has 3 wetland mitigation banks active at this time. Mr. Anderson stated they work with the Kane County Forest Preserve in determining which sites they can modify

drain tiles, create berms and develop wetlands on forest preserve property. The County takes care of the wetland for a five-year period and then hands it over to the County forest preserve staff.

Mr. Phipps stated McHenry County's certified communities enforce the wetland impact provisions of the Ordinance so the fund the County establishes would be set up on a watershed basis. There may be wetland impacts within that watershed that may be in a noncertified community or unincorporated, which would be handled through the County, or in a certified community. He said it may be sensible to set up the fund so they could fund projects within corporate limits.

PRESENTATION

Groundwater Recharge

Ms. Cassandra McKinney, McHenry County Water Resource Manager, stated she has been working with the ground water protection taskforce. She explained the goal of the taskforce is preserving and protecting ground water quality and quantity for current and future use. In 2007 they completed the groundwater resource management plan. The plan highlighted there will be groundwater shortages in the future, as early as 2030 in some of the southeastern townships in McHenry County. McHenry County is solely dependent on groundwater for its drinking water resource. Ms. McKinney distributed packets to the Commissioners which contained goals from the McHenry County Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan from 1996. Goal number 3, which talks about groundwater recharge and infiltration, has not been maintained to the maximum extent practical in the Stormwater Ordinance. Ms. McKinney stated the Groundwater Protection Taskforce would like the Stormwater Ordinance to be amended to include this goal to the maximum extent practical. Objective Number 11 is to limit post development runoff to pre-development volumes and rates by encouraging storage and infiltration where groundwater pollution will not result. One of the objectives of the taskforce is to ensure recharge is happening countywide. Ms. McKinney asked the Commission to consider the information she presented.

Ms. Miller stated that this and other suggested amendments to the Stormwater Ordinance will be something that can be passed on to the Technical Advisory Committee for consideration.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The Commission discussed the meeting time. Ms. Miller asked the Commission to review their schedules to determine if there is a better time for them to meet. She would like to keep Thursday as the meeting day.

The Commission then introduced themselves and afterwards, Technical Advisory Committee members that were in attendance introduced themselves.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 8:00 a.m.