

NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
McHenry County Administration Building  
667 Ware Road, Woodstock, IL 60098

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2009

Chairman McCann called the committee meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. The following members were present: Mary McCann; Scott Breeden; Anna May Miller; Pete Merkel; Barb Wheeler and Yvonne Barnes. Virginia Peschke was absent. Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator; Patty Nomm, Health Department; Matt Hansel, Planning and Development; Cassandra McKinney, Groundwater Resources; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; and interested public.

Mary McCann, Chairman	
Yvonne Barnes	JS "Scott" Breeden
Pete Merkel	Anna May Miller
Virginia Peschke	Barbara Wheeler

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Committee members reviewed the committee minutes the Natural and Environmental Resources Committee of February 27, 2009. Ms. Barnes made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller to approve the committee minutes of February 27, 2009 as submitted. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

*Gypsy Moth Update:* Mr. Labaj provided an update to the Gypsy Moth aerial spraying program. He reported that McHenry County was declared a quarantined area by the Illinois Department of Agriculture in 2007. The County initiated an aggressive control program by use of aerial spraying using the biological pesticide called *Bacillus Thuriengensis* (BtK). He noted that BtK is not toxic to humans, mammals, birds, fish, honeybees or many beneficial insects. BtK is specific to only certain moths and butterflies and is an approved control product for use by certified organic gardeners. In stated that the County's aerial spraying program allows units of local government to participate in the program through an intergovernmental agreement and spraying is conducted at a reduced cost to those participating jurisdictions. The County's 2009 budget set aside \$50,000 for funding and the proposed resolution is to renew the agreement for aerial spraying with Hendrickson Flying Services with a request to increase the cost per acre from \$24.00 to \$30.00. After a review of the program, Ms. Wheeler made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller, to recommend the County Board approve a Resolution to extend the contract for Gypsy Moth Containment Services for an amount not to exceed \$50,000 and execute various intergovernmental agreements for said program. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

*Water Demand Analysis:* Mr. Hansel provided a presentation on the LEAM Water Demand Analysis model. The analysis was broken down into three categories: residential, commercial and agricultural and results for the total demand for each of the three categories were presented in graph form. Residential demand is the most significant contributor to water usage. Scenarios did not allow for development in areas with an LE score of 80 or greater, therefore greater water demand is noted in more populated areas of the County. It was noted that in the past water was not considered as part of a planning tool, but this has changed and it is now considered an important part of planning with the use of available data. A value system has not been developed to date, however scenarios are looking at a reduction or limited development in recharge areas. It was noted that tracking of conservation design indicate that such planning can be almost water neutral. It was pointed out that the LEAM model does not include sod farms as agricultural and the picture changes when looking at CMAP which does include such usage. Golf courses, who also use a large amount of water, are considered ag. Economic benefits most also be considered when assessing these resources. Ms. McKinney noted that on-going need to protect such a balance and to be conscious of when we are using water. She suggested watering be done in the mornings rather than in the afternoon. It was pointed out that sod farms tend to water in the afternoon and currently there is no way to limit water withdrawals or monitor water usage except for commercial use.

PRESENTATIONS

*Groundwater Recharge:* Ms. McKinney joined the committee to discuss groundwater recharge. She began her presentation by noting that McHenry County is solely dependent on groundwater for all of its potable water needs. Most people are beginning to understand that groundwater is a finite resource, which is supported and noted in recent studies. Statutorily, there is no current method to limit water withdrawal. We can monitor commercial use, but cannot regulate such water use. She presented a map of the sensitive aquifer recharge areas in McHenry County and reviewed the reasons for such a document including the need for a sustainable water supply – both quantity and quality – for future economic stability. Water that reaches a useable aquifer is recharge; water that flows across the surface is runoff; and water that enters the soil is infiltration. The aquifer recharge map aims to show a more realistic depiction of where infiltration and recharge occur within the County. The map was assembled using information from the Geological Mapping for Environmental Planning ISGS Circular 559 and focused on units A and B, which address high and moderately high potential for aquifer contamination. The map was reduced by taking out soils that are steep slopes; soils that have restricted permeability, and hydric soils that are groundwater discharge. The map will be revised as more scientific information becomes available through 3-D Hydrogeological Mapping Efforts with the Illinois State Geological Survey. In Illinois, counties are unable to enforce groundwater ordinances in areas other than the unincorporated areas. In addition, groundwater withdrawals are not regulated. The County is working with the Groundwater Protection Program Task Force to develop a groundwater recharge policy for voluntary adoption by all stakeholders. This policy will support the Sensitive

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Aquifer Recharge Areas Map. Other options that have been highlighted for groundwater protection include: (2) Regulated Recharge Areas (RRA); and (2) Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) protection. These options could be pursued at a later date by individual municipalities, or, if desired by the stakeholders, the County could coordinate the efforts. A benefit of these options would be consistent County wide protection. Members supported the idea of RRA, but felt voluntary adoption by stakeholders should be the initial step. Chairman McCann noted that to begin, the Committee should ask the County Board for adopt the Sensitive Aquifer Recharge Areas map by resolution and asked that a draft resolution be prepared for consideration at the next committee meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

REPORTS

Chairman McCann reminded members that the committee would be meeting jointly with Management Services to discuss solar and wind resources.

*MCCD*: Mr. Merkel noted that applications for appointment to the MCCD are being accepted though March 26<sup>th</sup>. Two terms are expiring in June. MCCD continues to work on the budget which will be presented to the committee at a future meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kennedy addressed the committee and commented that most irrigation usage in ag is in the southeast part of the County. Most other ag areas within the County do not use irrigation systems. She also noted that high density residential areas does not always mean higher water usage as those residents use the same amount of water per person, but water use in other areas is reduced, such as the watering of lawns. She also stated that agriculture is the single largest source of economic development to the County. Mr. Merkel added that newer residential development also provide more efficient water usage.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes to adjourn at 10:25 a.m. The motion carried with all members present voting aye.

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**RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTION:**

Resolution to extend contract and to execute various intergovernmental agreements for Gypsy Moth Containment Services

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