

**NORTH MILL CREEK/DUTCH GAP CANAL
WATERSHED PLANNING MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 1:00 TO 3:00 PM**

This meeting summary and all meeting materials (including all presentations) can be found at www.lakecountylil.gov/Stormwater/LakeCountyWatersheds/NorthMill.htm

1. *Introductions & Announcements*

As part of the watershed planning process, SMC is trying to identify those structures in the watershed that are at risk of flooding so that the watershed plan can recommend reasonable solutions to reduce flood damage. A questionnaire pertaining to flooding was sent to all residents located in previously identified flood problem areas, each watershed community, the stakeholders on the email list and mailed to those who previously attended planning meetings but do not have email. If you did not receive a copy of this form, please contact Jodi so she can get you the information. A copy of this survey is also attached to this report and can be found on SMC's website at: <http://www.lakecountylil.gov/Stormwater/LakeCountyWatersheds/NorthMill.htm>

2. *Review and accept October 27th meeting summary*

Minutes were accepted by consensus

3. *Watershed Plan Progress Update and Schedule – Patty Werner Lake County Stormwater*

Patty provided a status update on the watershed planning process and a review of the meeting topics and numerous completed tasks for 2010, including a bus tour and the development of goals and a vision statement. She then outlined the future planning "to do" list for 2011, including: development of the green infrastructure system, plan objectives, identifying problems & critical pollution areas, developing an action/implementation plan, calculating pollution reduction benefit of implementing the action plan, developing an education & stewardship strategy, and a monitoring & evaluation plan.

4. *Overview of Agriculture in the Watershed – Jodi McCarthy Lake County Stormwater*

Jodi recapped that agriculture makes up approximately 46% of the watershed's land use, and that the majority of agricultural lands are cropland and pastureland. She stressed that looking at the agricultural areas is very important since land use and management affects water resources and vice versa. SMC wants to ensure the unique characteristics of this type of land use are properly incorporated into the action plan, as well as ensuring that issues such as flooding and preservation of farmlands is addressed in the watershed plan.

In the presentation, Jodi showed a watershed map that had more specific categories for the agricultural land uses: Cropland and Pastureland, Orchards Vineyards and Nurseries, Farm Facility (Equestrian), and Farm Facility (Non-Equestrian). This information was based on a combination of existing land use data and aerial photography.

Following the farm presentation, the stakeholders were asked to look at the map and provide feedback on any of the land uses that may be categorized incorrectly.

Several changes to the maps were proposed. The revised agricultural land use map is available with this meeting report at the website listed above.

To enhance the Best Management Practices (BMPs) and site specific recommendations incorporated into the action plan, SMC developed a list of BMPs that could be applicable to agricultural land in the North Mill Creek/Dutch Gap Canal Watershed. The survey was distributed and filled out by the stakeholders during the meeting. A copy of the survey can be found attached to this report and at SMC's website. We ask that any stakeholders that were not in attendance at the meeting please complete the fillable form and email to SMC. Information from this survey will be used in the education and stewardship strategy.

5. *Farmland Preservation - Janice Hill, Kane County Executive Planner*

Janice presented the Kane County Farmland Protection Program. Much of the region's high quality and fertile farmland is disappearing at an alarming rate due to wasteful land use changes for development purposes. Openlands, a regional conservation organization that works to protect natural and open spaces, (www.openlands.org) has been working on a strategic framework for farmland protection in Northeastern Illinois that strives to identify quality farmlands as a natural resource while putting a value on the mix of agricultural land uses, stressing the importance of food production, and promoting conservation values. Kane County has taken an active role in preserving its agricultural land by funding a Farmland Protection Program. Kane County has the first and only funded Purchase Development Rights (PDR) program in the state, but other surrounding counties have adopted PDR ordinances and started unfunded programs in an effort to develop programs that can obtain federal funding. The PDR program is a voluntary legal agreement that limits the property use to protect the agricultural conservation value with a land easement. The easements can either be donated to or purchased by the County. The demand for environmentally friendly development, locally grown food, and sustainable communities has contributed to the program's success. As the county looks ahead to the health of its community and the increasing obesity epidemic, it has focused on providing residents with fresh, healthy, and easily accessible food. Information about Kane County can be found at www.co.kane.il.us/development

6. *Sustainable Agriculture – Bronwyn Weaver, Owner of Heritage Prairie Farm*

In 2007, Bronwyn and her husband opened the Heritage Prairie Farm in Kane County, which employs a combination of high production, low acreage, four-season food production organic methods. The farm is situated on a 6 acre parcel, of which one acre of the land plus an additional seven acres of adjacent leased land are harvested. In order to extend the growing season and maximize the most efficient use of land, they use a system of four moveable greenhouses, succession plantings, and crop rotation. They pride themselves in being able to consistently be among the first farms at market to offer tomatoes for sale and among the last farms at market selling spinach, carrots, and radishes. In addition, their hoopouses use solar energy to heat the soil to temperatures above that of the air outside the house, resulting in an energy efficient way to grow crops almost year-round. They have developed a relationship with the surrounding community that allows their produce and honey business to

thrive, and they have also marketed their locally grown organic products to chefs so they can supply top rated restaurants in the Chicago area.

The farm also strives to promote a sense of community and to bring back the rural farm lifestyle by hosting events such as farm dinners, seasonal recreational activities like a skating rink, and special events, such as weddings. Bronwyn explained that the farm takes a lot of work, effort, and money to operate, and that selling only at local farmers markets is not enough to keep a farm like theirs operating. She emphasized the importance of developing relationships and marketing to the community, restaurants, local food distributors as well as providing events and services that the community desires to be successful. More information can be found on the farm at www.hpmfarm.com.

7. Discussion of Vision Statement

The following modified vision statement was approved by the stakeholders:

“Our vision for the North Mill Creek and Dutch Gap Canal watershed is to have clean water and diverse ecosystems and fish and wildlife, which are supported by land use and development plans that promote the effective use, preservation and enhancement of working land, recreational, and natural open space. We envision a community with rural or “small town” aesthetics and quality of life with residents that are well-informed of watershed issues.”

8. Development of Green Infrastructure Prioritization

Draft Version: Incorporated changes from stakeholder comments. Items that required SMC follow up have information on findings in italics for stakeholder consideration at next meeting.

Criteria	Flood Prevention & Reduction	Natural Resources Protection & Enhancement	Water Quality Improvement	Stream or Streambank Restoration/ Preservation
1. Parcels that intersect 100-year floodplain	X			X
2. Parcels within 0.5-miles of the headwaters	X	X	X	
3. Parcels that intersect with a wetland	X	X	X	
4. Parcels that are adjacent to or include at least 2.5 acres of drained hydric soils - <i>SMC ran 10 acres and 25 acres and see if there is a large difference – see map</i>	X	X	X	
5. Parcels in an Subwatershed Management Unit where less than 10% of the SMU is existing wetland	X		X	
6. Parcels within 0.5-mile radius of Lake County Stormwater Management Committee known flood problem area	X			
7. Parcels that are within 300 feet of a watercourse or lake	X	X	X	X
8. Parcels that intersect with developed areas-that do not have stormwater management facilities	X			

9. Parcels intersecting with SMU's that are non-point source pollutant hotspots			X	
10. Parcels adjacent to or including forest preserves, land trusts, township, and privately and publicly protected open space.		X		
11. Parcels adjacent to or including high quality wetlands (ADID)		X	X	
12. Parcels adjacent to or including Illinois Natural Areas Inventory sites, nature preserves, high quality natural areas and Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory sites.		X		
13. Parcels adjacent to or including Threatened & Endangered species sites		X		
14. Parcels intersecting with or adjacent to a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permitted point source discharge location			X	
15. Parcels with prime agricultural soils		X		
16. Parcels with highly erodible soils			X	X
17. Parcels greater than 5 acres – <i>SMC found the median size of a parcel in the watershed and then have parcels greater than that number be the criteria - see map</i>	X	X	X	
18. Parcels traversed by, adjacent to, or within 0.25 mi. of a mapped greenway or trail. <i>SMC obtained trail map from Kenosha and requested from SEWRPC</i>		X		
19. Parcels that connect existing protected open space areas.		X		
20. Parcels that contain a depression area.	X			
21. Parcels intersecting with an archaeological site. Data very difficult to obtain and data is at a scale not valid for our uses.				

9. Development of Plan Objectives for Goal #7

Continued to next meeting

December 8, 2010 Meeting Attendees

Last Name	First Name	Company
Anderson	James L.	Lake County Forest Preserve Dist.
Burt	Randy	NeuHaven HOA Beautification Committee
Dicke	Faith M.	East Shore Crooked Lake
Doolittle	Lynn	
Doolittle	Thomas	Grubb School Drainage Dist.
Elfering	Dale	Elfering Farms
Elfering	Noel	Village of Bristol
Goetz	George	
Hill	Janice	Kane County
Hunley	Joseph	
Johannesen	David R.	James Anderson Company, Inc.
Kerkman	Randall	Village of Bristol
Knysz	Peter M.	Christopher B. Burke Eng., Ltd.
McCarthy	Jodi	Lake County Stormwater Mgmt.
Prusila	Michael E.	Lake County Stormwater Mgmt.
Renwick	Jim	Renwick Nursery
Stepanek	Matthew	Antioch Environmental Board
Stepanek	Cynthia	Antioch Environmental Board
Stingle	Jerry	
Weaver	Bronwyn	Heritage Prairie Farm
Welsh	Wesley	Village of Lindenhurst
Werner	Patricia	Lake County Stormwater Mgmt.