

**NORTH MILL CREEK/DUTCH GAP CANAL
WATERSHED ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES IDENTIFICATION
AND PRIORITIZATION - MEETING VOTE RESULTS
MARCH 25, 2010**

FACILITATED SESSION SUMMARY

The following questions were posed to stakeholder participants during the facilitated “brain storming” session of the afternoon and evening planning kick-off meetings:

Issues

1. What are the existing concerns or issues regarding water resources where you live/work in the North Mill/Dutch Gap Watershed?
2. Do you foresee future issues or problems related to water resources?
3. Do you think there are any necessary steps that need to be taken to address existing or future issues in the watershed? What are they?

Opportunities

1. What makes the North Mill Creek/Dutch Gap watershed a good place to live/work? What features do you like about the watershed?
2. What are the important resources that need to be preserved?
3. What are some steps that can be taken to capitalize on current opportunities?
4. Is there information that people need to know in order to address issues or take advantage of opportunities?

WATERSHED ISSUES (Current & Future)

PRIORITY	ISSUE	REPEAT*
Topic: (voting results)	Flooding TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 64	
24	Flooding (Lake George, Dutch Gap, Des Plaines, local, agricultural land,)	5
11	Effects of flooding from future developments – extended flooding conditions (runoff volume increase, potential future changes in zoning and floodplains – filling floodplains),	7
0	Prevent development and fill in current floodplains and wetlands	
25	Elevated water level in Dutch Gap (loss of farmable land due to flooding or poor drainage)	
4	Outside organizations influencing flood zones (concern with projects outside of the watershed being mitigated in North Mill Creek watershed)	1
0	Floodplain map accuracy	
Topic:	Water Quality - 4 TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 72	
5	Inadequate stream buffers (Existing farm operations close to waterways - lack of buffers)	2
55	Water quality: (Negative water quality trend; quality and functionality of water body; impairments such as phosphorus, TSS, pesticides, chloride; non-point source pollution and nutrient load (phosphorus and fertilizers); water quality → septic)	9
0	Future development (water quality)	
7	Water quality (recreational overuse)	
1	Illegal dumping / runoff pollution	
0	Waste water treatment plant – effect on water quality (pharmacy/personal care contamination)	

PRIORITY	ISSUE	REPEAT*
Topic: (voting results)	Stream/Lake Health TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 59	
5	Channelization of the creek (re-meandering)	2
22	Siltation of waterways (Sedimentation; lake sedimentation also upstream impacts)	4
13	Effect of Rasmussen Dam removal	
13	Erosion control – on stream / lake and surrounding (also upstream impacts)	
6	Chemical treatment on lakes	
Topic:	Stormwater Management & Drainage – 1 TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 27	
14	Maintain drainage systems - tiles and surface drainage to keep farmland (Tiles)	2
0	Detention ponds – shoreline	
5	Trees and brush control and debris jams along the creek (north of Millburn on North Mill and on the Des Plaines; to help alleviate flooding)	2
7	Greater volume of runoff due to development	
0	Topography - low spots	
Topic:	Climate Change TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 0	
0	Climate change consideration (such as increased rainfall)	2
Topic:	Water Supply TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 17	
17	Groundwater / surface water depletion (water quality/quantity - well and irrigation; preserve recharge for ground water)	3

PRIORITY	ISSUE	REPEAT*
Topic: (voting results)	Natural Resources TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 72	
16	Invasive plants (Losing diversity of plants in Redwing Slough (currently it is all cattails, Purple Loosestrife))	4
27	Protection of environmental corridor, wetlands, and sensitive natural areas	
4	Lack of natural area preservation (in Wisconsin) (open space preservation)	2
4	Invasive species (IE carp)	2
0	Wildlife Habitat – wetlands	
0	Loss of wildlife (Helicopter disruption of swans in the Redwing Slough area)	2
21	Beavers (Beaver dam control Hastings & Mill Creek; Paasch Lake also has been dammed up at the culvert, Mud Lake, Lake George)	3
Topic:	Land/Water Use & Impacts TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 33	
0	Recreational uses	
6	Sustainable agricultural uses	
0	Not addressing negative trends	
2	Population increase effects on watershed	2
3	Land use conversions (agriculture to residential, agricultural for preservation)	
0	Lake Shorelines – development	
1	Farmland (also upstream impacts)	
16	Development impacts (future development)	2
5	Farm expansion (in particular dairy and horse) impact on resources and water quality	

PRIORITY	ISSUE	REPEAT*
Topic: (voting results)	Education/Information/Input - 5 TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 18	
12	Lack of good information for homeowners and farmers	
0	Proper input from homeowners and farmers	
1	Public education of new residents on watershed issues and best practices	
0	Need more information on funding opportunities	
Topic:	Inter-Jurisdictional/Multi-Stakeholder Cooperation TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 0	
0	Cooperation between states	
0	Lack of communication between existing landowners and certified villages when new subdivisions are constructed	
0	Enforcement of Department of Natural Resources in Wisconsin	
Topic:	Property Rights & Responsibilities – 2 TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 14	
0	Usability of private property	
7	Farmland preservation	
0	Property value (near waterbodies)	
0	Condemnation concerns	
5	Control of lake levels	

* Items that were repeated by other participants are reflected by the number of times they were repeated in the “Repeat” column.

STEPS TO ADDRESS ISSUES

PRIORITY	ISSUE	REPEAT*
Topic: (voting results)	Flooding TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 73	
0	Compensatory flood storage	
10	Floodplain buffers maintain and expand	
2	Floodplain property purchase for open space	
25	(Correct) Flooding due to drain tile failure	
19	Enforce floodplain regulations	
17	Channel capacity increase	
Topic:	Water Quality - 3 TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 56	
12	Buffers (and have better incentives)	
5	Initiative to decrease fertilizer use (nutrient management)	
3	(Address) Waterfowl pollution	
13	Best management practice implementation	
2	Production of meaningful data / TMDL	
6	Predictive model for land use on water quality	
9	(Identify/remediate) Toxic material sources	
3	Use beet juice as a salt alternative	
Topic:	Stream Health TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 22	
13	Restoration of Creek (Re-meander the creek, add pool riffles, recreate habitat)	3
9	Bank stabilization with natives (streambank stabilization)	2
0	Keep water out of the creek → infiltration	

Topic: (voting results)	Stormwater Management & Drainage – 2	
	TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 28	
0	Regional stormwater utility	
6	Pre-development hydrology (currently done by Town of Salem and Bristol)	
2	Promoting infiltration practices (creation for infiltration)	2
11	Maintaining runoff quantity and quality (Flow control – runoff volume reduction)	2
0	Retrofit detention and existing stormwater systems	
5	Come up with an easier system of removing debris from the Wisconsin streams without having to go through the red tape	
1	Employ more vegetated drainage swales	
3	New development regulations for open space and stormwater (promote conservation development)	
Topic:	Land/Water Management – 1	TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 40
17	Sustainable agricultural practices	
9	Maintenance program for water ways	
8	Smart developments (sustainable)	
5	Present developments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Upgrading o Green infrastructure 	
Topic:	Natural Resources	TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 72
41	Wetland restorations / addition and preservation	2
31	Protection of high quality areas	
Topic:	Funding	TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 18
18	Money established perpetual funding sources	
0	Tax incentives for rain gardens	

Topic: (voting results)	Education/Information/Input - 4	TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 25
0	More understanding / education on how stormwater is implemented in Lake County	
12	Road salt reduction / deicing alternatives	
5	BMP education and incentives	
1	Educational programs (Environmental educational curriculum development K-12)	2
3	Phosphorus ban / not fertilizing lands (education and outreach)	
Topic:	Inter-Jurisdictional/Multi-Stakeholder Cooperation – 5	TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 19
0	Implement Des Plaines plans and try to resolve potential conflicts between the DP plan and Kenosha Comprehensive Plan (in terms of land use)	
2	Consistency with land use planning / regulation across state lines	
0	Interstate coordination / regulations	
12	Discharge locations from detention basins onto farm fields – the Villages should require the developers to talk with the surrounding landowners about the discharge points since they are making the farmland unusable.	
0	BMP’ plans enforced	
Topic:	Property Rights & Responsibilities	TOTAL TOPIC VOTE = 16
13	Purchase of rights / easements for buffers	
3	Resident role in watershed management	

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WATERSHED OPPORTUNITIES

(What do like about the watershed? What needs to be protected?)

PRIORITY (voting results)	OPPORTUNITY	REPEAT*
39	Rural setting, but close to everything (Quiet, rural flavor; Mix of open space and built environment; Current agricultural / rural feel; Good balance of open space, farming, and built environments)	9
70	Open land (Large open / undeveloped areas; Open space - forest preserves, trails, etc; High quality natural areas; Nature, wildlife & habitat; Open land and deer (wildlife habitat))	11
46	Water resources: lakes, streams, wetlands (Lakes and Redwing Slough),	5
48	Farmlands (Good productive land; Excellent quality agricultural land; Farmland preservation)	4
16	Aquifers / water conservation	
3	Friendly people	
2	Lake views and scenery	
6	Love it, but getting too crowded (Keeping subdivisions out)	2
20	Water quality and fish (Water body quality → improve!)	2
1	Economic security (locally grown food)	
0	Development – future (making it positive) - especially Route 173 / Tollway	

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STEPS TO PROTECT WATERSHED OPPORTUNITIES / BENEFITS

PRIORITY (voting results)	OPPORTUNITY	REPEAT*
39	Good planning and management (Work with municipalities - comprehensive plans and updates)	3
8	Restoration (prairie and wetland) as mitigating factor	2
16	Strong education outreach for buy-in (Education & outreach)	2
18	Finding funding (Grants (money for Wisconsin and Illinois))	2
36	Open space purchase and preservation (Land preservation; Wisconsin open space preservation (buyers market...its time to buy))	4
12	Incentives for change and implementation (Increased level of tax incentives for floodplain and open space set aside)	3
1	Encourage landowners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Some already conservation minded 	
16	Any future development presents opportunities Detention options – wetland, groundwater recharge	
0	Route 45 and Edwards – future school site used as a demonstration site	
5	Strong environmental friendly zoning authority	
6	Ordinances for residential development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Promote no phosphorus fertilizers o Enforcement 	
0	Wisconsin DNR enforcement	
6	Targeting pollutants and sediment	
5	Road salt reduction (smart de-icing practices)	
8	Education about pharmacy contamination treatment	
3	Promotion of conservation management for agriculture (ie lower phosphorus application rates)	
4	Promotion of manure management for smaller farms not currently required to implement them	

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WHAT DO PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW TO ADDRESS ISSUES OR TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES? (NO VOTING ON THIS TOPIC)

PRIORITY	OPPORTUNITY	REPEAT*
----	Reasons why planning is important to protect features and communicate the consequences	
----	Cohesive community	
----	Importance of buffers	
----	Educate through the schools (K-12 environmental curriculum)	2
----	What impact do I have on the watershed (How their actions affect resources)	2
----	What can I do?	
----	Public Education (Public awareness)	2
----	Funding opportunities - availability	
----	Educate about erosion in streams, development, and land use	
----	What makes a good creek bank	
----	Information access (get the word out)	
----	Time to act is now	
----	Audit / recommended changes to subdivision ordinances	
----	Sewage/WWTP customer education	

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