

NORTH MILL CREEK/DUTCH GAP CANAL WATERSHED PLANNING MEETING JUNE 3, 2:00 TO 4:00 PM

This meeting summary and all meeting materials can be found at www.lakecountyl.gov/Stormwater/LakeCountyWatersheds/NorthMill.htm

1. Introductions & Announcements

Patty Werner, Planning Supervisor, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) welcomed new and returning stakeholders and introduced the project team: Jodi McCarthy, Civil Engineer and Mike Prusila, Watershed Planner at SMC. These introductions were followed by meeting participants introducing themselves. A list of the meeting attendees is included with this report.

- Jim Anderson from the Lake County Forest Preserve District announced the acquisition of 747.7 Acres of land in the North Mill Creek Watershed named the Dutch Gap Forest Preserve. Jim distributed a map of the area (attached). Additional information can be found in the following newspaper article: http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/newssun/news/2262484.5_1_WA12_FPBUY_S1-100512.article
- Know a member: Patty mentioned that SMC is looking for volunteers to take part in the “Know a Member” segment of the stakeholder meetings. These stakeholders would share a 5-minute description of their organizations and their roles in the watershed at the beginning of future meetings. Later in the meeting it was announced that the Lake County Department of Public Works Department would be presenting at the next meeting in late June.

2. Review and accept April meeting summary

There were no comments on the April meeting summary and it was accepted by consensus.

3. “Getting to Know” the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission:

Mike Hahn introduced the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) as an official area wide public planning agency for the seven counties of Southeastern Wisconsin. The commission’s purpose is to consider and address physical development and infrastructure problems that extend beyond municipal and county boundaries, as well as to prepare region wide advisory long-range plans for land use, transportation, water quality management, flood management, parks and open space, environmental corridors, natural areas, and water supply. He detailed the SEWRPC Planning Report 44 “A Comprehensive Plan for the Des Plaines River Watershed”, which which was published in 2003 and covers a period through 2030.

- http://maps.sewrpc.org/publications/pr/pr-044_part-01_plan_for_des_plaines_watershed.pdf
- http://maps.sewrpc.org/publications/pr/pr-044_part-02_plan_for_des_plaines_watershed.pdf
- http://maps.sewrpc.org/publications/pr/pr-044_part-03_plan_for_des_plaines_watershed.pdf

As a part of this plan, 4.1 miles of the Dutch Gap Canal were studied and floodplain maps within the watershed were updated and are awaiting adoption by FEMA, which should happen at any time. The maps are already in use for local zoning purposes. SEWRPC’s recommended land use plan anticipates a decrease in rural lands as the urban area increases and includes the following: a fisheries management plan; an Open Space Sub-element that recommends maintenance and preservation of Primary Environmental Corridors (PEC) and an Outdoor Recreation Sub-element that is designed to connect to trails in Lake County. There is a priority area for prairie and wetland restoration identified along Dutch Gap Canal. Sewer service is not recommended for areas designated as PEC.

Recommended floodland and stormwater management plans work to abate flood damages for the 100-year flood through wetland restoration, stream rehabilitation in the Upper Des Plaines, prairie restoration, and new stormwater management criteria for proposed development. SEWRPC recently looked at opportunities for additional flood storage along Dutch Gap as part of the DesPlaines Phase II planning effort and found that they might achieve up to a 12% reduction in flows at the state line with additional storage (overall flows at the state line would only be reduced by 5-6% with additional storage in the larger Des Plaines watershed in Wisconsin).

The recommended water quality management plan includes addressing public and private sewage treatment plants as well as agricultural and urban nonpoint source pollution control. The Upper Des Plaines Watershed plan recommendations are consistent with stormwater runoff standards in Wisconsin's NR 151 code, although the watershed plan recommends a more stringent level of control. The plan was adopted in 2003 and is being implemented today. A copy of the presentation is attached to this meeting summary.

4. Presentations followed by questions/comments regarding the management and maintenance of riparian buffers

a. Tom Kehoe – Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.

Tom's presentation introduced the stakeholders to riparian buffers. He discussed why they are important, some specific characteristics of riparian buffers, their valuable functions, and how to enhance, preserve and protect them. He stressed that buffers can have a variety of plant species based upon the hydrology of the area, but the most important aspect of the riparian buffer is the presence of vegetation. A copy of the presentation is attached to this meeting summary.

b. Jerry Hebard – Wisconsin Natural Resources Conservation Service

Jerry discussed the Federal Farm Programs that offer cost share assistance to landowners that set aside riparian forest buffers and filter strips: Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) <http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/crp.html> and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). <http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip.html>. The buffer widths can vary dependent upon the land and proximity of farming activities, but are seldom less than 30' wide. Jerry stated that there is no solid formula for calculating ideal buffer width because site specific variables need to be considered. Jerry recommends warm season grasses for grassed buffers, but in some instances cool season grasses are planted due to less time being required for them to get established. A copy of the presentation is attached to this meeting summary.

SEWRPC has a booklet titled "Managing the Water's Edge" that is available on their website. <http://www.sewrpc.org/SEWRPCFiles/Environment/RecentPublications/ManagingtheWatersEdge-brochure.pdf>

5. Review of Plan Goal Statements – The draft goal statements were distributed, but it was decided to review and finalize these at a later meeting. They will be sent with this meeting summary for review and comment by the stakeholders.

6. Begin development of a Watershed Vision Statement

The stakeholders participated in a facilitated exercise to aid in developing a watershed vision statement. The list of watershed opportunities (see below) that included the group's voting priorities was distributed for consideration along with several additional questions related to land use, transportation, natural resources and recreation for future conditions. Participants were then asked to imagine that there is an article being written 20 years in the future about the North Mill Creek / Dutch Gap Canal Watershed. Each stakeholder was asked to write down brief declarative statements of what they envision the headline to be, what would be included in the cover story, what photographs of the watershed would be included, and what quotes would be used in the article. Once the ideas were placed on the posterboards, Patty read the ideas and asked the stakeholders to conduct the exercise again considering what others had included. While the stakeholders were adding their new ideas to the boards, they were asked to also vote for one idea in each of the categories. The results are listed below. SMC staff will work on a few draft vision statements that reflect these thoughts for committee consideration at a future meeting.

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	

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

Headline	
First Brainstorming Session	# of Votes
North Mill Creek / Dutch Gap Canal maintains a rural feel	0
Sidewalks now line every road	2
Planned developed to maintain and increase green space in North Mill Creek / Dutch Gap Canal Watershed	6
Kenosha County approves Comprehensive "Smart Growth" Plan	
New conservation development opens	
County declares all lakes and streams safe for recreational activities	
Recent fish survey results provides amazing results	1
All local units of government accept County land use plan recommendations	
We have come a long way in 25 years to improve your watershed	5
More open space	
Lindenhurst keeps small town feeling with state of the art amenities	
Second Brainstorming Session	
Flood mitigation a success. No damage reported after heavy rains	
Grand open space plan developed by Wisconsin and Illinois for NMC/DGC watershed	
2015 Headline: County recycling program reduces garbage by 85% over 2010 level	

Cover Story	
First Brainstorming Session	# of Votes
Compact development includes adjacent employment, school, and open space	
Agrarian lifestyle still exists	
Taking my grandson to his favorite frog pond	
Northern Lake County experiences massive water shortage crisis	
Ten minute drive to a park or preserve	
Comprehensive Plan guides land use through the year 2035 incorporating Bristol Land Use Plan	
Clean water with divers fish and wildlife	2
Perennial watercourses would have kayak/canoe put in / take out areas available	
Water quality and wildlife habitat greatly improved with restoration of Dutch Gap / Mill Creek Corridor	6
Forest Preserve District connects trail system to Des Plaines and Millennium Trail Sections	
Seven Species of fish which were of the endangered list are now seen in large numbers	

Lindenhurst has been at the forefront of environmentally friendly development that has preserved the small town feel with the use of high-tech facilities	1
More land is set aside for open space	
Conservation development includes zero runoff, some local food and is energy independent	
Develop an interconnected system of riparian corridors, trails, bicycle paths for water quality protection, habitat, and recreation	
Concentrate residential and commercial/industrial area (minimize daily travel times / commutes)	1
Cluster new development, leaving agricultural and environmental corridors as significant features	2
Flooding reduced in Gurnee from successful implementation of North Mill Creek / Dutch Gap Canal Watershed Plan	

Quotes	
First Brainstorming Session	# of Votes
Smart Growth takes into account: transportation, utility, infrastructure, park and open space, agriculture	6
Those planners 20 years ago were so smart	
It's great to be able to catch my dinner in our local lake	1
Plastic bags available but cost \$0.25 each at every retail establishment in the region. "Plastic Bag Fund" used to pay for clean-up days in the communities	
Walking trails available to areas for mass transit back-up points	2
25 years ago grandma pulled out shopping carts from this pond	
John Doe from the DNR attributed the remarkable results to the riparian setbacks recommended in the watershed plan	
Second Brainstorming Session	
Lindenhurst is the first community to establish a self-sustaining town that has reduced its non-recyclables by 85%	

Photos	
First Brainstorming Session	# of Votes
Local lake with satisfied fishermen	
Lakes and Forest preserves	4
20 snail darters formerly an endangered species in the Mill Creek	
Wisconsin Illinois cooperative solar and wind farm project for Lake-Kenosha-Racine county area	1
Solar-powered trolleys transporting residents to local stores and recreational areas	6
Grandson frogging in pond	2

June 3, 2010 Meeting Attendees

Last Name	First Name	Organization
Adam	Mike	Lake County Health Dept.
Anderson	Jim	Lake County Forest Preserve Dist.
Berner	Vic	Resident
Chefalo	Tom	Lake County Planning, Bldg. & Dev.
DeGrave	Chuck	Lake County Dept. of Public Works
Dicke	Faith	East Shore Crooked Lake
Girmscheid	Tim	Liberty Prairie Conservancy
Hahn	Mike	SE Wisc. Reg. Planning Comm.
Hebard	Jerry	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Johannesen	David	James Anderson Company, Inc.
Kehoe	Tom	Christopher B. Burke Eng., Ltd.
Kerkman	Randy	Town of Bristol
Lindberg	John & Ingrid	Residents
Martino	Will	Neuhaven HOA
McCarthy	Jodi	Lake County Stormwater Mgmt.
Prusila	Mike	Lake County Stormwater Mgmt.
Treloar	Dan	Kenosha County Planning & Development
Welsh	Wes	Village of Lindenhurst
Werner	Patty	Lake County Stormwater Mgmt.

North Mill Creek/Dutch Gap Canal Watershed Plan **Contact and Information Sheet**

For questions pertaining to the watershed plan or watershed planning process, please contact the project team:

Lake County Stormwater Management - www.lakecountyil.gov/Stormwater

- Patty Werner - 847-377-7717 - pwerner@lakecountyil.gov
- Jodi McCarthy - 847-377-7711 - jmccarthy@lakecountyil.gov
- Mike Prusila - 847-377-7713 - mprusila@lakecountyil.gov

You can follow the planning process and view meeting documents at:

www.lakecountyil.gov/Stormwater/LakeCountyWatersheds/NorthMill.htm

Lake County Health Department - www.lakecountyil.gov/Health

- Mike Adam - 847-377-8002 - madam@lakecountyil.gov
- Kathy Paap - 847-377-8021 - kpaap@lakecountyil.gov

Lake County Planning Building & Development - www.lakecountyil.gov/Planning

- Tom Chefalo – 847-377-2120 - тчefalo@lakecountyil.gov

Kenosha County Department of Planning & Development - www.co.kenosha.wi.us/plandev

- Daniel Treloar – 262-857-1895 - dtreloar@co.kenosha.wi.us

Lake County Forest Preserve - www.lcfdp.org

- Jim Anderson – 847-968-3282 - janderson@LCFPD.org

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency - www.epa.state.il.us/water/surface-water

- Joe Marencik - 847-294-4110 - joe.marencik@illinois.gov

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission - www.sewrpc.org

- Michael Hahn - 262-547-6722 Ext. 243 - mhahn@sewrpc.org

Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Jerry Hebard - 262.878.1243 ext 108 - jerry.hebard@wi.usda.gov