

**NORTH MILL CREEK/DUTCH GAP CANAL WATERSHED  
“KICK-OFF” STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS  
FEBRUARY 25, 2010 – 1:30 TO 4:00 PM AND 6:30 TO 8:30 PM**

**MEETING REPORT**

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**Meeting Purpose:** To bring stakeholders in the North Mill Creek/Dutch Gap Canal watershed together, provide them with information about the watershed condition and get their feedback on what issues and opportunities the watershed plan should address.

**Meeting Outcomes:**

1. A clear understanding of what a watershed plan is and what will be included in the North Mill Creek/Dutch Gap watershed plan.
2. A common knowledge of the characteristics and preliminary assessment of the North Mill Creek/Dutch Gap watershed condition.
3. A set of possible interests, issues, and opportunities to be considered by the watershed plan.

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Introductions:**

Mike Warner, Executive Director of the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC), welcomed participants to the meeting and introduced Patty Werner, Mike Prusila, and Jodi McCarthy as SMC project staff. Patty introduced other agency planning team members in attendance: Joe Marencik – IL Environmental Protection Agency (Joe has monitored the water quality in North Mill Creek); Mike Adam (afternoon meeting) and Kelly Deem (evening meeting) Lake County Health Department Environmental Services Division Lakes Management Unit (the Lakes Management Unit has monitored water quality of lakes in the watershed and will monitor both lake and stream water quality in 2010). All other meeting attendees introduced themselves. A list of the meeting attendees is included with this meeting report.

Patty acknowledged the IL Environmental Protection Agency for providing cost-share funding to the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission to develop a watershed-based plan for North Mill Creek/Dutch Gap Canal. The watershed planning process should be completed in 2011. Plan development will involve active stakeholder participation including a series of stakeholder planning meetings that will be scheduled approximately monthly.

## **What is a Watershed Plan?**

PDF files of the Power Points presented on this topic and watershed characteristics may be viewed and downloaded from the SMC website at: <http://lakecountyil.gov/Stormwater/LakeCountyWatersheds/NorthMill.htm>

Patty Werner presented what a watershed plan is – how it is used – and explained why we are doing a watershed plan for the North Mill Creek/Dutch Gap watershed. A watershed plan is a guidance document. It is not a regulatory ordinance and it is not a land use plan. Land use planning is conducted by local municipalities and counties who have land use planning authority. Since water flow does not conform to political jurisdictional boundaries, water impacts (flooding, water pollution etc.) may affect multiple jurisdictions located in the watershed. Watershed planning is a way for multiple jurisdictions, non-profit and business organizations, and individual landowners to coordinate activities and pool resources to reduce flooding, improve water quality and protect and enhance natural resources in the watershed. Having a watershed-based plan not only provides guidance to stakeholders on program and project needs to improve the watershed, but also opens the door to accessing grants to provide matching money for the projects and programs recommended in the watershed action plan.

## **Watershed Characteristics:**

Jodi McCarthy described the characteristics and condition of the North Mill Creek/Dutch Gap watershed including historic land cover, ecology / natural resources, and current and projected watershed land use and demographic data. Mike Prusila summarized SMC's stream and detention basin inventories. He provided a description of the inventories' results as well as a pictorial of the stream in its upstream, downstream, and mid-stream locations.

Joe Marencik from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IL EPA) presented information pertaining to the stream quality monitoring the IL EPA is conducting in the Illinois portion of the North Mill Creek watershed that will be incorporated into the watershed plan. He described the elements that are surveyed at three collection points in the watershed, which include field parameters (temperature, DO, pH, conductivity, discharge), water chemistry, macroinvertebrates, fish and habitat. He concluded that the three sample sites do not support the standards outlined in the Clean Water Act and have degraded macroinvertebrate and fish communities. Joe presented results of monitoring data provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that shows the fish and macroinvertebrates monitored in Dutch Gap Canal are rated as being in poor condition.

The Lake County Health Department (Mike Adam in the afternoon meeting and Kelly Deem in the evening meeting) summarized the water quality monitoring program they will be conducting in 2010 on 12 lakes throughout the Illinois portion of the North Mill Creek watershed and they will use continuous monitoring (data recorded at 15 minute intervals) at three stream locations. They reviewed the equipment and processes they will use to collect data for dissolved oxygen, conductivity, pH, water temperature, nutrients, chloride, flow, and aquatic plants. From previously collected data, the water quality in the watershed is considered to be poor and 11 of the waterbodies have been designated as "impaired" by the IL EPA.

### **Watershed Planning Process & Schedule:**

Patty Werner briefly covered how the watershed planning process will work over the period of a year. The plan committee will meet approximately 10-12 times on a monthly basis. Once a draft of the plan is complete, SMC and this watershed planning committee will review the draft plan report before it goes out for public review and comment. Following any necessary revisions, the final plan will be adopted by the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission and the Lake County Board as an amendment to the Lake County Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan. Other stakeholder jurisdictions will also be asked to adopt the plan as a guidance document.

### **Watershed Issues and Opportunities:**

Meeting participants were divided into groups (4 afternoon/3-evening) with a facilitator assigned to each group for this stakeholder input exercise. Patty Werner asked that all of the meeting participants identify issues and opportunities that they think should be addressed in the watershed planning process. In this brainstorming session, all ideas are considered good ideas - no ideas were criticized or debated. Each participant in turn provided their priorities, which were recorded on flip charts and are compiled in an attached table.

### **Final Announcements/Next Meetings:**

Patty Werner and SMC staff will be compiling and sending out a summary of the stakeholder input on watershed issues and opportunities. Patty requested that anyone who could provide information on how the Dutch Gap Canal and Mill Creek were named please get back to her with the information.

Patty also thanked meeting participants for attending today's meeting. They will be receiving an invitation for the March meeting in the next few weeks and a summary of this meeting will be sent out and posted on the SMC website.

<http://lakecountyil.gov/Stormwater/LakeCountyWatersheds/NorthMill.htm>

Following the meeting, one participant suggested that Mill Creek at one time had a grain mill in a location downstream of the present Rasmussen Lake and believed that the mill gave the creek its present day name. Another participant sent an article printed in 2000 on the history of the digging of the Dutch Gap Canal following the meeting. The article will also be included with the meeting report on the SMC website.

## List of Attendees

Last Name	First Name	Representing
Adam	Mike	Lake County Health Department
Anderson	James L.	Lake County Forest Preserve
Bailey	James	Bristol
Benson	John	IDI
Berner	Victor	Resident
Caldarella	Chris	Village of Antioch / SEC Group
Clifton	Mike	Loon Lakes Management
Craig	Evan	Sierra Club
Deem	Kelly	Lake County Health Department
DeGrave	Chuck	Lake County Public Works
Dicke	Faith M.	East Shore Crooked Lake
Doolittle	Thomas	Grubb School Drainage District
Druce-Hoffman	Thomas & Irene	Resident
Elfering	Noel	Bristol Town Board
Elfering	Dale	Elfring Farms
Ewing	Dan	Resident
Francis	Sandy	State Senator Michael Bond 31st District
Girmscheid	Tim	Liberty Prairie Conservancy
Glembocki	William	Bristol
Goetz	George	Bristol
Gossling	Richard J.	Village of Bristol
Green	Glenn	Lindenhurst Lakes Commission; Lake County Forest Preserve
Guldan	John	Milburn Cemetary Board
Hagen	Diane	Resident
Hahn	Michael G.	SE Wisconsin RPC
Hebard	Gerald	USDA - NRCS
Heimbrod	Dennis	Village of Antioch
Helker	Craig	Wisconsin DNR
Hollock	Bob	Millburn Tree Farm
Inglis	Sandra	Resident
Knysz	Peter M.	CBBEL
Kolar	Jerry	
Leffingwell	Larry	Tempel Farms
Lindberg	John & Ingrid	Resident
Lippert	Tom	Lindenhurst Park District
Loecher	Lee & Sue	Resident
Lovell	Cecil & Marguerite	Resident
Marencik	Joe	Illinois EPA
Marrs	Joseph A.	Resident
Marturano	Dominic	Village of Lindenhurst Board
Mauer	Julie A.	Lake County SMC
McCabe	John	Town of Bristol
McCarthy, PE, CFM	Jodi	Lake County SMC
Murphy-Fisch	Colleen	Bristol Town Board
Myers	David J.	Illinois DNR
Pedersen	Gregg	Resident
Prusila	Michael E.	Lake County SMC
Raymond	Marvin	RPC

Renwick	Jim	Resident
Schmidt	Suzi	Lake County Board
Schultz	Phil	Crooked Lake
Treloar	Dan	Kenosha County Planning and Development
VanDerHaegen	Jean	Resident
Venturi	Daniel B.	Lake Villa Township
Warner, PE, CFM	Michael D.	Lake County SMC
Weeks	Kevin	Resident
Welsh, PE	Wesley	Village of Lindenhurst
Werner, AICP	Patricia	Lake County SMC
Willis	Lynn	Brighton Farm
Wilson	Don	Resident
Yersin, PE	Jeff	Kenosha County Planning and Development