



Bull Creek-Bull's Brook Watershed Council

Thursday, March 16, 2017
1-3 PM
Lake County Forest Preserves
1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville IL

Draft Meeting Report

- I. Welcome and Introductions**
Kathleen O'Connor, Libertyville Township. Attendees introduced themselves - a list of attendees is attached to this report.
- II. Review/Accept October Meeting Report** – Kathleen O'Connor - approved
- III. Buckthorn Be Gone: Lake County Forest Preserves Pilot Buckthorn Eradication Program** – Matt Ueltzen, Lake County Forest Preserves presented current scientific knowledge about the habits and impacts of European buckthorn on native plant and animal communities. Matt introduced a pilot buckthorn removal program being undertaken by the Forest Preserves on 2,900 acres including and surrounding Middlefork Savanna. Matt's presentation is posted on the webpage with this meeting report. Questions and discussion included how can homeowner associations (HOAs) work with residents to encourage them to remove buckthorn on their properties? Matt suggested looking for partnerships for removal and replacement plants (important to find replacement plants for people who like the use of buckthorn for screening). Suggestion that Midwest Invasive Plant Network has a good handout/brochure on their website for alternative plants for landscaping. Several HOA representatives asked Matt about how they can map buckthorn in their communities in the watershed in order to identify areas to target for buckthorn removal. Ken Klick offered to assist with follow-up for mapping buckthorn in the watershed. Question about whether anyone is testing waters for Emodin (toxic emitted by buckthorn). No one was aware of testing for this chemical.
- IV. Regulatory Permitting Dymystified:**
Permitting Process for Projects in Unincorporated Areas – Mea Blauer Lake County Planning and Development Department presented the centralized “one-stop” process of applying for zoning, site development, building, road access, utility, well and septic permits for projects in unincorporated Lake County. The County offers early assistance with free pre-application meetings. Mea's presentation is posted on the webpage with this meeting report. Questions and discussion centered on follow-up inspections, which the County performs regularly and notification requirements. Neighbors are notified of permitted projects when the project requires rezoning, a variance, conditional use approval or vacation of a roadway. If the property is used as it is zoned, neighbors are not notified.

Regulatory Review Process for the Lake County Watershed Development Ordinance (WDO) – Scott Griffith Lake County Stormwater Management Commission presented the watershed development permit program including an overview of the waters of Lake County, when is a watershed development permit (WDP) required, and who is responsible for issuing and administering the WDP. Scott's presentation is posted



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on the webpage with this meeting report. Scott answered a question about the appeals process for wetland determinations. The WDO includes provisions for appeals by the SMC or by a certified community that has been delegated isolated wetlands permitting authority. Questions were also raised about who is responsible for compliance checks for aerators on detention ponds and other stormwater facility components post development? Scott responded that while some stormwater management facilities are managed by government agencies, a large percentage are under the management of individual homeowner associations and are not regularly inspected by SMC or certified communities post-development. HOAs are responsible for maintenance and repair of the stormwater facilities. Maintenance requirements are directed by a maintenance plan that was approved during the permit issuance process.

- V. **2017 Bull Creek/Bull's Brook Work Plan Review** – Patty Werner, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission briefly went over a draft 2017 work plan for the Bull Creek- Bull's Brook Watershed Council that is a continuation of the 2016 work plan. Please review the plan and provide any comments for final revisions to Patty or Kathleen. The Leadership team will finalize the workplan at their April/May meeting since the June Watershed Council meeting will be a field trip outing. Kathleen will check on the financial status of the Council for covering the cost of the watershed -e-News and will coordinate with Paul and Ken on a possible grant application to Liberty Prairie Foundation for additional support of the e-News if needed.

VI. **Project Updates and Announcements:**

Patty Werner briefly announced:

- Des Plaines River Watershed Plan (handout) and Des Plaines River Watershed Work Group progress
- Neonicotinoid Insecticides, Non-target Effects and Best Management Practices April 27th Webinar
- Lake to Prairie Wild Ones: Using Natives to Create a More Traditional-Looking Landscape, April 11, 7 PM, and Water Doesn't Lie: A Native Plant Solution to Drainage Problems, May 2, 7 PM, Fremont Library, Mundelein
- Conserve Lake County Native Tree, Shrub and Plant Sale, Online sale begins March 28th, ConserveLakeCounty.org

Paul announced:

- Audubon received a \$1,000 grant to initiate a pollinator program with local schools that promotes the use of native plants that are the best pollinators in school gardens. They are starting the program with a school in Waukegan and Prairie Crossing Charter School (in the BC-BB Watershed).

- VII. **New Business** – None was presented

- VIII. **Adjourn**

Bull Creek-Brook Watershed Council 2017 Draft Work Plan

| Strategy | Action/Schedule | Status | Lead(s) |
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| 1. Bull Creek-Brook Watershed Council (BC-BB WC) will meet 3 times in 2017 | March 16, 2017 , LCFPD June 15, 2017 , Libertyville Wastewater Treatment Plant October 19, 2017 , St. Mary of the Lake University | March completed | Kathleen/Patty/Ken/Jon/Clayton |
| 2. Develop annual work plan (budget sufficient to contract for E-News design/editing) | Work Plan Draft March 2017, finalize at April 2017 Leadership Team meeting | Draft Completed | Ken/Paul/Patty/Kathleen Watershed Council |
| 3. Produce 3-4 E-News updates. | Upcoming Events – All contribute Call for Volunteers – Highlight volunteer opportunities Spring 2017 E-News topic – good yard keeping practices Summer 2017 E-News topic - trees and SW mgmnt. benefits Fall 2017 E-News topic - Casey Road Restoration Update (possible groundwater topic also) | Distributed March 1, 2017 | Leadership Team Kathleen/Patty/Ken |
| 4. Identify 3-4 educational messages for community websites, newsletters, high school projects | Need to promote these topics for posting on community/organization websites and newsletters. Suggestions for future articles/features for messages include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Summary of findings on WQ monitoring ● Highlight lake management ● What to expect if your community reduces road salt use ● Economic benefits of protecting the watershed ● Drinking water safety (article in Tribune about how phosphates are added to water at the water plants to coat the inside of pipe) ● Impacts of impervious cover ● Good/watershed-friendly practices based on the season. ● Invasive plant feature (each E-News) ● Increased engagement of the high schools and possibly the middle schools. | Decide 2017 Focus at April LT Meeting | Leadership Team/ Kathleen/Ken/Patty |

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| <p>5. ID watershed champion for each community/organization and compile list. Involve high schools and additional HOAs. (lower priority)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members will provide community contacts as they are identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Libertyville: Paul Kendzior, Village Engineer ▪ Mundelein: Holly Kim/Bill Emmerich, V. Engineer ▪ Grayslake: Elizabeth Davies? ▪ Libertyville Township: Kathleen O'Connor ▪ Warren Township: Sue Simpson ▪ Fremont Township: Alesha Dodd or Diana O'Kelly ▪ Libertyville High School: Dave Lapish LEAF Club ▪ Prairie Crossing Charter School: Geoff Deigan, Naomi Hershiser ▪ Warren Township High School: Mike Meizela ▪ St. Mary's University: Clayton Kalweit ▪ Mundelein Park District: Margaret Resnick ▪ Grayslake Park District: Kris Splitt ▪ Liberty Prairie Foundation: Brad Leibov, Nathan Aaberg ▪ Conserve Lake County: Sarah Surroz ▪ Liberty Prairie Area Homeowner Assn: Chris Geiselhart ▪ Prairie Crossing HOA: Joe Marencik ▪ Loch Lomond POA: Fritz Chesek & Robin Meier ▪ Arbor Vista HOA: Rick Hoppel ▪ Lake County Forest Preserves: Ken Klick ▪ Lake County Health Department: Gerry Urbanozo ▪ SMC: Patty Werner | | <p>Leadership T.</p> |
| <p>6. Reduce road salt usage watershed wide.</p> | <p>Lake County Training Workshops Sept. 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to meet with Innovation Park • Conversations with watershed communities on what salt reduction BMPs are being implemented • Suggest having the identified community champions promote salt reduction in their organizations • Promote cost savings with use of best practices | <p>Sept. 26, 27 2017</p> <p>Complete w/DPR Plan</p> | <p>Mike Adam/Ashley Warren SMC</p> |
| <p>7. Develop list of contacts for volunteer work</p> <p>Organize or support one education/stewardship event/project</p> | <p>Incl. in E-News:</p> <p>Participate in in volunteer share with Chicago Wilderness to provide days of service for corporate volunteers</p> <p>Add information about opportunities for volunteers on Sustainable LC webpage?</p> | | <p>Leadership T.</p> <p>Check w/ Haley M on this</p> |

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| 8. Convene a “planner’s forum” for community planners to include watershed recommendations in other community plans. | Representatives from Libertyville, Mundelein and Grayslake will be asked to attend watershed meetings and share community initiatives at meetings and in news articles. | | Leadership T. |
| 9. Partner with Conservation@Home to host training for riparian landowners on best lawn maintenance practices, managing stream buffers, controlling invasives. | Mundelein Park District is interested in participating for Diamond Lake and Bull Creek. Brookhill subdivision would also be interested in participating in this training opportunity. Showcase certified properties in the watershed – host garden walk? | Showcased in Spring E-News | Margaret Resnick Peggy Schlapper/Sharon Harris Conserve |
| 10. Review progress status and update the watershed action plan. | 2016-2017: The umbrella Des Plaines River watershed plan proposed by SMC for the DRWW is planned to include an action plan update for the BC-BB watershed plan. | Need to review BC-BB Action Plan by June 2017 | Patty/Kathleen/Leadership Team |

Additional notes carried over from 2016 Work Plan:

Judy Beck recommended as potential future speaker to discuss safe drinking water.

It was suggested that Valerie write an article on how public bodies address water safety for ground water.