

Stephanie Sheetz

From: Stephanie Sheetz [ssheetz@theconservationfoundation.org]
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2007 3:26 PM
Subject: Dec. 6 meeting review
Attachments: tour log explanation.pdf; Stormwater BMPs 12-6-07.pdf; BMP Presentation 12-6-07.pdf; Watershed Landowner Bill of Rights.pdf

Hello all –

Thanks to those who attended the Dec. 6 committee meeting. Our next committee meeting is Thursday, **January 10, 2008** at our regular time: 4:30-6 p.m. We will be back at Plainfield South High School's Media Center.

Here's a recap of last week's meeting:

- Joan spent 10 minutes talking about the watershed tour committee members were invited to participate in on 11/21. Attached is a summary of the stops & notes. The summary (with pictures) should be available on the project website soon.
- Pat Kelsey spent an hour discussing stormwater best management practices (BMPs)
 - Attached is the handout provided prior to the meeting. (This will also be made available on-line.)
 - Attached is a copy of the PowerPoint presentation (in a PDF). (This will also be made available on-line.)

It seemed committee members asked good questions, clarified points about various BMPs and learned about those less familiar to them. Stephanie summarized that the objective was to share information about BMPs and recognize them if some of them make it into the updated plan, as recommendations for voluntary projects to improve water quality.

- Stephanie concluded the meeting with two items for the committee:
 - Watershed Vision (subcommittee to draft this)

A plan is an opportunity to create a vision for the watershed. It describes what landowners and other stakeholders of the watershed want it to be – in the long-range when the plan's strategies are implemented.

To this point, the committee's work for the Aux Sable Creek watershed plan update has been focused on goals & issues in the watershed. These are key areas of the watershed plan & by having discussed these, the project consultant can integrate those into the plan. At this point the committee needs to use these discussions to develop a vision statement for the plan. This vision will then provide focus, purpose, and direction for the written document.

The committee agreed that a small group representing the diverse interests and backgrounds would be appropriate to draft a statement (or two) for the committee to consider.

12/13/2007

The subcommittee will include 3 individuals representing the following areas: a person that's involved with the Aux Sable Creek Watershed Coalition and has been proactive on watershed issues, a local government representative, and a farmer in the watershed.

o Watershed Landowner Bill of Rights

Representatives from the variety of stakeholders in the Aux Sable Creek Watershed have been asked to participate on this advisory committee, to update the Aux Sable Creek watershed plan. It is a voluntary and collaborative watershed planning process. While landowner rights have been paramount, the fact remains that they have not explicitly been stated to make clear that all of us are working within that frame of mind, respecting those rights.

Christine Davis at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency encouraged Stephanie to work with the committee on a landowner bill of rights. The intent is to clear the air of some of the concerns that may be circulating regarding landowner rights and this project.

Stephanie drafted a bill of rights for the committee to consider. The committee discussed this for about 20 minutes. A majority of the committee members felt the draft statement appropriate and inclusive of all types of landowners in the watershed. One representative felt it was "silly" and that this process is threatening to farmer's rights. The committee discussed this and noted that the watershed plan does not impose additional regulation on farmers, updating the watershed plan positions watershed stakeholders for funding for voluntary projects, updates to ordinances are a public process where everyone has a voice, and the approach taken seems adequate, to summarize a few of the comments.

If there are comments or suggestions on the draft statement (attached), please contact Stephanie.

Have a good holiday everyone.
Stephanie

Stephanie Houk Sheets, AICP
Land Use/Open Space Planning Manager

Program Office:
2550 Dickson Road
Montgomery, IL 60538
Phone: (630) 553-0687 x.304
Fax: (630) 553-0742

We save land. We save rivers.
www.theconservationfoundation.org



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.