

Aux Sable Creek Watershed Landowner Bill of Rights

Precept: We believe in private property and individual rights as a standard provided by the US Constitution. Private property includes all land, timber or other valuable considerations associated with land ownership. (Illinois Farm Bureau 2007 Policy Resolutions, Chapter 52)

The Aux Sable Creek watershed planning committee is a group of individuals representing widely varied backgrounds, opinions and motivations who have come together in mutual interest and respect to develop a watershed plan to improve water quality, without requiring additional regulation. The Aux Sable Creek watershed planning committee does not now have nor shall it ever develop and propound as one of its goals the enactment of any law, ordinance, rule or regulation that would impose an open space or greenway area designation upon any private property falling within the boundaries of the Aux Sable Creek watershed. In working on this voluntary watershed plan the committee members pledge to act as ordinary prudent persons and work diligently to respect:

- the right of any landowner in the watershed to farm, rent land to another, pass operations/land to children, and to sell land to another individual, investor, developer, hobbyist, forest preserve district or other governmental body, as the landowner and appropriate laws deem fit;
- methods of farming that result in: a profit for the farm operator, a clean environment, production of a safe food supply, and an adequate supply of high quality food (IFB 2007 PR, Chapter 23);
- farming operations, drainage and tiling, creek maintenance, and farm conservation methods encouraged by the Farm Bureau, Soil & Water Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service and the US Department of Agriculture (partially taken from IFB 2007 PR, Chapters 20, 25 & 42);
- activities undertaken to conserve, maintain and improve soil, water and other natural resources within Kendall County (partially taken from SWCD & NRCS mission statements);
- the right of any landowner to deny access to their private property, in accordance with the law;
- development of new and enhancement of existing incentives for adopting voluntary stormwater best management practices on all private land to improve water quality and wildlife habitat (IFB 2007 PR, Chapter 40);
- the economic and societal benefits of floodplains (partially taken from IFB 2007 PR, Chapter 48);
- that wetlands provide certain benefits and that reasonable efforts to discourage their conversion are appropriate, keeping in mind rights of all parties involved in such efforts (IFB 2007 PR, Chapter 44);
- voluntary ecosystem and wildlife preservation methods that avoid negative impacts and nuisances to farming operations (partially taken from IFB 2007 PR, Chapters 39 & 45);
- pesticide and fertilizer use, if desired by the landowner and known not to be harmful if properly used, in agricultural and non-agricultural areas throughout the watershed (partially taken from IFB 2007 PR, Chapter 32);
- voluntary participation by residents in watershed-wide open space or greenway plans (IFB 2007 PR, Chapter 51);
- voluntary preservation of appropriate lands for agriculture, open space uses, and/or other stormwater best management practices (partially taken from IFB 2007 PR, Chapter 51);

We believe care for the creek is possible by planning for its preservation and enhancement. Such care can be accomplished while respecting private property rights.

The following is a list of advisory committee members who regularly attended meetings and support the landowner bill of rights:

Megan Andrews, Resource Conservationist
Representing: Kendall County SWCD

Cameron Bettin, Superintendent of Planning
Representing: Plainfield Park District

Edward Block
Representing: watershed resident, Kendall County

Willa Bretthauer
Representing: watershed resident, Kendall County

Suzanne Casey
Representing: watershed resident, Kendall County

Jerry Dudgeon, Director of Planning, Building & Zoning
Representing: Kendall County Planning, Building, & Zoning

Cindy Ellis
Representing: watershed resident, Kendall County

Don Fisher, Director of Planning
Representing: City of Joliet

Scott Gapsevich, Supervisor Engineer, P.E.
Representing: City of Joliet

Jean Homerding
Representing: watershed resident, Kendall County

Sharon Homerding
Representing: Kendall County Farm Bureau representative & watershed resident

Debra Jo Kinsella, County Extension Director
Representing: University of Illinois Extension, Grundy Unit & watershed resident, Grundy County

Fran Klaas, County Engineer
Representing: Kendall County Highway Dept

Natalie Mahler, Resource Conservationist
Representing: Grundy County SWCD

Jake Melrose, Planner
Representing: Village of Channahon

Heidi Miller, Director of Planning, Building, Zoning & Solid Waste
Representing: Grundy County

Travis Miller, Director of Community Development
Representing: United City of Yorkville

Todd Milliron
Representing: watershed resident, Kendall County

Robert Munson
Representing: Kendall County landowner

Charles Perino
Representing: Illinois Department of Transportation

Allen Persons, Director of Public Works
Representing: Village of Plainfield

Jason Pettit, Executive Director
Representing: Kendall County Forest Preserve District

Jonathan Proulx, Planner II
Representing: Village of Plainfield

Bill Pry
Representing: watershed resident, Kendall County

Greg Ruddy, Public Works Administrator
Representing: City of Joliet - Department of Public Works & Utilities

Joan Soltwisch

Representing: Aux Sable Creek Watershed Coalition & watershed resident Kendall County

Deb Steffes

Representing: watershed resident, Grundy County

Carla Taylor

Representing: Aux Sable Creek Watershed Coalition & watershed resident Kendall County

Anne Vickery

Representing: watershed resident & Kendall County Board member

Chrisi Vineyard

Representing: watershed resident, Kendall County

Pam Wynne

Representing: Kendall County Farm Bureau & watershed resident

The following is a list of others invited to participate on the advisory committee who may have attended a meeting and support the landowner bill of rights:

Roger Barrowman, Public Works Supervisor
Representing: Village of Shorewood

Lenore Beyer-Clow, Openlands Policy Director
Representing: Openlands

Julie Buck, Executive Director
Representing: Morris Community Foundation

Grant Casleton, Superintendent of Planning
Representing: Oswegoland Park District

Craig Cassem
Representing: Grundy County Highway Department

Colin Duesing, Long Range Planner
Representing: Will County Land Use Department

Daniel Duffy, County Administrator
Representing: Grundy County

Dominic Egizio, Executive Director
Representing: Joliet Park District

Jerry Friel, Mayor
Representing: Village of Plattville

Gary Fruland, Village President
Representing: Village of Newark

Tim Good, Planning Program Supervisor
Representing: Will County Forest Preserve District

James Grabowski, Village Administrator
Representing: Village of Minooka

Jo Hollbrook
Representing: watershed resident, Kendall County

Karen James, Planner
Representing: Village of Shorewood

Tasha Jordan-Bunting, Manager
Representing: Grundy County Farm Bureau

Donald Kinzler, Engineering Project Manager
Representing: Village of Channahon

Dick Kopczick, Mayor
Representing: City of Morris

Jim Martin

Representing: watershed resident, Kendall County

Ralph Pfister, Executive Director

Representing: Yorkville-Bristol Sanitary District

Nicole Roedl, Engineer

Representing: Will County Land Use Department

Jerry Weaver, Public Works Director

Representing: Village of Oswego

Joe Wywrot, Engineer

Representing: City of Yorkville

Rod Zenner, Director of Community Development

Representing: Village of Oswego