

Stephanie Sheetz

From: Stephanie Sheetz [ssheetz@theconservationfoundation.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 8:12 AM
Subject: Feb. 6 meeting follow up
Attachments: TOC short _1-21-08.pdf; Grundy explanation HO.pdf

Hello all –

Thanks to all who were able to attend last Thursday's committee meeting. Our next meeting is Thursday, March 6 from 4:30 – 6 p.m. at Plainfield South High School in the Media Center. **Please be sure to add the April 3, May 1 & June 5 meetings to your schedule – these are important meetings.**

Below is a summary of the committee's February meeting:

- NPDES Phase II & watershed-based planning - guest speaker: Bill Ward, Geosyntec Consultants
 Bill should be forwarding his presentation to us & we will post it on the website as soon as we have it.
- Watershed plan table of contents review/discussion
 A draft table of contents (TOC) was e-mailed to the committee prior to the meeting & is available on the website. Pat Kelsey reviewed the major components of the TOC. There were no comments given at the meeting. Committee members should review this and direct any questions to Stephanie. She will compile them & work with Pat to provide any additional information or clarification needed. The TOC is the outline for the plan, which is being prepared in the next 2-3 months. Therefore, we request comments or questions be submitted in the next 1-2 weeks. If you have questions about elements that need to be in a watershed-based plan please refer to the Guidance for Developing Watershed Action Plans in Illinois.
- Timeline review
 The next couple of months are the writing phase of the plan, now that the committee has worked on goals and has provided information on issues in the watershed. We are seeking 5+/- volunteers from the committee to be a "technical review committee" that will read the chapters very closely. There will be 9 chapters. Some will require more time than others. Pat estimates review time would be 2-3 hours per chapter. Constructive comments focused on the content & interpretation questions are the intent of that review. This input will go far to eliminate confusing statements and avoid misinterpretations – to make the document both easy to understand and a helpful tool to local governments and organizations. As a reviewer, you would not need to suggest how to change it (unless you have an idea), just note your thoughts. The review work would likely occur March through May 2008.
We will ask for volunteers to step forward at the March meeting. Please consider your involvement.
 Below is a tentative schedule for the coming committee meetings:
 March – volunteers for review and discussion about ordinances (see below for a question raised about the ordinance process)
 April – full committee discussion of Chapters 2 & 3
 May – full committee discussion of Chapters 4-7
 June – full committee discussion of Chapters 8 & 9 and committee finalizes draft plan?
 (final committee meeting??)
 July – committee meeting??
- Update on watershed open space mapping – Grundy portion
 Stephanie gave an update on the open space mapping for the Grundy portion of the Aux Sable Creek watershed. Attached is an explanation on the process the subcommittee has followed to create this plan. A public information meeting was held on January 30, 2008. Stephanie has not received any comments or concerns from Grundy residents, to date, regarding the open space areas. If you are interested in knowing more about the outreach efforts, you may visit the website. A list will be posted soon on the open space mapping section of the site.
- Vision statement discussion
 The draft vision statement was discussed again, after a subcommittee met in January to make revisions. The vision statement is proposed as follows:

We intend to maintain the Class A rating of the Aux Sable Creek and enhance the natural and economic health of the watershed using good management practices, education and voluntary cooperation while respecting property owner rights.

It was suggested that the word "good" is ambiguous. Yet it was recognized that the intent is to keep the statement broad and that the plan will give specific ideas on specific recommendations that constitute "good management practices" for the watershed. Other suggested word choices: best, sound, acceptable. Of the words mentioned, it seemed most committee members liked "sound". If there are any further ideas for this word clarification, please e-mail Stephanie in the next 1-2 weeks. Otherwise, "good" will be replaced with "sound" and the vision statement will be considered final.

Thanks to the subcommittee (Jerry D., Joan S. & Sharon H.) for their work on the vision statement.

Thanks & see everyone in March.
Stephanie

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Ordinance Question

Following the committee meeting, a committee member asked a question about the process whereby ideas from the watershed document might be integrated into existing local ordinances. We will spend more time discussing this at the next meeting, but following are some preliminary thoughts Pat & I would offer (upon which representatives from local governmental entities can elaborate on *their* process at the March meeting): Each municipal corporation or county having jurisdiction over land use and stormwater discharges would be responsible for using their own ordinance development or ordinance revision process to create regulations from the plan. The planning document from this watershed planning process is an information resource and the implementation of any portion is either controlled locally by ordinance or by the federal NPDES Phase II permit process which is administered statewide by a general permit. There are two general permits that typically apply to the watershed: ILR 40, the MS4 permit that mandates communities improvement of stormwater discharges, and ILR 10, which regulates construction site runoff for sites greater than 1.0 acre.