

South Fork Kent Creek Watershed Stakeholder Planning Meeting #2

Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2019

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Webbs Norman Center, Boardroom

South Main Street, Rockford, IL.

Agenda

1. Review Phase I of watershed resource inventory and identify concerns/opportunities
2. Create success statement
3. Set goals
4. Review road map and future meeting dates
5. Adjourn

Attending

WM. Kindrachuk, Matt Martin, John Mershon, Joyce Lillie, Tina Johnson, Ann Marie Cain (Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau), Tom Lind (RPD), Rebecca Olson (OES), and Alyssa Robinson (OES)

Minutes

1. Tom Lind started off the meeting with an introduction.
2. Alyssa and Rebecca started with the presentation to facilitate discussion among stakeholders
3. Introductions: Why did the stakeholders come and what they want out of the meeting?
 - a. Information about what this plan will do
 - b. What does my creek have to do with Levings Lake?
 - c. Because we own property in the area-lifelong west side person and seen the changes of degradation to the water
4. Creek History
 - a. The ACoE came in 25-30 years ago and said the landowners could not alter the creek or raise the level of the land in the floodplain.
 - b. Sewer project followed Creek and went right through their properties.
 - c. Construction along creek seems never ending and adds litter, soil disturbance, and sedimentation.
5. Enjoyments
 - a. Fishing
 - b. Clear water
 - c. Used to swim on the other side of Pierpont about 70 years ago. It had a lunch stand and sandy beach, but now no one can swim in there.

- d. Wildlife
 - e. Spring fed, native wildflowers and grasses
6. Ideas for improvement
- a. Native grasses
 - b. Aeration
 - c. Volunteers to clean up trash
 - d. Find out sources-esp. where fecal coliform is coming from (known faulty septic nearby)
 - e. Where waterways meet the roadways-install planting or buffer strips
 - f. Install practices where water leaves property or roads
7. Concerns and Recognized Problems
- a. Wild turkeys (everywhere, along NW of watershed)
 - b. Occasional beaver
 - c. Grasses waterways need to be redone-widened, choke areas, ponding, more water flowing in than used to be
 - d. Flooding-used to happen every couple years now it is multiple times a year
 - e. Garbage, esp. along Cunningham Rd.
 - f. Illegal dumping in private land (back in the woods)
 - g. Future land use change
 - h. Siltation
 - i. Developing-2030 plan, good chunk of watershed is planned for industrial and residential development
 - j. Target areas: known faulty septic, surfaces in wetland
 - k. Impact from the railroad? What is it carrying?
 - l. Impact of quarries?
 - m. Oil companies (highly regulated, treatment ponds?)
 - n. Composting place?
 - o. From slides-prime farmland, aquifer sensitivity, and priority areas
8. What has been done?
- a. Called sheriff and ComEd (along RR tracks) about dumping
 - b. Trash and tree branch debris removal from creek
9. Where is fecal coliform coming from? No cattle farms...there are horses and llamas
10. Questions
- a. When did EPA do their testing for Water Quality Assessment
 - b. Are subdivisions on septic or sanitary
 - i. They may have switched over from septic to sewer, but contamination could still be coming from old septic tanks?
 - c. Can we do testing for fecal coliform?
 - d. What are the fecal coliform levels?
11. Vision
- a. Levings Lake is a great thing for our part of the county. Our hope is that the Lake would be improved and highlighted as a plus
 - b. Recreational value, safe water to go in for pets

- c. Conserve for future generations
 - d. Preserve water quality and what we enjoy about the Creek and its tributaries for future generations
 - e. Decrease fecal coliform levels and if feasible get it off the impaired list
 - f. Coincide with the 2030 Land Resource Management Plan for Winnebago County
12. **DRAFT VISION STATEMENT:** “We envision improving the water quality in South Fork Kent Creek Watershed in order to preserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife habitat, recreational attractions, and agricultural use of this natural resource for future generations to come.”
13. Ideas for further communication and recruitment of stakeholders
- a. Farm and Fleet bulletin board/ask them to spread the word
 - b. Winnebago Library bulletin board
 - c. FSA
 - d. German American State Bank
 - e. Ann Marie’s newsletter (Farm Bureau)
14. We did not get to Agenda items #3 Set Goals. That will be cover at next month’s Stakeholder meeting.