

South Fork Kent Creek Watershed Stakeholder Planning Meeting #4

Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2019

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Webbs Norman Center, Boardroom

South Main Street, Rockford, IL.

Agenda

1. Review & approve vision statement and goals established at previous meetings
2. Review highlights found in the Natural Resource Inventory
3. Discuss options for implementing different best management practices to improve water quality and address the concerns of stakeholders and goals of the watershed
4. Adjourn

Attending

Guy Cunningham, Joyce Lillie, Richard Ellena, Randy Schultz, John Martin, Scott Suma, Tony and Dawn Redmond, Christopher Baer, Ann Marie Cain, Dick Rundall Lou Ann Johnson, Harlan Johnson, Larry McFall, Allen Mills, Sean Von Bergen, Dan Jarrett, Tom Lind (RPD), Rebecca Olson (OES), and Alyssa Robinson (OES)

Minutes

1. Tom Lind started off the meeting with an introduction.
2. We went around the room with each person introducing themselves and stating concerns, why they came, and/or what they hope to get out of this meeting. Some concerns mentioned during introductions include:
 - a. flooding problems
 - b. issues related to sewer pipe installation
 - c. landowners are looking for help
 - d. the neighbor's berm has created water ponding and mosquito issues
 - e. erosion, sunken-in areas along the creek
3. Alyssa and Rebecca started with the presentation to review previous meetings, review the major findings of the natural resource inventory, and talk about best management practices that stakeholders could implement on their property that could address issues like sedimentation, erosion, flooding, nutrient and fecal coliform contamination, etc.
4. We reviewed the vision statement and goals created from previous meetings to ensure the room agreed with the direction and gave them an opportunity to add or edit. No one had any comments about the vision statement or goals, other than we better explained Goal 8 about prime farmland and we got a thumb's up agreement about the goals.
5. Alyssa reviewed major findings from the Inventory, including highlighting areas of opportunity to improve water quality. She also reviewed different best management

practices (or BMPs) that can be implemented by stakeholders in residential and agricultural areas to target water quality impairments and that can be partially funded by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA).

6. Comments about Inventory and BMP Opportunities presentation:
 - a. add septic/sewer boundary to the inventory
 - b. RPD is interested in improving the ponds at Parker Woods
 - c. There are four neighbors interested in the Jessica Lane location
 - d. the special water commission's 100-year old tiles that are breaking down are ceramic and located near Weldon/State and Auburn/State. They have been putting band aids on them and are looking for a long-term solution.
7. After the presentation we asked the stakeholders to share which BMPs seemed the most interesting or effective and if there any site-specific project areas that they know of to implement any BMPs.
 - a. Interesting BMPs:
 - i. Buffers
 - ii. Trees in 100-yr floodplain
 - iii. containment areas (basins) to address volume and velocity of water
 - iv. wetland restoration/creation (identify potential areas)
 1. Meridian & State St? did this areas used to be a wetland?
 - v. ditch/roadway swale size
 - vi. hydraulic study for Weldon to Cunningham (FEMA study? How much water?
 - vii. Winnebago County Surface Water Management Ordinance
 - viii. What can be done to decrease velocity and volume? Implement BMPs that store, detain, and filter water higher up in the watershed so that it slowly releases water
 - ix. Strategy: start in headwaters, implement BMPs as close to the source of pollutants and volume as possible
 - b. Site-Specific Project Ideas
 - i. sub sized culverts (viaduct under Prairie Path near Cunningham/Weldon) causing flooding
 - ii. Parker Woods ponds and subdivision
 1. Roadway swales on Meridian to slow down and store water before flooding Parker Woods
 2. Deepen Parker Woods roadway ditches?
 3. Far southern edge → potential for wetland restoration
 4. Can the Parker Woods Association OR Township meet to suggest change to by-laws in order to allow plantings in certain areas to filter and slow down water?
 - iii. Rockford-Winnebago Special Water Drainage District (old, failing tiles in Parker Woods)
 - iv. Jessica Trail neighborhood: is there a detention/retention pond?, wet area in park nearby
 - v. Berm near Dennis Elementary has flooding, potential project locatin
 - vi. Urge township to have regulations that encourage water quality improvement efforts

8. We also discussed funding opportunities briefly and encouraged stakeholders interested in implementing BMPs on their property to step forward and share info so that we can do a site visit and work more closely to make site-specific recommendations for their property. Illinois EPA Section 319 grants are competitive, but if stakeholders apply for and receive funds to implement BMPs to improve water quality then the Illinois EPA will provide 60% of funds for the total cost. The remaining 40% must be provided by the person implementing the BMPs, either in cash or in volunteer labor time.