

Hickory Creek Watershed Planning Group
September 24, 2010 Meeting Minutes
Orland Park Police Department

Attendance: Dale Schepers, Village of Tinley Park - Vice Chairman; Paul Pearson, Village of Mokena; Jesse Elam, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning; Matt Bardol, Geosyntec; Tom Schwerha, City of Joliet; Cindy Skrukud, Sierra Club; Mark Willobee, Geosyntec; Jane Turley, Village of Orland Park; Ed Schussler, Orland Park Trustee; Scott Killinger, Will County Stormwater Committee; Ron Sly, Village of New Lenox; Greg Cargill, Clark Dietz Engineers; Tim Good, Forest Preserve District of Will County; Matt Panfil, Village of Tinley Park; Kalle Butler, Center for Neighborhood Technology.

The meeting was called to order by Dale Schepers at 9:00 AM.

The minutes of the July 30th meeting were approved.

Estimates of Pollutant Loading

Mark Willobee presented slides documenting the compilation of pollutant load data from the stream corridor. His report will be included on the website.

{ See <http://www.hickorycreekwatershed.org/community-types/decision-maker/> }

The purpose of the data compilation is to establish an estimate of the pollutant load for the whole watershed, to estimate the contribution of each source of pollutant, and to begin to develop a target plan for pollution reduction. The presentation began with an explanation of the modeling system used, how data was grouped and distilled, as well as clarification of how load duration curves were arrived at and how to read them.

The data sets were all measured south of Washington Street confluence of Spring and Hickory Creeks. Each data point is based upon collected observations and the curves are based upon established EPA criteria. These curves demonstrate flow regimes where we should be concerned.

Cindy asked about concentrations of chloride during low-flow regimes. There followed a discussion of possible sources.

Mark explained that fecal coliform data is gathered during the recreational season of May-October. Discussion followed of sources of fecal coliform. Tom brought to the Group's attention the septic systems near Ridgewood east of Joliet that were dumping into the creek between Pilcher Park and the confluence of the stream where the data was collected. There followed a discussion of the possibility that this could have influenced the collected data.

Next steps: future pollutant loading; load-reduction targets; what are the goals? How to move forward?

No questions were asked during Q & A portion of presentation.

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Development of Vision and Policy Recommendations

Mark Willobee presented the slides compiled by Dennis Dreher regarding policy updates. The task is to compile and review the comprehensive plans in the Watershed; Dennis will have an essentially complete draft report deliverable in November.

General findings show that all of the plans, to some extent, provide protection of natural resources and open space. Specifics regarding the promotion of efficient compact development patterns and infill to be discussed next month. The review finds that there are currently not a lot of plans in place that promote efficient street and parking lot designs that minimize impervious surfaces, mentioning that this is a good area to emphasize.

Question of credit available for permeable paving—discussion of how credits for detention could be applied. Dale began a discussion of how to apply credits for volume reduction. The review found a disconnect between policy and engineering.

It will take a lot of work on ordinance updates to actually get changes made in order to support the vision with ordinances. A discussion followed regarding CMAP's role on assisting with implementation of Sustainable Communities technical assistance.

Progress of review: An ordinance checklist was sent out to the Watershed communities this week with the request that it be returned by October 8th. The ordinance review is still in progress by Dennis and the municipalities. The focus of the review is the comprehensive stormwater components.

A green infrastructure map for Hickory Creek data, based on input from the 9.18.10 workshop, is in draft stage. The goal is to identify areas most in need of protection and the opportunity areas for demonstrating how protected lands can work together as one system

Report from the Communications and Public Outreach Committee

Jane Turley gave an overview of the meeting at Lincoln-Way East High School on 9.30.10, including discussions of the planned October 11th workshop, the creation of an updated brochure, and the ideas for a 2011 Bioblitz. Cindy recommended setting up an RSVP on the HCWPG Facebook page.

Report from Steering Committee members on elected officials' responses to Hickory Creek Planning effort

Jesse Elam explained that it is imperative to let officials know who the HCWPG is and what its goals are. What have the responses been? Generally just updates and staff reports. The next step in the education process for elected officials involves board members' awareness, but we need to firm up value-added components to take to the boards. Some options are to create a power point to take to the boards; Jesse can come

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out to discuss the project charters; demonstration of pros and cons of BMPs as they stand now; highlighting of groups involved.

Jesse volunteered to put together a power point to pass along to municipal staff to show at their next meetings (October 18th at Mokena, New Lenox, and possibly Tinley Park).

Old Business

Channelization in Joliet: flooding issues in the 1990s led to deepening of channel. The application ran out before the project was finished. There is a new application in from the IDNR to the Army Corps; this is under review, so there is no update yet.

New Business

State GI Grants (IGIG) for implementation efforts finally out. Geosyntec will work on compiling a list of tangible projects in order to determine which projects can be fast-tracked in order to receive the grants. Implementing projects concurrently with the creation of a plan is a good technique for gaining support for the plan.

Next Meeting will be on December 10th in Tinley Park.