

Woods Creek Watershed Plan

Watershed Committee Meeting

March 20, 2012

9:00am-11:00am

Crystal Lake Park District

Attendance:

18 people in attendance, see sign-in sheet for record.

I. Introductions and Approval of Meeting Minutes from the January 25, 2012 Meeting

Michele Zimmerman, watershed co-coordinator, introduced the partners (Village of Algonquin, City of Crystal Lake, Village of Lake in the Hills and the Crystal Lake Park District) and consultant (Applied Ecological Services). Everyone in the audience introduced themselves. Michele Zimmerman provided a brief overview of the watershed project, partners and funding. The goal is to do a watershed based plan and ensure that the plan complies with the requirements of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

Michele Zimmerman, stated minutes from the meetings are posted on the website and the minutes from the previous meeting are on the sign-in table. The committee agreed the minutes were approved as submitted.

II. Mercury in Woods Creek Lake—Presentation by Jody Kubitz, Senior Consultant, Cardno ENTRIX

Mr. Jody Kubitz gave a PowerPoint presentation on the mercury impairment of Woods Creek Lake. Minamata Disease is from eating fish with high mercury levels and impacts the nervous system and extremities. Sources of mercury come from atmospheric deposition (volcano eruptions and coal burning), drawdown and flooding (soils), and historic discharge from industry. Sources for Woods Creek Lake appear to be from atmosphere and lake management, research is still being done to see if industry has played a role. There are ways to manage the mercury since it cannot be eliminated.

III. Existing and Future Land Use and Impervious Cover Impacts

Steve Zimmerman, AES, gave an overview presentation on existing and future land use coverage within the watershed and the impacts this has on water quality and water quantity. Historically the watershed was prairie and forest. Today the watershed is 33% medium density residential, 14% roads, 8% retail/commercial, 7.5% wetlands, 5.5% golf courses, 5.5% multifamily, 5% agriculture and other uses. The concern for future land use is more impervious surfaces will degrade the water quality and habitat. Runoff will need to be controlled better to protect the creek.

IV. Stakeholder Identification of Impairments in the Watershed

The Committee was asked to brainstorm impairments in the watershed. This will provide AES with a starting point for projects to list in the final plan. Ideas that were mentioned:

- Sediment in the lake
- Erosion
- Phragmites/invasive species
- Fertilizers
- Gas stations
- Public access
- Education
- Road salt
- Flooding
- Bacteria
- CSO/aging infrastructure
- Coal tar sealants
- Future development/redevelopment
- Dissolved oxygen

V. Stakeholder Education Ideas

The Committee was asked to brainstorm education ideas, ways to spread the word about the watershed plan and restoration projects. Ideas that were mentioned:

- Link watershed website to partner websites
- You tube video/social media
- Encourage MCCD and park districts to do educational components on local watersheds
- Educate elected officials
- Development requirements-show watershed and impact
- Stream clean-up
- Encourage soil testing SWCD
- Promote “do the right thing” but make sure the resources are available
- Promote rain barrels and rain gardens
- Activities to plant rain gardens
- Conservation @ Home program
- Ordinances to require action (stormwater fee, require rain barrels, etc)
- Walking tour of watershed
- Signs to identify watershed boundaries
- Assist schools with environmental programs
- Label storm drains “drains to river”
- Public access
- Site tours to see rain gardens
- Take program to Home Owner Associations

VI. Other News and Next Meeting

For those that did not vote at the last meeting on the goals, they had the opportunity to vote at this meeting. The next meeting may include a driving tour of the watershed.

All information will be posted on the website (www.algonquin.org/eco) and email notices of meeting dates will be sent to everyone.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.