

Woods Creek Watershed Plan

Watershed Committee Meeting

January 25, 2012

7:00pm-9:00pm

Algonquin Village Hall

Attendance:

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

I. Introductions

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).

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes from the November 17, 2011 Meeting

Katie Parkhurst, watershed co-coordinator, stated minutes from the meetings are posted on the website and the minutes from the kick-off meeting are on the back table. Dave Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes and Al Wilson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Review of Vision Statement

Katie Parkhurst explained at the kick-off meeting the participants brainstormed ideas that should be included in the vision statement. Michele and Katie took all these ideas to create the vision statement. It was suggested that green infrastructure be added. It was suggested that wetland management be changed to natural area management so it would be more inclusive of all landscapes impacting the watershed. The revised vision statement is as follows:

The Woods Creek Watershed Committee's vision is to improve water quality through refined stormwater management, flood reduction, enriched natural area management, groundwater recharge protection, utilization of green infrastructure, and control of invasive species. The goal is to enhance ecosystem benefits within the Woods Creek watershed and ultimately the Fox River through education and stewardship.

IV. Watershed Inventory Recap

Steve Zimmerman, AES, gave an overview presentation explaining the watershed study, field work, meetings, plan components, timeline, and final product. The goal is to find projects that will improve the water quality within the watershed. Once these projects are listed in a comprehensive watershed plan, the projects qualify for more grant funding opportunities. The watershed plan process should take about one and one-half years to complete.

In October, field work was conducted to gain a basic understanding of the watershed and to inventory all sections of the creek. The watershed is approximately 5,000 acres with only 400 acres of wetlands left (decreased from 1,500 acres of wetlands). Lake in the Hills Fen, although not in the Woods Creek Watershed, is a prime example of what this watershed landscape looked like historically before farming and development. There are over 150 detention basins within the watershed with all levels of management that will need to be addressed.

V. Baseline Water Quality Monitoring Results

Seven water quality samples were taken in December to get baseline data. The samples were tested for dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, total phosphorous, nitrates, total dissolved solids, total suspended solids, and turbidity. All the samples showed there are no water quality issues with the creek in the winter months. The same tests will be conducted again in the early summer for comparison. Woods Creek Lake is on the state water quality degradation list, so further study will need to be conducted to see why this is the case.

VI. Stakeholder Topics

Ann Viger, Crystal Lake Park District, explained the Park District has eight parks consisting of 150 acres in the watershed. All these parks were donated by developers; therefore most are not buildable parcels. The Park District is busy managing invasive species and has released the purple loosestrife beetle to combat the weed. This is working fairly well.

Fred Mullard, Lake in the Hills, explained the Village has done a grant project to reduce non-point source pollution in the area of Harvest Gate. The natural areas are on a five year rotation for burning. The Village is actively working on invasive species control.

Michele Zimmerman, Algonquin, stated public works has been trained to do natural area restoration and burns. The Village has been brushing the Woods Creek Riparian Corridor and removing invasive species for the last 5 years. Burns are being conducted on a three to five year cycle.

Erik Morimoto, Crystal Lake, explained the City is involved in several watershed based plans currently. In addition the City is branding all watershed related projects with "Crystal Clear for Crystal Lake" to draw a greater awareness to the projects. The City has an active rain barrel promotion campaign in place. The engineering department is being proactive and doing property maintenance inspections on detention basins.

VII. Preliminary Goals

Steve Zimmerman explained there are eight preliminary goals that will be used in the watershed plan, these can be further refined as the project continues. Each participant was given four dots to vote on their favorite goal(s). The goals and results are listed below:

- Identify, protect, and manage open space/green infrastructure (15)
- Improve and monitor surface water quality (7)
- Increase and/or improve recreational opportunities (4)
- Restore and manage aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems (10)
- Mitigate for existing structural flood problems (1)

- Provide watershed educational opportunities (9)
- Create policy to protect watershed resources from future development (9)
- Improve groundwater recharge (5)

As the project moves forward, objectives will be created to obtain each goal. These objectives lead to projects that would be applicable for grant funding.

VIII. Other News and Next Meeting

Al Wilson encouraged people to walk through Dixie Briggs Fromm property to see a major restoration project and the success of the restoration. There will be a guided walk of the property on May 6, 2012.

The meetings will most likely switch between day and night meetings to reach out to the most stakeholders. All information will be posted on the website (www.algonquin.org/eco) and email notices of meeting dates will be sent to everyone.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.