

Woods Creek Watershed Plan

Watershed Committee Meeting

November 17, 2011

9:00am-11:00am

Algonquin Village Hall

Attendance:

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

I. Introductions

Michele Zimmerman introduced the partners and consultant. Everyone in the audience introduced themselves.

II. IEPA and the 319 Grant

Michele Zimmerman explained the history of the project and the grant funding. The Village of Algonquin did a Woods Creek Watershed plan in 2001 that only covered the watershed within Algonquin. The goal is to now include the entire watershed and ensure that the plan complies with the watershed based plan requirements of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). The Village of Algonquin has partnered with the City of Crystal Lake, Village of Lake in the Hills and the Crystal Lake Park District to apply for 319 grant funding. The partners will provide the match requirement for the grant and Applied Ecological Services is the consultant hired to prepare the watershed plan.

III. Watershed Planning Process

Steve Zimmerman, AES, gave an overview power point presentation explaining the watershed study, field work, meetings, plan components, timeline, and final product. He listed the nine elements that are required for all watershed based plans to be approved by the IEPA. 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.

Why is Woods Creek Watershed being focused on now? The IEPA would like to see all watersheds have a watershed based plan in the next several years. The partnership among the agencies came together to make the Woods Creek watershed plan a feasible project for this year.

IV. Watershed Boundary

The exact boundaries of the watershed were determined from reviewing two-foot contours and then reviewing storm sewer data. The storm sewers have altered some natural flow of water and therefore are reviewed to determine the actual boundaries of the watershed. A map of the watershed boundaries was shown for all to review. The southern part of the creek will be referred to as Woods Creek main stem, and the northern portion will be referred to as Woods Creek tributary.

V. Summary of BMP Inventory and Concerns in the Watershed

Historically the watershed was mostly a prairie landscape with some groupings of woodlands. Farming altered the landscape with drain tiles installed and ditches created to make the land more suitable for farming. Urban development removed many drain tiles and installed storm sewers.

Applied Ecological Services conducted field work in October to walk the entire creek and do a stream inventory. There are over 130 detention ponds within the watershed. Every segment of the watershed will be evaluated in terms of land use, ecological condition, and stream quality.

Concerns of the watershed were discussed. The watershed plan will need to be coordinated with local ordinances that may be in conflict, such as landscape codes and development regulations. A desire is to improve the water quality of the creek and Woods Creek Lake. According to some previous studies, mercury may be an issue in the lake. Flood control and dam management will be reviewed based on previous studies conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Groundwater recharge will also be looked at as part of the watershed plan. Standards for long-term maintenance for natural areas should be discussed further. Education will be a key component of the watershed based plan.

VI. Creation of a Mission Statement

A brainstorming activity was conducted to come up with key elements for a mission statement for the Woods Creek Watershed Committee. Ideas to include in the mission statement are:

- Improve water quality
- Stormwater management
- Reduce flooding
- Wetland maintenance
- Education
- Ecosystem benefits
- Dam management
- Groundwater recharge
- Invasive species

The watershed coordinators will take these ideas and create a mission statement to share at the next meeting.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in January at night. 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.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.