Woods Creek Watershed Plan
Watershed Committee Meeting
May 22, 2012
9:00am-10:15am
Algonquin Village Hall

Attendance:
16 people in attendance, see sign-in sheet for record.

I. Introductions and Approval of Meeting Minutes from the March 20, 2012 Meeting

Katie Parkhurst, 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.

Katie Parkhurst, 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. Water Quality Update

Steve Zimmerman, AES, gave an overview of the water quality testing done in December and after a storm event on April 16th. The December testing indicated no concerns with the water quality. The April testing noted elevated levels of phosphorus and suspended solids (sediments) in the creek and the lake. The main cause of both is from stream bank erosion. In order to improve the water quality in the lake, the phosphorus levels need to decrease by 27.5% and sediment needs to decrease by 17% after storm events. This will be looked at under the plan recommendations for restoration projects.

III. Green Infrastructure Network—How was this determined?

Steve Zimmerman, AES, gave an overview of how the green infrastructure network was mapped. First an open space inventory was done at a parcel level. Second, the parcels were prioritized based on criteria important to green infrastructure. Third, a network was formed from the parcels and linked together.

IV. Ecologically Significant Areas

Steve Zimmerman reviewed where the high quality natural areas are within the watershed. There are five ADID wetlands, Spella Wetland, two Private Parcels, two McNAI sites, Woods Creek Fen, and Algonquin Hanging Fen that are the significant areas.

V. Sensitive Aquifer Recharge Areas

Both McHenry and Kane Counties have mapped groundwater recharge areas. The concern for the watershed is as the groundwater levels are drawn down, this will impact the amount of water within the creek. In the Woods Creek watershed, 8% of the area is considered a high recharge area and 10% of the area is considered moderate recharge area.
VI. Developing Objectives for Watershed Goals

The Committee came up with goals for the watershed plan and voted on the highest priority goals at a previous meeting. Now for each goal there need to be measurable objectives. The Committee brainstormed ideas for the Increase or Improve Recreational Opportunities goal. Ideas included: improve fishing—more places to fish and maybe use detention ponds; connect trail systems together between communities; and use recreational opportunities to protect sensitive areas.

VII. Presentation on Ecological Restoration—Al Wilson, Watershed Resident and Natural Areas Steward

Mr. Al Wilson gave a PowerPoint presentation covering a brief history of the Woods Creek Watershed and the restoration efforts at Dixie Briggs Fromm property. The restoration work at Dixie Briggs Fromm is a great example of the types of projects that can be outlined in the Woods Creek Watershed Plan for implementation along the creek. The before (severely eroded stream banks), during (work to restore the stream banks) and after (4 years later) pictures show what a difference proper restoration can have on the area.

VIII. Other News and Next Meeting

The July meeting will be a tour of the watershed to view areas of concern and areas of restoration to give all participants a better understanding of the entire watershed.

If anyone has specific areas where flooding is an issue within the watershed, please see Steve after the meeting. Areas of flooding will need to be considered as one element in the plan.

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 10:15am.