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DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
(May 2, 2019)

The DeKalb County Stormwater Management Planning Committee (SMPC) met of May 2, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in the DeKalb County Administrative Building, Conference Room – East, in Sycamore, Illinois. In attendance were Committee Members: Mark Bushnell, Derek Hiland, Donna Prain, Nathan Schwartz, Tom Horak, Paul Stoddard, and Pat Vary. Also in attendance were Dean Johnson and Committee Staff: Marcellus Anderson.

1. **Roll Call** – Mr. Hiland noted that Committee members Mr. Bauling, Mr. Gentile, Mr. Emerson, and Mr. Bunge were absent. Ms. Vary arrived late to the meeting. Prior to Ms. Vary's arrival, the Committee did not have quorum. The approval of the agenda and minutes for the May 4, 2017 meeting occurred after her arrival.
2. **Approval of Agenda** – Mr. Schwartz moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Stoddard, and the motion carried unanimously.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – Ms. Vary moved to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2017 meeting, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Prain noted that the minutes indicated that a motion had been made at that meeting to accept recommendations for appointment to membership to the Committee, and inquired as whether these appointments were ever made. Mr. Hiland responded that the affirmations were handled through the email proxy meetings that occurred during 2018.

**4. Update on IEPA 319 Grant Applications**

Mr. Johnson updated the Committee on the status of the IEPA 319 Grant, explaining that the grant was being used for watershed planning for the Upper South Branch of the Kishwaukee River and noted that the Watershed Steering Committee had already met twice. He noted that Applied Ecological Services (AES) had been contracted as the consultant for the project and would be conducting a watershed field inventory and collecting data from the municipalities and the County. Mr. Johnson noted that Education Strategy component of the process had been submitted to and approved of by the IEPA, adding that the Education Strategy was a "living

document”, which could be changed, improved, or added to. Mr. Johnson also distributed a memo summarizing this information.

Mr. Johnson informed the Committee that a Watershed Bus Tour was planned for June 8, 2019, explaining what the attendees could expect on the tour and describing the goals of the tour. He distributed an informative handout regarding the bus tour.

Mr. Johnson noted that they would be working with Northern Illinois University (NIU) graduate students to gather water samples from the East and South Branch of the Kishwaukee River to help establish needed baseline data for the project. He noted in particular that next year one of the students picked to participate will be writing her Masters Thesis on this topic.

Mr. Johnson finished by thanking everyone involved in the project for helping it to come to fruition.

Mr. Stoddard and Ms. Vary both indicated that they wanted to attend the bus tour.

Mr. Hiland offered to help with the promotion of the bus tour.

Ms. Prain noted that the data being collected was also being made available on the Watershed Website. She also inquired as to who would be AES’s contact with the City of DeKalb. Mr. Johnson responded that Zack Gill, the DeKalb City Engineer would be the contact,

#### **5. ISWS Contract Report CR-2019-05 – Frequency Distribution of Heavy Precipitation in Illinois: Updated Bulletin 70**

Mr. Bushnell informed the Committee that he had attended the Floodplain Managers Conference, wherein the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) had presented an updated Bulletin 70, which covers rainfall data and distributions that is the standard in stormwater management designs, retention basins, and storm sewers. He noted that significant changes were noted in the new report, which will impact system designs, likely requiring larger system designs. He particularly noted that when an inquiry was made as to when the new data would be adopted, they were told it had been adopted that morning, and that the DNR would be adopting it starting January 1, 2020. Mr. Bushnell informed the Committee that he had begun to coordinate with Mr. Schwartz on the local adoption of the data.

Mr. Stoddard noted that the data points in DeKalb County did not seem to fit with the surrounding counties, and inquired whether there could be a systematic reporting difference that

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could account for that. Ms. Schwartz noted that there were also other anomalies. Ms. Prain noted that there were many disclaimers on the data.

Ms. Vary noted that she was very impressed with the data on the charts in the report which seemed to indicate a preponderance of data in the County. Mr. Schwartz hypothesized that there may just be a case of it being better recording capabilities over that of one hundred years prior. Ms. Prain noted that the key is in looking at the longer time frames. Mr. Hiland wondered how many testing sites were near a state school, which could allow for better and more frequent testing.

Mr. Schwartz noted that when informed by Mr. Bushnell about the changes, he wondered would this impact all of the bridges in the County. He added that he found out later that bridge design will continue to use stream stats, which hadn't been updated.

Ms. Vary inquired as to whether there was any standardization in how things were being measured. Mr. Schwartz indicated that he believed there was.

Mr. Johnson inquired as to when the last update had occurred. Mr. Bushnell responded that it had been at least since 1995. Ms. Prain noted that information appeared to indicated 1989.

Ms. Prain inquired what needed to be done, if anything. Mr. Schwartz responded that this would be a good time to look at the Stormwater Ordinance, to review and potentially update it. Mr. Bushnell said that he believed that Ordinance just said to use Bulletin 70 data, and did not identify the data from a particular year. He then suggested that they may just need to add a line to the Ordinance indicating that they would be continuing to use the old data, but that on January 1, 2020, we would be switching to the new data. Mr. Schwartz clarified that the new data would apply to projects based on their actual construction timeline, not their application timeline.

Mr. Horak emphasized the need to get the word out about the changes.

Mr. Bushnell asserted his belief that the size of detention basins will be the biggest difference.

Ms. Prain inquired as to physical impact of all the rain, noting that if the County was truly receiving so much more precipitation, it had to be going somewhere. She wondered how the increased rain affected things such as: surface runoff; floodplain protection; compensatory storage; etc., and asked whether there needs to a reassessment of the waterways and current flood storage. Ms. Prain also noted that the surrounding counties seemed to have suffered far more during the last rain storm, but that DeKalb County seemed to do ok. Mr. Johnson noted

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that watershed planning is looking into alternatives to stormwater runoff and capacities. He also opined that the EPA will eventually step in to ask what communities are doing.

The Committee then discussed the pros and cons of permeable parking lots, and locations that have used them.

Mr. Johnson noted that if more communities have watershed plans, then the 319 Grants become available for those communities. He noted that proper management of the watershed will impact the ability of communities to grow.

Mr. Hiland asked whether there was a need to review the current ordinance, if so, then the Committee should do so at its next meeting, making drafts and suggestions in the interim. Mr. Schwartz agreed that this would be a good idea.

## **6. Committee Membership Terms / Reappointments**

Mr. Hiland informed the Committee that the terms of service for six (6) Committee members would expire at the end of June. Mr. Hiland informed the Committee that letters were being sent out to chief executive elected official for each of the municipalities requesting their vote for the appointment or reappointment of the three (3) municipal representatives and that the County Administrative Office had been informed of the need to reappoint the three (3) county representatives. He noted that action was expected by the County Board Chair at the June 19, 2019 meeting of the DeKalb County Board.

Ms. Vary noted two issues she had, first, that she represented the south side of DeKalb but that she no longer lives there, and second, she pointed out that she did not consider herself an expert on these issues and would gladly step aside if there was someone more knowledgeable in these matters to take her place. She did note however that she was willing to continue to serve on the Committee if they had no one else. Mr. Hiland noted that she was there as a representative of the County, not just the City of DeKalb, so her move did not affect her position.

Mr. Hiland noted that Tom Holderman was no longer with the City of DeKalb, and would be getting replaced on the Committee. He also noted that Mike Bauling would not likely be able to continue serving on the Committee, due to other pressing commitments.

Mr. Stoddard, Mr. Bushnell, and Mr. Horak all indicated their willingness to continue serving on the Committee if they received reappointment.

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7. **Next Meeting** – The Committee will next meet at 2:00 p.m. on July 31, 2019 in the Conference Room East, DeKalb County Administration Building.

Mr. Horak inquired whether anyone had any other ideas for other changes to the Stormwater ordinance at that time, since they will have to go through the process of getting it adopted by the County. Mr. Schwartz indicated that he did not have any ideas at that time, but was open to other suggestions. Mr. Bushnell noted that suggestions and items for discussion could be brought to the July 31<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Mr. Johnson informed the Committee that as of June 31<sup>st</sup>, the EPA has cut funding to their office for EPA inspection of construction sites. He noted that the EPA would begin training their own people to handle the inspections. The Committee then discussed the change this would cause.

8. **Adjournment** – Mr. Stoddard motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Horak, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Derek Hiland  
Chairman, DeKalb County Stormwater Management Planning Committee

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