

Nippersink Creek Watershed Planning Committee
June 7, 2006

In attendance: Dick Hilton, Dan Wilson, Tim Loftus, Rob Linke, Randy Stowe, Cindy Skrukud

Rob Linke reported:

- WRC using USGS/ILDNR aerial maps (March 2005) for base maps of plan. Quality is best ever and up-to-date.
- Streams coded by natural (blue) vs. channelized (purple), whether it is impounded and if stream is recovering from channelization. Will quantify by subwatershed. Mainstem is relatively unchannelized and has adequate buffer in many areas.
- Many small dams on creek
- Showed the areas he already tagged as points of interest.
- Will finish up reports soon so we can present to municipalities and townships and meet with city staff.

Dick Hilton reported:

Teegan/NRB Land talking with MCCD re. mitigation dollars for restoration work in watershed. Have also talked with Kate Bliss at ACOE. Hey & Assoc. and Sanctuary land planners working with NRB on development on 1450 acres east of Wonder Lake. Wonder Lake watershed is 7880 acres. Plans are for conservation developments with swales for stormwater treatment. Will consider making donation to MCCD of land adjacent to Harrison Benwell site. Rob suggests hydric soils that run NW to SE through property would be a good place for path. Tiles tie in to Troy Creek, perennial stream that runs through HB site. NRB has committed to not increasing flows to creeks from site. Merchant Creek (S part of NRB Land) will be used for return of water to Wonder Lake from dredging.

Cindy, Dick and Randy will schedule a time to talk with Teegan about development plans. Will ask about overlay of ADID wetlands, hydric soils and wetland delineation. How much intrusion into wetlands? What are buffer widths? Thoughts on preserving natural low area corridor. Keep detention basin out of hydric soils.

Nippersink Creek watershed is approx. 1/3 McHenry County.

Cindy Skrukud reported:

Raised concerns about Pease development south of Nippersink Canoe Base in Village of Spring Grove. Also discussed TLC's efforts with village on Horcerace Springs Fen.

Dan Wilson reported:

MCCD will be doing master plan for Nippersink N Branch Area over summer 2006. Concept plan will go to MCCD board on July 20, public viewing of plan on Aug. 3.

Tim Loftus reported:

Poplar Creek Coalition is meeting with municipal staff on a one-on-one basis. Realize this takes time. Tim will request 1-year extension from IEPA for all watershed plan work by NIPC.

Issues to address in plan:

- salt use (road and softener)
- aquifer recharge areas; Rob will get aquifer sensitivity layer from Spring
- talk with NRB Land re. their plans
- alerting landowners of identified high quality resources on their lands
- develop plan of action for acquisition/preservation- work with MCCD, TLC; recommend parcels for acquisition by municipalities and help find and secure grant funding
- identify larger parcels with limited number of landowners where chances of restoration success are greater and target for outreach
- make sure potential MCCD projects are included in plan, work with Ed Collins to determine timetable
- Id farmsites where filter strips would be beneficial and get NRCS, SWCD, TLC to contact.
- Id model railroads in watershed as sites of cultural interest
- Encourage golf courses in watershed to work with Audubon International (Peter Losinger is the local representative who will be meeting with Poplar Cr Watershed Coalition)
- Open space/greenways corridors and water and land trails
- Use Streamwood (John White) example for enforcement of MS4 program

Add to Points of interest:

- Former Clarence Adams Auto Repair Shop on Merchant Creek (3309 E Wonder Lake Rd)
- Pease development south of Nippersink Canoe Base.
- Richmond Fisheries (owner Robinson)- told he is going into exotic fish business, need to make sure he understands the risk to Nippersink Creek from exotics
- Knickerbocker Rd. gravel road runoff
- Concord Property holdings as large potential development area. Contact their consultant Ken Fiske about plan.
- Old fair grounds redevelopment