

Central South Branch Kishwaukee River Watershed Steering Committee Minutes (August 31, 2023)

The Central South Branch Kishwaukee River Watershed Steering Committee (WSC) met on August 31, 2023 at 3:00 pm in the DeKalb County Administrative Building, Conference Room-East, in Sycamore, Illinois. In attendance were: Committee Members: Josh Clark, Michael Haines, Derek Hiland, Dean Johnson, Paul Kuhn, Janice Melton, and Teri Spartz, along with WSC Staff, Marcellus Anderson. Also, in attendance were: Jeff Woodyatt, Resource Conservationist with the DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District; Terry Hannan, DeKalb County Forest Preserve Supervisor; and Cecily Cunz & Steve Zimmerman, with Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers.

Call to Order / Roll Call

WSC members Paul Bafia, Ryan Block, Maureen Little, John Lynch, and Nathan Schwartz were absent.

Approval of Agenda

Committee Action: Mr. Kuhn moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Spartz, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

This was the first meeting of this WSC, therefore, there were no previous minutes to approve.

Open Issues

None

Introductions

WSC members introduced themselves and related their connection to the Central South Branch Watershed. Also introducing themselves: Marcellus Anderson; Jeff Woodyatt; and, Cecily Cunz and Steve Zimmerman of Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Johnson noted the need and purpose for a Chair and Vice Chair of the WSC, and asked for nominations for the positions.

Committee Action: Mr. Kuhn nominated Mr. Johnson for Chair, seconded by Mr. Hiland. No other nominations were made. The Committee voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Johnson as Chair.

Committee Action: Ms. Melton nominated Mr. Haines as Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Kuhn. No other nominations were made. The Committee voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Haines as Vice Chair.

Introduction to Watershed-Based Planning

Mr. Johnson described the County's previous implemented watershed plans. He also noted that the City of Sandwich had done a plan for the Little Rock Creek. Mr. Johnson noted the members who were unable to attend the meeting and their connections to the watershed.

Summary of Watershed Field Inventory

Ms. Cunz and Mr. Zimmerman gave a PowerPoint presentation on the watershed plan.

Ms. Cunz gave an overview of the Central South Branch Kishwaukee River Watershed, detailing how the watershed is broken down. She talked about the Section 319 grant that is used to fund the creation of the watershed plan, and the purpose and intent for the watershed plan to be created. Ms. Cunz then talked about the watershed planning process. She noted that the Watershed Field inventory portion had been completed, going over it in detail, and highlighting what it brought to the process. She then noted that they were working on the Characteristics Assessment portion, and gave a brief overview of it, noting that they would be going into greater detail on it at the next WSC meeting. She then gave a detailed description of the remainder of the watershed planning process.

Mr. Zimmerman gave a detailed description of the subareas of the watershed identified in the Field Inventory. Him and Ms. Cunz then discussed some of the changes and impacts they noted in these areas. Ms. Cunz then talked with the WSC about various types of best management practices the watershed plans typically recommend, and opportunities for projects in various areas.

The WSC had a brief discussion about the loss of oak trees and Root Rot. Mr. Johnson noted that this would be an excellent example to bring up at stakeholder meetings.

Ms. Melton gave the history of a section of inverted curbing the consultants had noticed, explaining how she had installed it address some drainage issues.

Ms. Cunz noted the presence of twenty potential wetland restoration areas, how they could help with flooding, and the opportunities for wetland banking.

Mr. Kuhn talked about the many pollinator plantings out there, and about the efforts he had taken over time and the number of waterways on his lands.

Ms. Cunz discussed the rough timeline the watershed planning process would take; noting that the next WSC meeting would be in October, but the following one would not be until January. She then highlighted the need for feedback from the WSC members.

Next Meeting Date

Central South Branch Kishwaukee River Watershed Steering Committee Minutes
(August 31, 2023)

The WSC decided the next meeting date would be October 19, 2023, at 3:00 pm in the East Conference Room of the DeKalb County Administrative Building.

Adjournment

Committee Action: The WSC unanimously moved to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Johnson
Chair, WSC

MOA:moa

P:\Grading\CountywideOrd\Watersheds\CSB Kishwaukee River\Minutes\08-31-23 CSB-WSC minutes.docx