

McHenry County Regional Planning Commission
AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
April 26, 2007

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Chairman Schietzelt, called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. as a joint meeting of three subcommittees (Agriculture, Open Space, and Water Resources). Members present: Nancy Schietzelt, Ron Bauman, Jim McNutt, Dennis Dreher, Craig Hubert and Jeremy Shaw. Members absent: Frank Harrison. Staff present: Maryanne Wanaski, Matthew Hansel, and Jean Hervert Niemann. Public: Dave Brandt (USDA-NRCS), Ed Weskerna (MCSWCD), Tom Mattingly (MCSWCD), Larry Thomas (Baxter & Woodman), Lisa Haderlein (TLC), Emily Berendt, Patricia Kennedy, and John Darger.

MINUTES: Minutes of March 22, 2007, were approved by the Open Space and Environmental/Natural Resources Subcommittee and the Water Resources Subcommittee by consensus.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Mr. Brandt, assisted by Mr. Weskerna, gave a presentation on soil resources and suitability for use in McHenry County. Maps and information on hydric soils, highly permeable soils and wetlands were included along with a discussion of erosion and sedimentation issues as they relate to both agricultural and urban settings.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: Mr. Shaw asked about Federal Regulation and how enforcement may have changed through the years, the practicality and success rates of wetland mitigation, and the required buffer area around wetlands. Mr. Brandt indicated that less than adequate funding does limit enforcement. He noted that wetland mitigation is more effective in areas of hydric soils and that buffer areas range in size. Other items discussed were the negative environmental effects of mass grading, how to encourage municipalities to prohibit mass grading, and questions about groundwater recharge and pollution potential.

Chairman Schietzelt asked for input on open space definitions. Ms. Wanaski suggested looking at the *Stormwater Management Ordinance* and the *Zoning Ordinance* in an effort to be consistent. Chairman Schietzelt would like to add some questions to a survey being prepared by the Intergovernmental Subcommittee.

Both Chairman Schietzelt and Chairman Dreher concurred that another joint meeting was not timely. The next meeting of the Open Space & Environmental/Natural Resources Subcommittee will be about "greenways". Ders Anderson has been invited to make a presentation. Chairman Schietzelt distributed three items of background information.

Chairman Dreher indicated that the next meeting of the Water Resources Subcommittee will be on wastewater. He will contact staff in regard to the speakers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. by general consensus.

Approved 9-26-07