



Lost Nation-New Landing
River Conservancy District of IL
205 Cuyahoga Drive; Suite A
Dixon, IL 61021



Minutes
CLEAR CREEK W ATERSBED PLANNING COMMITTEE

July 13, 2010 2pm to 4pm

Committee Members	Ed Bettner - Chairman Steve Larry - Vice Chairman Dan Boehle - Secretary Joe Baker Marian Baker Dave Point Dave Meisenheimer
Coordinators/Employees	Beck Breckenfelder - LNNLRCD Admin. Mgr. Rebecca Olson - WPC Coordinator Shannon Thuman - Olson Ecological Assistance

President Bettner called the meeting to order at 2:05pm. Minutes of the March 9, 2010 meeting were approved on a motion by Steve Larry and seconded by Marian Baker.

Committee members introduced themselves.

Steve Larry explained to the guests the history of the watershed planning committee, the assistance of the technical advisory committee, how Rebecca Olson was brought in as a coordinator, and how the RCD web site and Becky Breckenfelder's time is provided by the RCD. He further explained the EPA Grant which requires a 25% match that has been satisfied by volunteer hours of the committee and the RCD. Further explanation is on the web site.

President Bettner explained that the committee has been working on their goals and asked Rebecca Olson to lead the review of the goals. She presented "Draft Two of Preliminary Goals and preferred future Conditions". After some discussion regarding "Class A" land, Joe Baker moved and Marian Baker seconded that the goals and preferred future conditions for the WPC be adopted. Motion passed.

Steve Larry proposed the following, Success Mission Statement:

"To minimize the amount of pollutants entering the watershed by recommending, instituting and maintaining environmentally sound practices that support the ecosystem and the productive use of the land that is inclusive of the Clear Creek watershed."

Steve made a motion to amend the previous motion to include it with the goals and preferred future conditions.

Dave Meissen had concerns about portions of the statement including the word "entering", the word "pollutants" the word inclusive and thought the type of practices should be clarified.

After further discussion Steve amended his motion and Dave M. seconded it to adopt the following success/mission statement.

To minimize the amount of identified impairments impacting the watershed by recommending, instituting and maintaining environmentally sound conservation practices that support the ecosystem and the productive use of the land that is within the Clear Creek watershed."

The motion was approved.

Project Updates:

Rebecca - The watershed inventory was submitted to EPA in May and has been approved.

No action is needed now but she would like another meeting before harvest to identify the next step.

Between now and then Rebecca and Shannon will be identifying additional inventory and information and doing a literature search to provide a guide for high priority practices.

Babbling Brook - Lost Lake Stabilization Project

Steve reported on activities of RCD and the approval in May of a \$520,000 grant written a year ago to stabilize the shoreline along Babbling Brook from Lost Lake to the boundary utilizing different methods of stream bank stabilization. The grant application was written to include this as a teaching tool for the Lake. The state and other communities to show how each practice worked. An organization of Steve, Rebecca and Joe Rush are working on this now.

Lost Lake Silt Containment

A \$650,000 grant application will be submitted at the end of July for silt containment at the end of Babbling Brook. A map showing the area was provided. Steve explained the wing dam and the break wall shown on the map. It is different than the Clear Creek silt containment structure. The containment area should contain 70-80% of the silt entering the area before it reaches the lake. It can then be cleaned. Part of the project *is* to clean the area before the dams are put in place. RCD does not expect to hear whether the project is approved until May of 2011.

A discussion was held on the effectiveness of the Clear Creek containment area ~ the slowness of Clear Creek above the lake to clear up after rains, the fact that the lake *is* murkier than normal for this time of the year and the fact that the beach has been closed because of e-coli.

Educational Outreach

Rebecca is looking for a college class to be involved with the teaching portion of the Dabbling Brook Lost Lake stabilization project that was a part of grant (3 J91 003). She would like a "before and after" video. Marian suggested NIU Taft Campus. North Central College was also suggested.

It was also agreed that the WPC would host tours of the project.

Also, Rebecca would like data on lake clarity before and after the project. Before data has been collected for several years and is available. This data will help determine how well the silt containment project is working. The lake is not as clear now as it has been in the past

Rebecca suggested that the watershed action plan be postponed until the next meeting.

Rebecca is looking for direction from the committee for a potential project

The money from the EP A grant to RCD can be used as a match for other grants provided they are not EPA or federal grants. This EP A money could be used to leverage additional funds for potential projects that enhance the present grant. Once the money is utilized, it is gone and cannot be regained. If there are potential projects the committee needs to proceed now. Land owner outreach and implantation of BMP's, etc. are examples.

Such a project would be geared toward natural area acquisition, natural area protection, and water and land protection projects.

Rebecca used an example of the Sugar River natural land institute project. They tied a land owner outreach to their project, asking land lords if they have an interest in land stabilization. Several projects were discussed. The consensus was to offer additional incentives to NRCSIFSA funded projects and to prioritize where we would get "the best bang for the buck".

A different opportunity would be preserving natural areas by acquisition or by conservation easement. Working with the Pegasus wetland was suggested.

The question was asked if there were regulations for road improvements in the lake community. The committee does not regulate rather it suggests and offers opportunities.

Rain gardens were explained as a way to contain water.

Rebecca and Shannon explained the map of the Clear Creek water shed and the locations of flood damage.

The next meeting was set for September 14, 2010 at 2pm.

Marian moved, Steve seconded the meeting be adjourned - Motion passed.