



Hickory Creek Watershed Planning Group

www.hickorycreekwatershed.org

August 06, 2014, 10:00 AM

**Location: New Lenox Public Works Garage at 2401 Ellis Road
New Lenox, IL 60451**

Attendees: Tom Schwerha-City of Joliet, Jim Huff-Huff & Huff, Inc., Rick Suttle-RT&A, Cindy Skrukrud-Sierra Club, Brian Williams-Village of New Lenox, Dale Schepers-Village of Tinley Park, Ahmed Zayyed-Village of Orland Park, Derek O'Sullivan-Will County, Lindsay Birt- Huff & Huff, Inc., and Will Nash-Village of New Lenox.

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order/ Roll Call

10:00am – Meeting called to order by Dale S.

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Approval of Minutes

Defer approval of minutes – not dispersed as of beginning of meeting.

4. Correspondence

5. Report of Officers, Sub-Committees

- H&H June-July Invoice

Dale S. stated the recent H&H Invoice and the existing eight members are paid up.

Derek O. mentioned membership is currently at \$5,000/member, which was approved at the last meeting.

H&H invoice – moved for payment. Motion Carried.

- 501C (3) status

Derek O. mentioned that HCWPG needs IRS Status of Certification

Ron Sly was working with an accountant for tax return and filing status

Derek will work with Ron Sly & Tom will have to submit 990 form

Cindy said she has accountant that specializes in Not for Profit Firms – 501c(3)

6. New Business

Update on Strategic Plan

- Present an updated list of coordinator's tasks for implementing goals for the watershed group.

Lindsay B. provided an overview of strategic plan accomplishments. She stated that the group has completed 6 meeting, developed a data gaps memo, submitted 319 grant application. Additionally, Lindsay B. stated that the group will be implementing public outreach event, known as the Bio Blitz on September 20th.

Lindsay B. will take over website duties next year.

Monitoring Program

- Next Steps

Lindsay B. stated that the monitoring program is still ongoing. Training for communities who will be included in the next phase of sampling will occur within a month.

Ahmad said Orland Park will wait on training before considering switching monitoring to the new program (Ahmad)

Derek O. asked do the municipalities from the work group pick up the analytical costs.

Lindsay B. said she has talked to Suburban Labs and will get further clarification on how billing will be set up by Sept 1st.

Cindy S. mentioned that Mokena agreed in NPDES Permit to in stream sampling.

Pilcher Park Dam

- Cindy S. will present updates with Pilcher Park dam and educational opportunities

Cindy S. stated how she has remained in touch with Joliet Park District. Additionally, she mentioned how opponents have a facebook page.

Cindy S. said that Sierra Club is willing to work up a FACT SHEET on Benefits to Dam removal.

Jim H. and Cindy S. also presented the concept of an open house format. Experts would be invited to have a table each to present the biodiversity of Pilcher Park; including, but not limited to Steve Pascanelli (with IDNR), the Conservation Foundation, the Audobon Society, and Hickory Creek Watershed Planning Group.

Cindy S. mentioned that the Park District has not taken a stand on actual removal, but only approved study.

Dale S. suggested, in order to maximize attendance, this should be a park district event if not Sierra Club leading the event.

Tom stated that there is really no canoeing/kayaking beyond Pilcher Park.

Cindy has agreed to coordinate with Park District and looking at October for meeting.

319 Grant Application Overview

Lindsay B. discuss how next year, HCWPG will solicit RFPs for grant projects.

Lindsay B. reminded the group that the IEPA 319 grant is 60% Grant maximum, 40% - have to show local match and the funds is based on reimbursement, not front loaded.

Lindsay B. stated this year, HCWPG ended up submitting only one project. Other projects were killed due to various reasons:

- Joliet – Edgewood Detention Basin – Turns out City doesn't currently own it and Homeowners weren't happy with "weedy" aspects. Maintenance....who maintains?
- Prestwick – timing wasn't good
- VFW – commitment letter required board approval. Not enough time and wanted New Lenox's help. VFW is excited about 2015 submittal. Would like HCWG to come out and talk. New Lenox – commitment was in kind. Board needed to okay cash. Probably okay.

Dale S. suggested that in the RFP to include clarification of sponsor's responsibilities.

Cindy S. asked when will internal RFP due?

Lindsay said the next quarter.

7. Washington St Storm sewer Retrofit Presentation by Rick Suttle

- Proposed project and BMP concepts submitted recently for the 319 grant application.

Rick presented Concept Design Washington Street Joliet paying in cash on this project. He discussed the vortex separator will need to be cleaned out periodically.

8. Next meeting agenda

October 1st – Orland Park (tentative) 10:00 a.m.

9. Announcements/Comments

- Bio Blitz on September 20th, 2014 from 10-noon (Bio Stewards meet at 9am at Pilcher Park Nature Center)

Lindsay B. stated that the Bio Blitz will occur on September 20th, 2014. 10:00 a.m. to noon. She said they will ne Bio-stewards to greet volunteers, sign volunteers in, and take photos.

Lindsay B. mentioned the potential sampling locations include Joliet- Pilcher Park and the VFW. She stated that the Pilcher Park is very excited about this (Joliet Park District).

Lindsay solicited to the workgroup to help with marketing the upcoming event. She also mentioned, that she is working with Chicago Wilderness to assist with marketing & past press releases.

Lindsay presented proposed cost of purchasing materials for the BioBlitz. A motion to purchase of up to 3 more sets totaling \$256.03 was approved by the HCWPG members.

The HCWPG also agreed to pay for the lunch.

Lindsay asked the members if there were any additional sampling locations to consider:

New Lenox – STP#1

Frankfort STP

Derek – School – Lincoln Way East

The HCWPG members suggested moving the start time to 9:30 a.m.

Lindsay B. agreed to look into the logistics of using grills at Pilcher Park.

Cindy has agreed to be a volunteer biologist.

Motion to Adjourn – Derek

Seconded – Rick

Ended at noon

WHAT IS A BIOBLITZ? The BioBlitz is a short (usually a one-day) community engagement effort to discover biodiversity in the Hickory Creek watershed while sampling and identifying aquatic organisms in Hickory Creek and its tributaries. Researchers and trained biologists (“BioBlitz Scientists”) will team up with the public (“Citizen Scientists”) at each site to collect and sort macroinvertebrates. Then, the BioBlitz Scientists will complete the macroinvertebrates identification and calculate the MBI/mIBI score. A designated Hickory Creek Watershed Planning Group member will be at each sampling site as the BioBlitz Steward to welcome the public.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED? There are two ways to get involved in this year’s Bioblitz.

1. **Volunteer as a “Bio Steward”!** As a “Bio Stewards” you will put up and take down the sign, get people to sign in, make them welcome and gather the paperwork for return to Hickory Creek Watershed Planning Group watershed coordinator. A few brief words about Hickory Creek Watershed Planning Group should be offered – sometimes the site steward is very familiar with us and will just do that during his/her welcome, but during the course of the morning, other opportunities arise to be informative. It’s actually fun to meet others who care about nature, especially the younger crowd.
2. **Volunteer as a “Citizen Scientist”!** What better way to get involved in your own community, while learning more about the biology of your stream. As a “Citizen Scientist” you will assist the “BioBlitz Scientist” in collecting and sorting aquatic organisms in our streams.

WHAT TO BRING? Sites will provide tools and equipment and will always have some one-size-fits-all gloves. We ask everyone to **wear** long sleeves and pants, sturdy shoes or boots, waders (only if you have one and want to get in the stream), a hat, your own gloves, and to **bring** insect repellent (think ticks!!), sun block, and water.