

## **Minutes of the Land Use and Development Committee Meeting**

The Land Use and Development Committee of the McLean County Board met on Thursday May 3, 2012 at 4:45 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Gordon, Members Cavallini, Erickson, Soeldner and Wendt

Members Absent: Member Segobiano

Other Board Members Present:

Staff Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator, Ms. Diana Hospelhorn, Recording Secretary, County Administrator's Office

Department Heads/ Mr. Phil Dick, Director of Building and Zoning, Mr. Mike Steffa, Director of Parks and Recreation

Elected Officials Present:

Others Present: Ms. Jackie Kraft, Soil and Water Conservation Staff

Chairman Gordon called the meeting to order at 4:47 p.m. Chairman Gordon presented the Minutes of the April 5, 2012 Land Use and Development Committee Meeting for approval. He asked for any additions or corrections. Hearing none, he approved and placed the April 5, 2012 Land Use and Development Meeting minutes on file as submitted.

Chairman Gordon presented the bills from April 30, 2012 which have been reviewed and recommended for transmittal to the Land Use and Development Committee by the County Auditor. The prepaid total and fund total for April 30, 2011 is \$6,365.46. He asked for a motion to approve the bills as presented by the County Auditor.

Motion by Cavallini/Soeldner to recommend approval of the April 30, 2012 bills as presented by the County Auditor.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Gordon informed the Committee the first Item for Action is the request by staff to recommend approval of the County Watershed Management Program Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal and the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Mr. Phil Dick, Director of Building and Zoning, noted that the County participates in the Watershed Management Program Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal. Three years ago the City of Bloomington had considered dropping their support of the Watershed Agreement. The Town of Normal and the County met with the City of Bloomington to encourage them to continue working in the Watershed Manage Program.

He noted that the County Watershed Management Program Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal and the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District was discussed at the April, 2012 Land Use and Development Committee Meeting. The Committee had questions and concerns about specifics in the Annual Report. He presented the 2011-2012 Annual Report included in the Committee packet. Mr. Dick advised that Ms. Jackie Kraft, Soil and Water Conservation Staff is present to answer any questions the Committee may have.

Mr. Dick stated that Staff recommends the County enter into a second three year Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal and the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District for the funding of a soil conservationist through the McLean County Conservation District. This agreement would involve a commitment by the County of \$10,000 per year for three years. This is a continuation of a similar three year agreement that was approved by the County in September, 2009 that will expire on October 1, 2012.

Mr. Dick asked Ms. Kraft to address the Committee.

Chairman Gordon acknowledged Mr. Mike Steffa, Director of Parks and Recreation and Ms. Jackie Kraft, Soil and Water Conservation Staff.

Ms. Kraft thanked the Committee. She advised that the Conservation District has received the Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) for a demonstration site at Evergreen Lake. Ms. Kraft stated that the Conservation District is working with Mr. Mike Steffa at Evergreen Lake on the "Evergreen Lake Water Quality Demonstration Project." The project will involve modifying a 2,000 foot segment of tributary #3, which is a direct tributary to Evergreen Lake, draining 4.78 square miles of agricultural land. The project will demonstrate the effect this type of project can have on improving water quality, reducing streambank erosion and improving wildlife habitat. In addition, a grant has been received to fund an Interpretive Nature Trail at Evergreen Lake. Ms. Kraft stated that it will help to showcase the area and give the Conservation District and County Parks Department the opportunity to present educational information and provide local schools with an inexpensive field trip.

The On-Farm Networks program will again be presented to producers this summer. The Conservation District is looking for locations to build wetlands and monitor the effect they would have in reducing nitrates in the water before it enters the lake. The Soil and Water Conservation District continues to be involved in numerous educational activities and events.

She asked if the Committee had any questions on any of the Soil and Water Conservation Programs.

Mr. Cavallini asked why the City of Bloomington had considered withdrawing their support to the County Watershed Management Program Intergovernmental Agreement. Mr. Wasson responded that, due to staff turnover, the City of Bloomington failed to fully budget for the program for one year. The County, the Town of Normal and the City of Bloomington put together an agreement to sustain the program and the City has returned to fully funding its portion of the program.

Mr. Soeldner asked if the Conservation District is satisfied with the number of watershed producers. Ms. Kraft responded that, not know the outcome, the program was only presented to 14 producers in the Lake Bloomington watershed. The numbers will increase as the program branches out and the program is opened up to more producers' fields.

Mr. Cavallini asked for an explanation of "installation and operation of proposed sampling stations". Ms Kraft stated that the City of Bloomington is currently sampling the quality of the stream water with the Conservation District's support.

Mr. Erickson asked what would happen if the Land Use and Development Committee did not pass this McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District Intergovernmental Agreement. Ms. Kraft responded that the City of Bloomington City Council and the Town of Normal have approved their portion of the Intergovernmental Agreement. The services offered by the Soil and Water Conservation District would continue, however the programs would decrease.

Mr. Wasson added that this is an Intergovernmental Agreement between all three entities. If the County did not pass the Agreement the other entities would need to return to the table to put together a new agreement.

Mr. Wendt asked if prior to the City overlooking budgeting the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District Intergovernmental Agreement, the City funded the entire program. Mr. Wasson responded that the County was still contributing the \$10,000 to the Soil and Water Conservation Program. The County just did not have a contract for this specific purpose.

Mr. Wendt asked how does the contribution to this program benefit the County or the Town of Normal. Mr. Dick advised that the County does participate with the Soil and Water Conservation District along with the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal to develop Conservation Plans for Lake Bloomington and Evergreen Lake. The

program is an implementation to limit the nitrates and nutrients going into the lakes. If we do not take a share of fixing the problems with the lakes, they will only get worse. The County has a certain amount of responsibility to the preservation of the lakes.

Mr. Wasson added that the improvement of water quality benefits the recreational use of the lakes. The Parks and Recreation usage generates County revenue. The County Highway Department has a large number of NPDES Phase II permits. The service provided in education outreach part of this agreement is one of the responsibilities required relative to these types of permits.

Mr. Soeldner noted that there is too often studies are done and nothing is ever seen as a result. The Evergreen Lake project is proof that that is not the case with this plan. He is glad to see that there is action being taken. All the lakes and tributaries are being protected by programs of the Soil and Water Conservation District.

Mr. Erickson noted that contractually binding ourselves to these contracts is not preparing us for possible reductions in the future. Do these agreements need to be a three year contract? Mr. Wasson responded that part of the reason the original agreement was a three year agreement was to allow the Soil and Water Conservation District to plan for a three year period.

Mr. Dick stated the Committee's concern at the April, 2012 Land Use and Development Committee meeting was to specifically see that the County is benefiting from the Intergovernmental Agreement. Ms. Kraft presented more details to the programs of the Soil and Water Conservation District.

Chairman Gordon pointed out that the Appendix states that the District shall "Serve as a technical resource for landowners/contractors". Landowners are the responsibility of the County.

Motion by Cavallini/Soeldner to recommend approval of the County Watershed Management Program Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal and the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Gordon welcomed Ms. Hannah Eisner, Assistant County Administrator to the Land Use and Development Committee Meeting.

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Chairman Gordon stated that the first Item of Information is the 2012 Central Illinois Bike Summit in Uptown Normal at the Carol Reitan Conference Center on Wednesday, May 23, 2012.

Mr. Dick informed the Committee that an application has been passed out the Committee. If anyone is interested in attending, he will see that they are registered. This event would be informative to anyone interested in bicycling in the community and how bicycling is being done in other communities.

Chairman Gordon reminded the Committee that the next Land Use and Development Committee meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2012.

Chairman Gordon asked if there was any other information to come before the Committee.

Chairman Gordon adjourned the Committee Meeting at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Hospelhorn  
Recording Secretary