

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROGRAM TASK FORCE
McHenry County Administration Building
667 Ware Road
Woodstock IL 60098
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2008 MEETING NOTES

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS

The meeting began at 2:15 p.m. Attendees and participants included representatives from municipalities, townships, various organizations/agencies and interested public. Ms. McKinney began the meeting by welcoming participants and thanking them for their continued support. She reminded committee members that December 9th has been scheduled for the final plan presentations by the subcommittees.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Pavement De-Icing: Mark DeVries, McHenry County Maintenance Superintendent: Ms. McKinney noted that Mark DeVries would be arriving a little later to provide this update. In the meantime, she reported that work is being done to draft a pavement de-icing policy that will be emailed to the task force in January, 2009.

Pollution Prevention – Barry Valentine, McHenry County Emergency Management Agency: Ms. McKinney reported that Barry Valentine of the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is currently working on a pollution prevention policy and revising what EMA has currently in-place to ensure there are no conflicting ordinances. A draft policy should be available for consideration in March of 2009.

Pavement De-Icing: Mark DeVries, McHenry County Maintenance Superintendent (continued): Mr. DeVries continued the previous report on pavement de-icing. He introduced Dr. Wilford Nixon from the University of Iowa, who has been working with him on several research projects. Dr. Nixon also serves with Mr. DeVries on an International Winter Maintenance Group in addition to teaching a course in Winter Maintenance at the university. Dr. Nixon began by acknowledging Mr. DeVries and McHenry County for their de-icing program which has received national recognition. He then summarized issues and items that need to be considered in a winter road maintenance program. When considering such a program, a policy must be in place to address safety, mobility and environmental concerns. He also reviewed how costly road closures can be due to snow and ice conditions. He emphasized the importance of using the right tools and the right time and in the right amount. He noted that the McHenry County's de-icing program is not trying to melt the snow, but is trying to create a layer between the pavement and snow to allow a plow to move through and remove the snow. When operators are doing snow removal, the following three things must be considered: (1) how much time; (2) what is the pavement temperature; and (3) what is the potential for dilution of chemicals. A simple card in the plow truck is helpful for operators to apply chemicals correctional. It was noted that to have safe and mobile transportation systems, road maintenance must be pro-active. In the State of Washington, a mixture of sand and salt was used. However, they have made changes since research indicates that sand can have a negative impact on the environment and stream beds. Sand does not dissolve and builds up over time. Salt dilutes and if used properly is less of an environmental problem. In addition, sand serves only as a tread and melts nothing, it can also become airborne and promotes damage to vehicles. A recent Illinois Department of Transportation correspondence indicates that IDOT will make every effort to maintain dry and safe roads during severe weather conditions. Public education on driving in severe weather needs to be addressed as many drivers wrongly feel they can continue to drive at regular speed and not take any precautions. Road condition warning signs are not as effective and there is indication that there will be a future technological solution to warning drivers of hazardous conditions. This could be done through warning systems installed in vehicles that could provide real-time updates. Concerns were also raised with "black ice" conditions and Mr. DeVries indicated that McHenry County makes every effort to maintain safe roads and if done correctly black ice should not be a problem on County roads. This does not include township or municipal roadways as they maintain those road systems. Future seminars and workshops for snow plow operators and supervisors are being considered for next year.

Conservation Design: Ms. McKinney stated the ordinance is currently undergoing some revisions. Once completed the sub-committee's check list will be revised to follow the order of the ordinance and any other revisions will be made at that time as well.

PROJECT UPDATES

3-D Geological Mapping: Ms. McKinney reported the 2008 field season (year one) was completed. Ten sites were drilled and eight sites now have wells. Plans for 2009 are to have eight more boreholes in western McHenry County. It was noted that the recharge map with the ability to overlay these data points would be a very useful tool. Ms. McKinney stated she would work to get this available. She also reported that at the October 23rd meeting of the RPC, she made a presentation on the recharge map; which received unanimous approval from the members. She stated it is anticipated that the County Board will adopt the map sometime in early 2009. She will be making a presentation on the process it

took to put together the recharge map to CMAP on November 25th. Attendees suggested she get consensus from the County Board on making this presentation since the map has not formally been adopted.

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Observation Wells: Ms. McKinney reported that 28 wells have been drilled to bedrock. Bedrock surface ranged from 29 feet in Riley Township to 345.5 feet in Alden Township. Currently, pads, covers and bollards are being put in. Transducers will be installed after the well development has been completed.

Intergovernmental Liaison: Ms. Valentine-Garza reported there has been no intergovernmental communication this month.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS: None

NEXT MEETING:

Ms. McKinney stated that final reports will be presented by the Groundwater Protection Program Task Force Subcommittees at the December 9th meeting. Proposed items for monthly meetings in 2009 were distributed. Exact meeting dates have not been scheduled, but the fourth Tuesday of the month is being considered.

Question was also raised asking if there would be an opportunity to present a minority report. Ms. McKinney replied such reports could be considered.

Information on events being held around the county was distributed to attendees.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at 3:45 p.m.