

PAPILLION CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP



MEETING MINUTES

Partnership Meeting July 19, 2007 - 10:00 AM to Noon– Board Room Natural Resources Center, 8901 S. 154th Street, Omaha, NE

Attendants

The following were in attendance: Lyle Christensen (HDR), Sharon Dowell (IMS), Rick Houck (Sarpy County), Mark Wayne (Sarpy County), Joe Soucie (La Vista), Clare Duda (Douglas County), Kent Holm (Douglas County), Robert Hayes (Boys Town), James Kee (Omaha), Marty Grate (Omaha), Nina Cudahy (Omaha), Lucas Billesbach (JEO/Bennington), Lisa Bliss (Bennington), David Goedeken (Bellevue), Steve Tonn (UNL Extension), Steve Schultz (UNO Real Estate), Nick Schmitz (UNO Real Estate), Emmett Egr (P-MRNRD), Paul Woodward (P-MRNRD), Marlin Petermann (P-MRNRD), and John Winkler (P-MRNRD)

Purpose

A meeting of the Partnership was held on the above date in order to discuss topics stated in the attached agenda. The meeting began at approximately 10:05 AM.

1. Introductions

- Marlin Petermann (P-MRNRD) opened the meeting and an agenda and sign-up sheet were distributed. Everyone introduced themselves.

2. Watershed Studies

- Lyle Christensen (HDR) explained that HDR was in consultation with CDF and several of the partnership communities and counties to develop standard templates for Low Impact Developments that would both fit our area and provide as much runoff reduction as practical. He also noted that the baseline hydrology of the watershed was nearly complete with the exception of the lower portion of the basin which was heavily complicated. Following completion of the baseline and future hydrology, watershed plans with regional detention sites and low impact development will be evaluated.
- Sharon Dowell (IMS) reviewed recent revisions to 7 of the 8 initial fact sheets being developed to help spark interest and understanding of the Partnership and its goals. She explained that updates were also made to the Draft Public Involvement Plan and that both the plan and fact sheets would be sent out for one final review. Formation of the advisory group for the Stage IV study was discussed and it was decided that this group would not likely be formed until September. Jim Kee (Omaha) discussed information needed to make updates to the website which would hopefully be ready by mid-August. All reviews and revisions on the updated Public Involvement Plan and fact sheets needs to be sent to IMS or Paul Woodward (P-MRNRD) by July 30, 2007.

- Steve Schultz with the UNO Real Estate Research Center presented information on two proposals concerning the benefit of lake and open space views on property values. The first study would look at land values with views of several metro Omaha lakes in comparison with comparable properties without a lake view. This study would take 3 months and cost \$15,000. The second proposed study is similar except it would evaluate properties directly adjacent to public open spaces such as trees, drainage ways, wetlands, etc, and compare these properties to similar properties which are not adjacent to open spaces. This study was estimated to take up to 6 months and cost \$20,000. These proposals were thoroughly discussed. Paul Woodward (P-MRNRD) handed out a summary of Partnership funding and noted that all funds available for the next year had already been contracted for work on permit activities and Stage IV studies. Other sources of funding were discussed and it was recommended that the Partnership seek other potential funding sources, such as NDEQ, MOBA, and Omaha by Design, to pursue the study of conservation development and open space on private properties. It was not recommended to pursue the study of lake view properties. There were no objections to this action and Kent Holm (Douglas County) agreed to contact other possible parties for an update at our next meeting.

3. NPDES Permit Compliance

- Nina Cudahy (Omaha) discussed the conservation practices proposed for the new Saddle Brook School which was in the process of being bid. She also noted that Nebraska Game and Parks was moving forward with final design and permitting of the Pawnee Wetland structure upstream of Cunningham Lake. Kent Holm (Douglas County) reminded everyone that “green roof” training is being scheduled for October 18th or 25th. On another note, Emmett Egr mentioned that Keep Omaha Beautiful received a state-wide NRD Conservation Award for their work on World O’ Water Day which is scheduled for September 16th this year. Any and all volunteers from the Partnership would be appreciated.

4. Legislation

- John Winkler (P-MRNRD) reported that legislative hearings had been scheduled for stormwater interim studies on September 27th for LR 94 and September 28th for LR 113. Paul Woodward (P-MRNRD) recommended that the Partnership coordinate supporting information and testimony with the Cities of Lincoln and Grand Island by inviting them to an upcoming Partnership meeting.

5. Watershed Fund Update

- Paul Woodward handed out summaries of the Partnership’s watershed fund and reported that a budget for July 2007 through June 2008 would require all of the existing balance and incoming contributions for the following year.

6. Other Items of Interest

- Kent Holm (Douglas County) reported that a kick-off meeting for the stream assessment study had been scheduled for July 30, 2007.

- Joe Soucie reviewed the City of La Vista's recent plans for removing up to 40 homes along the unstable Thompson Creek. He noted that there was not much public input on the plan at a recent public hearing.
- Marty Grate (Omaha) updated the Partnership on the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) study currently proceeding for several impacted watersheds within Omaha. He explained that an overall plan which laid out a construction schedule for the next 15 years was to be submitted to NDEQ by October. A major public meeting to review the potential \$3 billion plan is set for August 23, 2007.

7. Next Meeting Dates

- The next full Partnership meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 23, 2007 at 10:00 AM at the NRD.

8. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:43 AM. An agenda, attendance list, and the handouts passed out at the meeting are available to those members who were not present at the meeting upon request.

Please contact Paul Woodward at 444-6222 regarding any questions or comments concerning these meeting minutes.