

Waukegan Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2009

Members Present:

Bruce Bond
Bonnie Ireland
Michelle Therrien
Bob Vogler
Tim Whiting

Staff Present:

Angela Labrecque
John Edgar

Visitors:

Bob Morency

Agenda:

- Approval of minutes of the February 26, 2009 WWAC meeting
- Discussion of the proposed health ordinance re: septic system inspections
- View two 15 minute DVD 's on community septic system interaction (Bob Morency)
- Management Plan action items spreadsheet updates
- Other business

Discussion of the proposed health ordinance re: septic system inspections:

- John Edgar gave the WWAC an update on the status of the proposed health ordinance. The key points were:
 - The health ordinance plan is a blue print that requires the flexibility to allow it to be modified as more information is obtained.
 - The effort started by forming a committee, whose members are John Edgar, Bruce Bond, Bill Edney, David Ames, Bob Flanders, etal, in early 2007 and has stalled, but is ready to restart.
 - There are 112 Meredith properties that are within 250 feet of Lake Waukegan.
 - A risk analysis of the septic system data on all 112 properties showed:
 - 36 of the properties have no septic system information on record in either the town hall or in the state files. These are regarded as high risk properties.
 - 4 properties had septic system pocket plans. (A pocket plan is a septic system design for the property in the file, but not installed until a septic system failure occurs for that property).
 - Any health ordinance plan must be defensible, e.g. it would not be feasible to defend requiring a property owner who wanted a building permit to install a new fence to have a septic system inspection done before the fence permit was issued.
 - John's feeling is that the state would demand a septic system design and installation if any of the 36 properties without a septic system record requested a building permit for a building modification. No additional town requirements would be necessary.
 - John indicated as the plan develops it needs to be discussed with the other towns so that all towns would implement a similar plan.

Decentralized Waste Water Video:

- Bob Morency played this 15 minute video. It depicted how several towns in the United States addressed the issue of managing decentralized waste water systems. All of the towns created an On-site Management System that scheduled an inspection of every septic system once or twice a year. The inspectors were hired or contracted by the towns and paid for by fees assessed to each of the properties.

The **WWAC Meeting Minutes from 2/26/09** were approved as had been updated.

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WWAC Action Item Spreadsheet update submissions:

- Randy, Angela and Tim have submitted updates to the spreadsheet. Bruce and Bonnie committed to provide their comments by 3/18/09.
- Bob Vogler will consolidate all the markups and send the updated version out to all WWAC members. In April 2009, it will be given to Eric Ferland to put on the Meredith Website.

Lake Host Program for 2009 for Lake Waukewan:

- The WWAC members agreed to allocate \$1250, up from the \$1000 agreed last meeting, for the 2009 Lake Host program.

Bruce Bond announces step down as WWAC Chairperson:

- Bruce reported that he would like to turn the Chairmanship over to another member. He said that he has plans to do much traveling this year and therefore not available to chair many meetings. He will be out of town beginning the end of April and into May.
- Bob Vogler pointed out that Bruce has been the Chairperson for just about 5 years now and that it is only fair to select a new chairperson. Bob also expressed that had we known that the WWAC would remain active after the completion of the Waukewan Watershed Management Plan, we should have established term limits for the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary. This would then easily give the people holding those positions the opportunity to offer to re-up or step down and give others the opportunity to fill those positions.
- No decision was made at this meeting on this, but Bruce obviously would like to have another member agree to be the new chairperson near term.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 am.

Next Meeting: Thursday March 26, 2009 @ 8:00 am – 10:00 am at the Town Hall Annex.

Minutes submitted by Bob Vogler.

These minutes were approved at the 3/26/09 WWAC meeting.