

Jackson Creek Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC)
Meeting Notes
September 11, 2007

Jesse Elam and Kerry Leigh of Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) opened the meeting shortly before 3:00 pm. Meeting attendees introduced themselves and Mr. Elam briefly explained the purpose of the watershed planning project. Derek O'Sullivan of the Will County Land Use Department explained that he will be the contact for the project at the County and emphasized that, to fulfill the match requirements of the grant, participants should fill out the match documentation he sent out earlier by email. He also discussed inviting additional stakeholders to the meetings, specifically the Village of Elwood and Center Point Properties.

Mr. Elam presented a brief orientation packed for the watershed, indicating basic dimensions and properties as well as the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's most recent assessments of water quality. He gave an overview of Illinois EPA's system of designated uses and how it is used to regulate water quality. Meeting participants then discussed the relationship between the Jackson Creek watershed planning process and the Stormwater Committee's ordinance development. It was agreed that updates on Jackson Creek would be given to the Stormwater Committee at least quarterly and that the Jackson Creek Watershed Advisory Committee should see itself as advisory to the Stormwater Committee.

CMAP staff presented an initial list of potential issues to be addressed during the watershed planning process, emphasizing that the WAC would continue to refine them. The purpose is to use the information to develop goal statements. Among the initial issues were reviewing the standards in the Stormwater Ordinance on a watershed basis for modification if needed, identifying current and future water resource problems for more detailed study, protecting Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie from upstream hydrologic changes and pollution, exploring the need for groundwater protection, and a number of others. Mr. O'Sullivan recommended making an initial assessment of site-specific issues at the October meeting by using a GIS system during the meeting.