

Unapproved: Minutes of January 21, 2010 Silver Lake Advisory Commission

Members Present: Kent Korte, Bob Wittenborn, Bill Ambuehl, Sally Raeber, Brad Kohlbrecher, Fred Bircher, Dan Shimer, Randy Ammann, Larry Diveley.

Ex-Officio Members: Ryan Hummert, Mark Rosen

Guests: Meghan Oh of HDR Inc., Joe Bartletti of HDR, Inc. Rick Macho of Madison County Soil & Water Conservation District, Mari Castello of Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development

Meeting was called to order at 6:35PM.

Guests from local agencies provided a presentation on Silver Lake and its watershed.

Meghan Oh provided the following information on the Silver Lake Management Plan:

- 48 square miles in the Silver Lake Watershed
- The plan should be to keep soil in its place
- A fly-over was performed for the watershed focusing on streams and to provide a report with recommendations for stream restoration projects.
- Phase I diagnostic studies performed from 2004-2006.
 - From these studies, information was gathered to address watershed protection, sediment removal, aeration, shoreline stabilization and fisheries management.
- A Resource Plan was developed in 2009 that focused on surface water, streams and wetlands. This report was put together by the SWIRC&D.
- Current Project
 - Shoreline stabilization
 - Livestock exclusion
 - Watershed based plan – This is the next step toward completing this phase of the Silver Lake project. It will address measures and methods to improve water quality and non-point source pollution. It will provide guidance using watershed action plans in Illinois, TMDL Implementation Plan and input from local stakeholders and experts.
 - Designed to get landowners and interested people involved
- Rick Macho provided a brief history of the work that was performed in the lake and watershed.
 - 1970's – Rural Clean Water Act – USDA spent thousands of dollars to build structures on private property (terraces & waterways) holding thousands of tons of dirt in place and keeping it from the lake. Lake is still 'muddy' though because of the characteristics of the clay soil that is dominant in the watershed.
 - 1985 – Federal Program – Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – Government paid farmers to take fields out of production, thus ending erosion in fields
 - 1993-94 – CRP expanded to include buffers along waterways. Farmers paid to put in waterways
 - 2002-03 – Public Law 566 – Federal government cost shared to build water structures - expired
- Rick continued with explaining where some funding is available to farmers. However, many of the programs are for private landowners.
- Rick stated that the majority of silt comes from tillable fields in the watershed and the success of the water quality is highly affected by this practice.

- Meghan concurred because she witnessed that fields are planted with crops up to the edge of ditches and waterways. This is one practice that should be avoided which would provide a tremendous benefit to reducing silt.
 - Randy Ammann suggested contacting townships to find out if there is a way to prohibit this; i.e. right-of-way, easement, etc.
 - Rick reiterated that Highly Erodible Fields must be managed to reduce erosion and to get the field's rating to a "T" (tolerable).
 - Brainstorming:
 - Negotiate with a farmer to create a test-plot to implement best management practices and measure the affects that these practices can benefit the lake and the landowner.
 - Try to create stream buffers
 - Educate farmers to reduce tillage practices and how it can preserve soil and chemical costs.
 - Educate, Educate, Educate.
 - Mari Castello provided information as to what her agency does. She provided possible resources that farmers could apply for or at the least gather information as to how they could receive tax benefits for not developing their land with structures and/or solid surfaces.
 - This presentation was concluded at 8:00PM
- The regular meeting was called to order with the minutes being approved by Dan Shimer and Randy Ammann
 - Ryan Hummert provided information for the proposed reimplementation of the Silver Lake Marina and recommended that it be moved to the north side of the boat ramp, utilizing the loading dock used for the rip-rap projects as the hub.
 - Dan Shimer asked how the insurance would work and who would be responsible.
 - Kent Korte recommended that it be considered to allow interested parties to provide their deposit (\$250.00 recommended) to secure a dock for when one is available.
 - Mark Rosen stated that he received a request from Colby Schrupf to relocate their dock. It was recommended to request a copy of their deed to verify that they have that privilege just to be consistent with previous requests.
 - Bob Wittenborn informed everyone of the Illinois Lake Management Conference that he, Ryan and Mark Rosen will be attending.
 - Fred Bircher asked for an update on the long-wall mining project. Director Rosen stated that the last he had heard was that the city hired an attorney to develop some measures that would provide protection.
 - Bill Ambuehl recommended that routine maintenance be performed on the Low-Level Outlet and consider dropping the lake when necessary.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM; motion by Dan Shimer, seconded by Randy Ammann