

June 27th, 2007

Citizens Advisory Committee meeting

In attendance: Jeff Otto, Jim Sauber, Ray Swedeen, Jody Arman-Jones, Sharon Buckley, Pete Storlie, John Storlie, Ray Kaufenberg, Carrie Jennings

Absent: Atina Diffley

Audience members who signed in: Nancy Sauber, Barbara Bachman, Lee West, Carol Cooper, Mike Greco

I. Representation

A. East side of township is not as well represented now following the resignation of Rich Stevens. Last time the planning commission did not recommend bringing new people on the committee.

Should we ask Bernie Wood to come back?

Ask a Planning Commission member to serve?

Simply ask the planning commission what we should do?

B. Conclusion: We should probably proceed as is but will mention Rich's resignation to the Planning Commission.

II. Website

Comment forms are online now.

Jeff tested it but no others were received.

Mike Greco updated the website with the latest information.

The current draft is being updated, then it will be posted.

III. Report by email of Rich's contact with Sarah Kristoferson, MPCA (612) 625-7243 (umn.edu e-mail address)

Available to come to answer questions regarding septic systems

Small industry and community systems

Community systems can be more effective at mitigating pollution.

IV. Next Meeting

Planning and Zoning person from Rice County will talk about Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs) - organized by Jeff Otto and Ray Kaufenberg

Pipelines and other utilities, Atina Diffley

We had questions for Kurt Chatfield. Were they ever given to him and did he respond? Jim indicated he did not receive a response. Sharon will e-mail Kurt with the unanswered questions.

V. Al Singer can also be called on to discuss TDRs, especially with respect to trading with other townships. He could be part of a larger panel discussion with other townships (e.g. Empire). The reasoning is that TDRs may not be viable in a market as small as one township.

This feels like a topic that is bigger than the CAC and it might be better to have the Town Board or Planning Commission facilitate this kind of open meeting. We will incorporate it as a recommendation for future study.

VII. Tonight's Topic, presented by Carrie Jennings

Geology, groundwater, soils and septic systems. Powerpoint presentation available at:

<http://eurekatownship-mn.us/taskforce/cac-minutes/minutes/Jennings-Presentation.pdf>.

Overview: The geology of Eureka Township and Dakota County are summarized in a well-study report done by Dakota County. It is called "Dakota County Ambient Groundwater Quality Study and can be found at

<http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/NR/rdonlyres/00000697/voufacfgaabyefpolhbqfulqbvwyac/AmbientGroundwaterQualityStudy.pdf>. They use the background geology to explain

the presence of environmental contaminants in the drinking water wells of citizens who volunteered to participate in this study. Shallowly buried sandstone and dolostone aquifers, especially those buried by sand and gravel deposited by the glaciers that were in the area, are not well protected. They are already impacted by chemicals. Although none are above the currently established drinking water standard, the presence of surface-applied chemicals in deep wells serves as a caution. The maps of geochemical sensitivity serve as a guide to help encourage activity in some areas of the township and restrict it in others. There are a variety of innovative on-site pre-treatment options for septic systems that greatly reduce their detrimental impact on ground and surface water. The Water Resources Center at the University of Minnesota has many resources for communities.

After break

VIII. Working draft distributed (not on website yet) and remainder of meeting spent on specific changes to draft.

A. Regarding updates

Sharon and Jody had questions

Only topic areas discussed that night?

Or back to April 18th meeting draft and make changes according to Jody's notes?

Sharon thinks that we should do it section by section right now. This draft represents catching up—all changes in red or yellow highlights. Bill's are gray now.

Yellow highlight and red ink aren't showing up real well on all copies, but are good enough to share in group tonight.

B. We should start with environmental protection tonight so that we make sure we get through it.

p. 13 Keep "Make it easy to do the right thing"

Add a heading "Biologically significant lands"

Bring in some of the issues that the St. Cloud ordinance covered.

Put Water as a head category and separate into surface water, erosion control, and groundwater (some formatting issues remain).

C. Shorelands: Adjustments in more generic terms describing who has authority so that we can include watershed groups too.

Reference things that are listed in more than one area.

Added Cannon River corridor, Rice Lake and Chub Lake to discussion on Vermillion.

Keep Rice Lake separate for now. If combined in the future, may want to combine within the watersheds (Rice Lake is part of Vermillion watershed; Chub Lake is part of North Cannon watershed)

D. Looked at the Park search area and Natural areas, 24 and 25 on p. 11, keep in Land Use section because more of a land use than environmental issue.

E. When do we further flesh out these sections? After the presentations?

Keep looking at April draft and look at them side by side.

What do we want on the website?

Most recent working draft with areas of change emphasized.

Use a watermark across the document to make it clear it is a working draft (using word art).

Can we eventually turn it from red to black to make it look like we are making progress? (Ray)

After we have discussed and approved changes, change color to black.

F. Now going back to the beginning of the document to discuss all of the changes.

p. 1 does not reflect the correct date on the footer for some reason. Needs formatting.

p. 2 Yet to be determined: threshold of acres

Gray was Bill's highlight.

Yellow highlighted paragraph—contiguous or non-contiguous?

Contiguous? Look to see how many parcels are affected?

Jeff didn't want it but Bill kept it in?

Will be discussed at the next meeting.

Put in a phrase: "further discussion pending" under all of those headings.

p. 3 # 5. Added a "see also note" for cross-referencing.

Ignore blank pages for now.

p. 7 community driveways encouraged in clustered areas

9 eliminated, committee concurs

#10 and 11 both will have more discussion.

put in “pending” phrase.

Unused native housing rights and split lots.

p. 8, #12, Lots existing prior to April 12, 1982

Ordinance was changed this year.

Needs to be updated with the current ordinance.

Add that language from the ordinance.

New p. 10 Add categories

Aviation

Utilities

Pipelines, Powerlines, (telephone, wind)

New p. 11-12 Dakota County Park Search Area—county website says proposed search area. Give a date (2030), emphasize search area. Reference Dakota County Parks.

“...proposed search area for a future regional park”

#27 and 28, added cross referencing

Right to Farm, #30 “as mandated by state statute”

G. Closing remarks

Next time Atina - pipelines and powerlines crossing the township

Jeff and Ray K., land use, Transfer of Housing Rights (TDRs)

Carrie--Look through groundwater section and anything else to see where geology and groundwater issues should be inserted.

Just keep the red typeface to show where recent changes have been made.

Encourage us to read through and suggest other areas—e-mail, discuss in the group the next time.

Helpful to discuss here so that it gets into the minutes.

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 10th, 7 PM

Meeting concluded 9:07 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Jennings