

SUSTAINABLE DECATUR

sensible responsible marketable

Decatur-Water Working Group

April 14, 2010

Attendees:

Keith Alexander-City
Rick Anderson- Park District
Mary Cave-Engineer
Paul Caswell-City
Matt Grossman- Landscape Architect
Phil Hazenfield-Chastain
Chuck Hunsinger-BGM Engineer
Steve John- Agriculture Watershed Institute
Tim Klugey-Sanitary District
Joe Nihiser- Maintenance Supervisor
Shannon Allen
Kevin McSherry
Randy Miller
Craig Coil
Stephanie Ashe-City
Greg Crowe-City
Phil Hazenfield
Vasudha Pinnamaraju-City
Lindy Wordlaw-CNT
Ben Carlisle-Teska Associates
Scott Goldstein-Teska Associates

Issues:

Stormwater:

- Needs to be reduction in amount of water runoff.
- Improvement in runoff quality
- Public education about stormwater quality
- Bioswales in combination with native grasses ordinances don't allow, and they are not weeds
- Not many post construction BMPS in city

Department of Planning & Building Services
One Gary K. Anderson Plaza
Decatur, Illinois 62523
e: sustainability@decaturil.gov
p: 217.424.2778



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- City doesn't require but will soon
- Infrastructure system: not handling flow, old, too small. Older parts of town.
- Lots of large combined sewer area. 40% is combined
- Need pilot programs-City demonstration project
- Get development community on board through education
- Finding dedicated funding source for stormwater
- Have common stormwater ordinance with surrounding communities

Water Supply

- Need 10,000 acre-feet of water. Lake is 22,000 acre-feet of water
- Good quality: Nitrate management
- Nitrate reduction facility
- Suspended dirt and solids is biggest problem today
- Disconnect of understanding of where drinking water comes from
 - Partly due to lack of access
 - Public education
- 925 square mile drainage area. Very large watershed
 - ½ million acres of corn and soy bean farms
- Agriculture lake in middle of city creates an interesting water supply
- Economy is based on water supply
- City has ability to handle more industry from water standpoint
- Lake Decatur refills quickly and discharges quickly
- Park district land gets flooded
- Percentage of irrigation systems is minor, except golf courses
 - Growing each year
- 75% of south water goes to commercial and industrial
 - Target commercial and industrial users
- During non-draught situation, ADM can take out how much they want
- 4 to 5 million gallons a day to ADM

Projects

- Create a city demonstration project
- Offer incentives to install irrigation system monitoring

Strategies:

- Ongoing follow up to stormwater plan, and stormwater policy. Can be amended based on sustainability plan outcome
- Public education about stormwater quality
- Require BMPs
- Educate public regarding naturalized stormwater and native plantings
- Irrigation system monitoring