

**SMART CITY PLANNING  
Meeting**

**April 7, 2011**

**10:00 a.m.**

**City of Dubuque**

**Grand River Center**

**Consortium Members**

- Anna O'Shea-Dubuque County
- Laura Carstens-City of Dubuque
- Beth Bonz-City of Asbury
- Randy Lansing-City of Cascade
- Mick Michel-City of Dyersville

- Janet Berger-City of Epworth
- Bill Einwalter-City of Farley
- Karen Snyder-City of Peosta
- Eric Schmechel-Dubuque SWCD
- Chandra Ravada-ECIA

**Public Present**

Jim Bodnar, Dubuque County

**Staff Present**

Dan Fox, Jake Ironside

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Anna O'Shea at 10:15 a.m. The Smart Planning meeting for April 7, 2011 was held in the City of Dubuque at the Grand Harbor Resort. Introductions were made.

## **Approval of the Agenda**

Motion by Bonz, second by Einwalter to approve the agenda for the April 7, 2011 Smart Planning Committee meeting agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Review and approve the minutes from the Wednesday, March 9, 2011 Smart Planning Committee Meeting**

Motion by Bonz, second by Snyder to approve the minutes for the Wednesday, March 9, 2011 Smart Planning Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Presentation on the Dubuque County Storm Water Ordinance, Watershed Planning, and BMPs.**

Schmechel stated that the primary concern for watershed management is that there is more water to manage due to increased precipitation. He noted that the exact cause behind the increased precipitation is unknown, but it could be caused by climate change, the time of the year, or changes in precipitation patterns.

Schmechel reported that Iowa has the most altered landscape of any state in the country. He noted that Iowans have changed most of the landscape from prairie grass, savannah, and wetlands to agricultural land. The change to agricultural uses has changed the basic hydrology of the land, reducing the amount of water the land can absorb, and has contributed to the state's flooding problems.

Schmechel presented water monitoring data from Catfish Creek in Dubuque County. Schmechel collected data every two weeks for the past six months. He noted that bacteria levels were often well over levels considered safe by the DNR.

Schmechel then reviewed water quality best management practices (BMPs). He began by defining erosion control and sediment control. The focus of erosion control is allowing any ground leave its original state. The focus of sediment control is capturing already eroded soil on the site and preventing it from entering streams. Traditional storm water facilities are designed for flood control. These detention basins are designed to capture high intensity rain events; however 90% of all rain events are low intensity. Schmechel went on to say that today's storm water facilities still need to control floods, but they need to incorporate Infiltration to treat pollutant loads.

Schmechel then reviewed the following BMPs:

Straw

Compost logs

Silt fence

Conservation subdivisions

Low Impact Development (LID)

Permeable asphalt, concrete, and pavers

Soil quality restoration Reducing turf compaction through deep tillage and compost application

Native landscaping

Rain gardens  
Bioswales  
Storm water treatment train

Schmechel then reviewed the following local examples  
Whispering Meadows Subdivision  
Swiss Valley Nature Center  
North Fork Trails Subdivision  
Dubuque County Ordinance

Discussion Followed

Bonz asked how soil quality restoration was done when a building is completed after the growing season.

Schmechel said that landscaping companies can apply a compost and grass seed mixture that binds together and covers the soil to limit erosion until growing season starts.

Einwalter stated that, in his experience, native landscaping did not seem to last more than two or three years.

Schmechel stated that native plants could take up to three years to become fully established. He also noted that maintenance and seed quality are important to the success of native plants.

A question was asked about the lifetime for permeable pavers.

Schmechel stated that with a certified installer, the manufacturer will guarantee them for 30 years.

It was asked if permeable pavers have problems with ice build up?

Schmechel stated that the pavers systems have not had problems with ice.

### **Dubuque County Stormwater Ordinance**

Schmechel presented the Dubuque Stormwater Ordinance. He explained that the idea for the ordinance stemmed from the Upper Catfish Creek Watershed Project. Dubuque County received a grant and contracted with MSA from Madison, Wisconsin to draft the ordinance. The County Board of Supervisors adopted the ordinance March of 2010. Schmechel said that he, O'Shea, and the County Engineer had met to discuss how to enforce the ordinance.

Schmechel reported that the ordinance is enforced through Major and Minor erosion control permits. Minor erosion control permit is required for anyone applying for a minor building permit. The County Planning and Zoning department issues minor permits. There is no fee for a minor permit. Major erosion control permit are required for projects that will disturb two acres or more. The County Engineer's offices issues major permits. The fee for a major permit is \$285 for the first two acres disturbed, and \$100 for every additional acre. Projects that require a major permit also require a storm water permit. The stormwater permit looks at how much water a project is adding to the watershed.

Schmechel stated that Dubuque County worked with the City of Dubuque to simplify permit process for developers by making the fee structure the same in both jurisdictions. He explained that the goal for the future is to get the smaller cities in the county to sign on to the ordinance through a 28E Agreement, or adopt an amended version of the county or city erosion control ordinance.

Discussion followed.

## **Review of Maps, Future Goals and Objectives for Community Facilities and Services**

Fox presented a draft of the Community Facilities chapter. He explained that the chapter is divided into two sections a facilities inventory, and goals and objectives. He stated that the inventory section provides a description of the County's facilities, as they exist today. The goals and objectives section is intended to guide the future of the County's facilities.

Ironside presented the Community Facilities draft maps. He stated that maps were created for facilities that were listed in the State's Smart Planning Legislative Guide. Maps for the small communities in the county had been completed. The City of Dubuque map was not completed because the large number of facilities made mapping all facilities on one map difficult. It was determined that the detail of the map could be reduced to improve overall map readability.

Fox stated that the chapter needs a section that discusses how the goals and objectives of the chapter will be implemented. He said that implementation could list a set of specific projects, programs, or polices for each city. O'Shea provided polices from the Dubuque County Comp plan that will be used as the basis for the community facilities chapter. Staff will draft the implementation section of the chapter and distribute it through email.

Discussion followed

The group discussed whether parks should be included in the Community Facilities chapter or an another chapter.

Fox requested input from the members on the draft chapter. He stated staff will incorporate changes submitted by members, and a final draft of the Community Facilities chapter will be ready for approval at the May Smart Planning Meeting

## **Discussion on Smart Planning Project Vision**

Fox stated that the Consortium needs to develop an overall vision statement for the project. He presented input that was gathered at the April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 public input meeting, and explained that the Consortium could use this input as a starting point for the project vision.

Discussion followed

Staff will draft project vision statement and distribute for comment through email.

## **Other Business**

Fox requested that the topic of next meeting be changed from Community Data and Analysis to Transportation. He stated that new 2010 census data necessary to complete the analysis would not be available until May.

Fox reported that the Smart Planning webpage is up and running. The address for the site is [www.eciatrans.org/smartplan](http://www.eciatrans.org/smartplan).

The Smart Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.