

3110 Pheasant Creek Dr Apt 111
Northbrook, IL 60062

November 4, 2009

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Board
Cook County Watershed Management Ordinance
Local Hearing on the North Branch Chicago River

Dear Board Members:

I am attending this hearing to support the strongest possible Watershed Management Ordinance that can be drafted. I have lived in localities where flooding along creeks and streams was a major issue for homeowners. I participated in one successful hearing that prevented a development that was slated for a designated flood-plain due to a municipal oversight.

Developers must be made to cooperate with rules that ensure the safety and value of properties located along creeks, streams and rivers. The Board is entrusted with the power to set these rules and see that they are followed by prospective developers so that all residents and property owners are not put at risk due to over-development.


My comments are meant to improve the draft ordinance in three ways:

Small parcels are as vital to the plan as large ones and must be protected.

Runoff causes multiple problems, so it must be handled with large enough containment or retention ponds to hold rainwater and capture runoff. Northbrook has many examples of such areas and we must continue to build appropriately.

Stream quality is essential to good health and good ecology. We need higher standards to protect the safety and security of our water resources.

Sincerely,


Teresa N. Blaurock

Mr. Joseph Sobanski, Director of Engineering
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
Attention: Stormwater Management Section
100 East Erie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

October 30, 2009

Dear Mr. Sobanski:

I am writing to you concerning the draft Cook County Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO). I commend the District's work to adopt a WMO for Cook County. This ordinance is critical for the long-term protection of Cook County's natural resources as well as for sound storm water management.

In addition, I would like to see the current WMO strengthened to ensure that developments use commonly applied practices, like rain gardens, porous pavement, and green roofs, to capture rainwater where it falls and hold it in place so it can soak into the ground. These practices can reduce flooding while improving water quality and habitat. Therefore, I hope the MWRD will use this opportunity to encourage citizens and businesses to incorporate these types of practices into our overall treatment of storm water. It is critical that we all do so, if we are to reduce flooding while also caring for our natural lands.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Alice Brandon

309 Wisconsin Ave. #3
Oak Park, IL 60302

GLADYS AND HYMEN BRYER
550 Sheridan Square
Evanston, Illinois 60202

December 29, 2009

Mr. Joseph Sobanski, Director of Engineering
Stormwater Management Section
100 East Erie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Re: Support of the Draft Watershed Management Ordinance
With No Further Relaxation of thresholds or
Reduction of Standards

Dear Mr. Sobanski:

This is to inform you that we very much support the Draft Watershed Management Ordinance, with no further relaxing of thresholds or reduction of standards.

We believe that the ordinance should:

Increase the required compensatory storage for building in a floodplain above
What is currently proposed.

Provide credits for green infrastructure to reduce the amount of land required for
Detention.

Not treat the Cook County Forest Preserves as a solution to the
County's stormwater problems, and that they must receive full and fair notice of
Any developments or applications for variances adjacent to preserves.

Note that thresholds similar to those in neighboring counties will do more to
Protect water quality and reduce future flooding problems.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District is to be commended for taking a
watershed approach and exercising its authority to reduce flooding and protect water
quality in the county's rivers and streams.

Very truly yours,


Gladys N. Bryer


Hymen Bryer

Donna M. Clesen

7737 W. Armitage
Elmwood Park, IL 60707

Mr. Joseph Sobanski, Director of Engineering
100 East Erie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Attention: Stormwater Management Section

December 31, 2009

Dear Mr. Sobanski,

I wish to support the Draft Watershed Management Ordinance as it is because we in Cook County must protect our resources. The Cook County Forest Preserves should not be treated as a solution to the county's stormwater problems.

As you know this is nothing new. Thresholds similar to those in neighboring counties will do more to protect water quality and reduce future flooding problems.

Please, no more surprises. The Forest Preserve District must receive full and fair notice of any developments or applications for variances adjacent to preserves.

Keep the standards as they are—do not relax them!

Yours very truly,



Donna M. Clesen

CHIEF ENGR.
ENGR. DEPT.

2009 DEC 31 AM 11:26

M.W.R.D.
OF GRTR. CHGO.

December 28, 2009

Mr. Joseph Sobanski, Director of Engineering
Attention: Stormwater Management Section
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
100 East Erie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Re: Proposed Cook County Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO)

Dear Mr. Sobanski;

As a Professional Engineer specializing in land development in Cook and the collar counties for over 50 years, I am disappointed that MWRD has chosen to follow other agencies measures rather than be a leader as it was in 1972. I believe the proposed WMO needs more work before it is appropriate for an urban environment such as Cook County. The following are several specific areas that warrant additional consideration.

STORMWATER DETENTION

The 1972 ordinance works! It is the only ordinance where the release rate is based on actual conditions, not an arbitrary number that could impact downstream land uses. Proponents of the proposed method claim the present release rate is too high (usually 0.2 to 0.5 cfs/acre) – only because they have adopted an arbitrary lower rate (0.10 or 0.15 cfs/acre). If too high, the release could be based on a more frequent storm rather than the present three year event.

The proposed low release rates will:

- Impact downstream properties by reducing the current runoff that supports their land use.
- Require more storage volume and reduce the amount of very expensive on-site land available for development.
- Detain water for more than the desired 24 hours thus causing more upstream flooding when the second and third storms hit.
- Create a need for extremely small restrictors. i.e 1.5" and 2" diameter vs the typical 3"-4" dia. minimum commonly specified. (Also, the proposed WMO requires these small restrictors to be "self cleaning" but fails to illustrate how this is possible.)

The proposed method of calculating storage requirements (i.e. TR55 with an input in square miles) was designed for, and works for, large land areas of 100 to several thousand acres. These conditions no longer exist in urban Cook County. Most sites available for new development in Cook County are probably less than 50 acres (0.078 sq. mi.) while many of the sites being redeveloped are in the 3 to 10 acre range. The present MWRD method of calculating storage requirements, with the input in acres, is more in scale with these land sizes and should be retained. Might consider using TR55 only for developments over 50 acres.

PROPOSED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE (WMO)

The following are my comments, thoughts, and recommendations about specific items in the proposed ordinance.

ARTICLE 3 PERMIT REQUIREMENTS AND SUBMITTALS

- 300.3,B Should a CFM be involved in the submittal?
300.3,C How much of the wetland has to be shown – only that portion within 100 feet or the entire wetland? (Which could extend several miles offsite.)
- 301.1,B Statement should end with “or”, not “and”.
301.1,C Delete the word “solely”, conflicts with “one or more”
The threshold limits in Article 3 and Article 5, and related Tables are not consistent. There are numerous places in the document where “total site”, “disturbed area”, “project area”, “impervious area”, and “new impervious area” are used interchangeably. (i.e. 301.1,c states “0.5 acre disturbed”, but Art. 5, Table 1 states “total site of 0.5 acres”.) Need more consistency throughout.
- 301.1,E Delete the words “sewers or drainage or detention”. Any new outfall to a waterway should require a permit.
- 302.5 Define “qualified Person”. Is this a P.E., CFM, or who?
- 303.2,B The NOI is required to be submitted about 30 days before construction and could be outdated by the time a WMO permit is issued. Delete this requirement.
- 306.General A 0.1 acre wetland in an urban setting has minimal, if any, benefit and could have difficulty in sustaining itself. Recommend 0.5 acre cut-off.
306.2 Define “isolated standard wetland”. Second part of statement seems to indicate that a submittal is required for wetlands less than 0.1 acre. Is this the intent?
- 308.1H Are the aerial photos readily available? What are off-site limits?
308.1I How far back in history do we go? 10 years? 20 Years?
308.3A & C The vicinity map required in A would be too small in scale (probably 1:25,000) to clearly show the stormwater facilities of a 5 or 10 acre site as required in item C.
- 310.6 Define “not in conformance”. Suggest using “not in general conformance”. Establish limits of acceptable variances.
- 313.2 Most large developments are not completed within 3 years. Suggest 5 years or no time limit. (Many large projects with central detention have vacant lots, active erosion control, or incomplete minor storm sewer systems for ten or more years after conception.)
What is considered a “revision”?
- ### ARTICLE 4 EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL
- 400.1&3 See related comments in Article 3 above.
Are ALL developments (regardless of size) to include erosion and sediment control practices per item 3; or only those requiring a Watershed Management Permit (over 0.5 acres) per item 1?
- 401.7A Temporary stabilization should occur if a stockpile is to remain undisturbed for seven to fourteen days. Thirty days too long in urban areas.

ARTICLE 5 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

See related comments in Article 3 above.

- 501.2, Table 1
Under development type B, sections 502 & 503 - change "total one-half (0.5) acre" to "**disturbed** one-half (0.5) acre" to agree with Section 301.1C.
Under development type C, section 502 - change "total one acre or more" to "one acre or more of **new impervious area**" to agree with description under type C, sections 503 & 504, and section 502.1C.
- 502.1B Change to read "parcels **disturbing** 0.5 acres or more" to agree with section 301.1c.

OR, since this ordinance is to control flooding, use "one-half acre of **new impervious area**" throughout Articles 300 and 500 to be consistent.

- 502.4 Are "event hydrograph methods" suitable for small areas? (i.e 3-10 acres) Do they work with underground storage systems?
- 502.8 "Minor Stormwater Systems" (i.e. storm sewers in parking lots or back yard drainage) are typically maintained by the property owner. It seems impractical to provide easements of every private parking lot or residential back yard.
- 502.13 Flood depths on parking lots should be 12" to be consistent with 602.8. Local jurisdictions usually are more restrictive.
- 502.17 Will runoff that goes to a pervious surface, but not go to a storage facility, be considered "unrestricted release", thus reducing the allowable release rate?
- 503.1B&C Requirements for application not consistent with previous articles. (i.e. parcel **totaling** 0.5 acre vs **disturbing** vs **new impervious** (preferred) area.)
- 503.3B Difficult to determine if these requirements include manufactured structures such as Stormceptor, CDS, BaySaver, etc..
- 504.10 How is upstream tributary (or bypass) flow calculated.
- 504.12 How can the small restrictors resulting from this ordinance be "self cleaning"?
- 504.15 Cannot always build storage facility ahead of time, usually have to coordinate construction activities, especially with underground or parking lot surface storage. Should relate to "occupancy" or "placed in use".
- 505.1B&C Requirements for application not consistent with previous articles.
- 505.2 Is "area of development" the entire site, or only the disturbed/developed area?

ARTICLE 6

See related comments in Article 3 above.

- 602.10 B Compensatory storage for volume lost above the 10-year flood elevation (FE) should be allowed below the 10-year FE. This will provide a benefit in that the volume would provide extra storage for the 10-year flood and could lower the 100-year FE

DRAFT TECHNICAL GUIDANCE MANUAL (TGM)

This document was published late in the ordinance development process and needs more than a three-month, one-shot review period. First generation comments follow.

ARTICLE 3 Definitions not consistent with WMO.

ARTICLE 4 Descriptive, but very little technical information.

ARTICLE 5 Definitions and limits not consistent with WMO.
Does not show how to calculate "time of concentration".
Using "runoff coefficient" ("c") interchangeably with "curve number" ("CN")
Does not provide "runoff coefficient" ("c") values.
What are "c" and/or "CN" values for porous pavement, pervious concrete pavement, and pervious asphalt pavement?
How to calculate bypass (upstream) flow.
Aggregate for french drains, or other underground stormwater storage uses, should be CA-5 or CA-7. Proposed CA-1 and CA-3 is subject to settlement.
What are "water quality" goals? (i.e. 80% TSS removal?)
Pages 5-43 through 5-50 are illegible.

ARTICLE 6 Descriptive, but very little technical information.

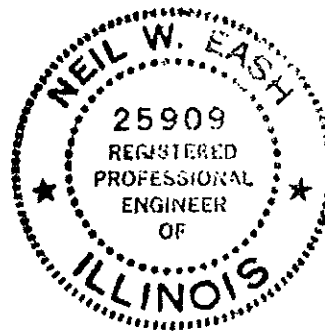
In summary, I understand that a lot of effort has gone into creating (or copying?) this ordinance. It is apparent that much thought has been given to the City of Chicago and combined sewer areas, but I don't believe that existing conditions in the urban areas outside the City are properly addressed. >!

I recommend that one more professional review of the WMO be conducted after the authors include the public comments. I also recommend that the TGM go through at least two more professional comment rounds. The TGM should not be part of the ordinance, but should adequately show how to reasonably comply with the ordinance requirements.

Very truly yours,



Neil W. Eash, P.E.
1425 S. Chestnut Drive
Mount Prospect, IL 60056



November 3, 2009

Mr. Joseph Sobanski
100 East Erie Street
Chicago, IL 60611

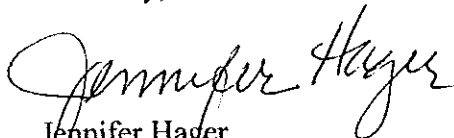
Dear Mr. Sobanski:

I urge the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to adopt a strong Watershed Management Ordinance to protect Cook County residents from additional flooding and improve river, stream and wetland quality.

I believe that the ordinance should be strengthened in three key areas:

1. Protect smaller parcels of land. The current draft would only apply to large parcels of land that are a small fraction of Cook County. Even the best rules won't help if they don't apply to most of the County.
2. Make development part of the solution. Common practices like rain gardens that absorb runoff and permeable pavement that allows water to be absorbed into the ground are simple, effective tools for managing storm water. The ordinance should make smart practices like these should be part of development in Cook County.
3. Make high quality waters a priority. Cook County's high quality streams are valuable resources for recreation, wildlife and clean water. The ordinance should specifically protect Cook County's highest quality streams and wetlands with larger buffers and more careful protections.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Hager
2312 Hartrey Ave
Evanston, IL 60201-2553

November 18, 2009

Allen and Judy Koessel
3744 Stanley Ave.
Riverside Lawn-Unincorporated Cook County
Illinois 60546

Mr. Joseph Sobanski, Director of Engineering
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Dear Mr. Sobanski:

I am writing this letter to ask for your help for the residents of Riverside Lawn. Riverside Lawn is a small community located between Riverside, IL and Lyons, IL, juxtaposed with the Des Plaines River on our west, north, and east side. For many years, our community has suffered from continual flooding from the Des Plaines River.

Last September 2008, we were inundated by a very severe flood that affected over 30 homes in our area. When the flood hit, the crest reached 9.9 feet, it was like standing in the middle of an expressway with an 18 wheeler bearing down on us without being able to move out of the way. Property was damaged to the extent that people were forced to move from their homes for more than six months, some residents are now just returning to their rebuilt homes. Many of our residents have children, so you can imagine the impact on a family when it is forced to leave their home because of unsafe and unsanitary conditions caused by the flood.

On October 1984 a study was done for the Lower Des Plaines Tributaries Draft watershed Plan – EIS. In that plan are over ten projects that were proposed to control flooding along the Des Plaines River. Most of these proposals, retention ponds, diversions etc. were adopted and then constructed by the Army Corps. Of Engineers. Unfortunately one project, the Riverside Lawn Dike Project was proposed to protect the residents of Riverside Lawn, but was scrapped instead.

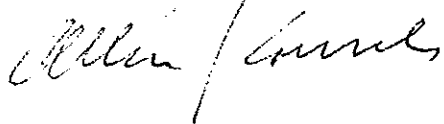
I am sure that you are aware of the exponential growth of development, both residential and commercial that have added water to the overall watershed over the past 25 years. Silver Creek and Salt Creek both shed their water into the Des Plaines before the Des Plaines reaches us. We are the last stop for the whole district's water shed. So we have the most water to deal with and no real protection from the effects of so much water.

Some of the examples of new extra water would be the development of subdivisions in Oak Brook along 31st street, expansion of O'Hare airport-new runways, business development in Oak Brook, Brookfield, Des Plaines and many others. This water all ends up in either the Des Plaines River or Salt Creek. Twenty five years ago, there was a recommendation for a berm to protect Riverside Lawn, now with all of the extra water

added to the watershed we really need the Riverside Lawn Dike plan to be brought off the shelf, dusted off, and actually built.

Since we are unincorporated Cook County we really have no local government looking out for us. We ask for your support and help to achieve this goal.

Sincerely, Allen Koessel

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Allen Koessel". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

August 3, 2009

Attention: Board of Directors, MWRD

PROPOSAL FOR A DIKE TO BE CONSTRUCTED THAT PROTECTS RIVERSIDE LAWN-Unincorporated Cook County From Flooding on the Des Plaines River AND to increase accessibility for fishing, biking, and walking in the Cook County Forest Preserve along the southern river bank of the Des Plaines River from the Hoffman Dam east and southeast to the Ogden Ave. Bridge.

1) To build a dike through this section of forest preserve that would protect the unincorporated section of Cook County known as Riverside Lawn and protects the forest preserve from further erosion and tree destruction caused by the flooding of the Des Plaines River.

2) To use the proposed dike as a platform to construct a bike path that would open up this section of forest preserve to limited recreation, i.e. fishing, biking, and walking.

a) Since fishing is not permitted on the Village of Riverside bank of the river including Swan Pond, extra fishing accessibility would be accomplished on the Des Plaines River.

b) A bike path built along this section of river would offer a more scenic and aesthetic connection between Hoffman dam and the Cermak Woods path than the current path known as 39th street.

Included in this proposal is a map that shows the proposed Riverside Lawn Dike from a study done in 1984 – Lower Des Plaines Tributaries Draft Watershed Plan – EIS. On that map I have added the proposed bike path. ~~There is also a sequence of numbers that correspond to photographs showing potential views that would be experienced by pedestrians or bike riders along the path.~~

Construction of the dike would be engineered and constructed by the Army Corps. Of Engineers in partnership with MWRD.

The dike would be built on forest preserve land and the bike path would be added to the levee by the Cook County Forest Preserve.

cc. Steven M. Bylina Jr., Forest Preserve District Director
Tony Peraica, Commissioner of Cook County, 16th District
Richard P. Tusher, Supervisor Riverside Township
Marc Miller, Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources DNR
Gene Fleming Chief, Environmental Planning Branch US Army Corp of Eng.

Proposal submitted by Allen Koessel, 3744 Stanley Ave., Riverside Lawn –
Unincorporated Cook County, Illinois 60546 Cell Phone: 773-315-9069 E-mail
address: geenyus @ymail.com

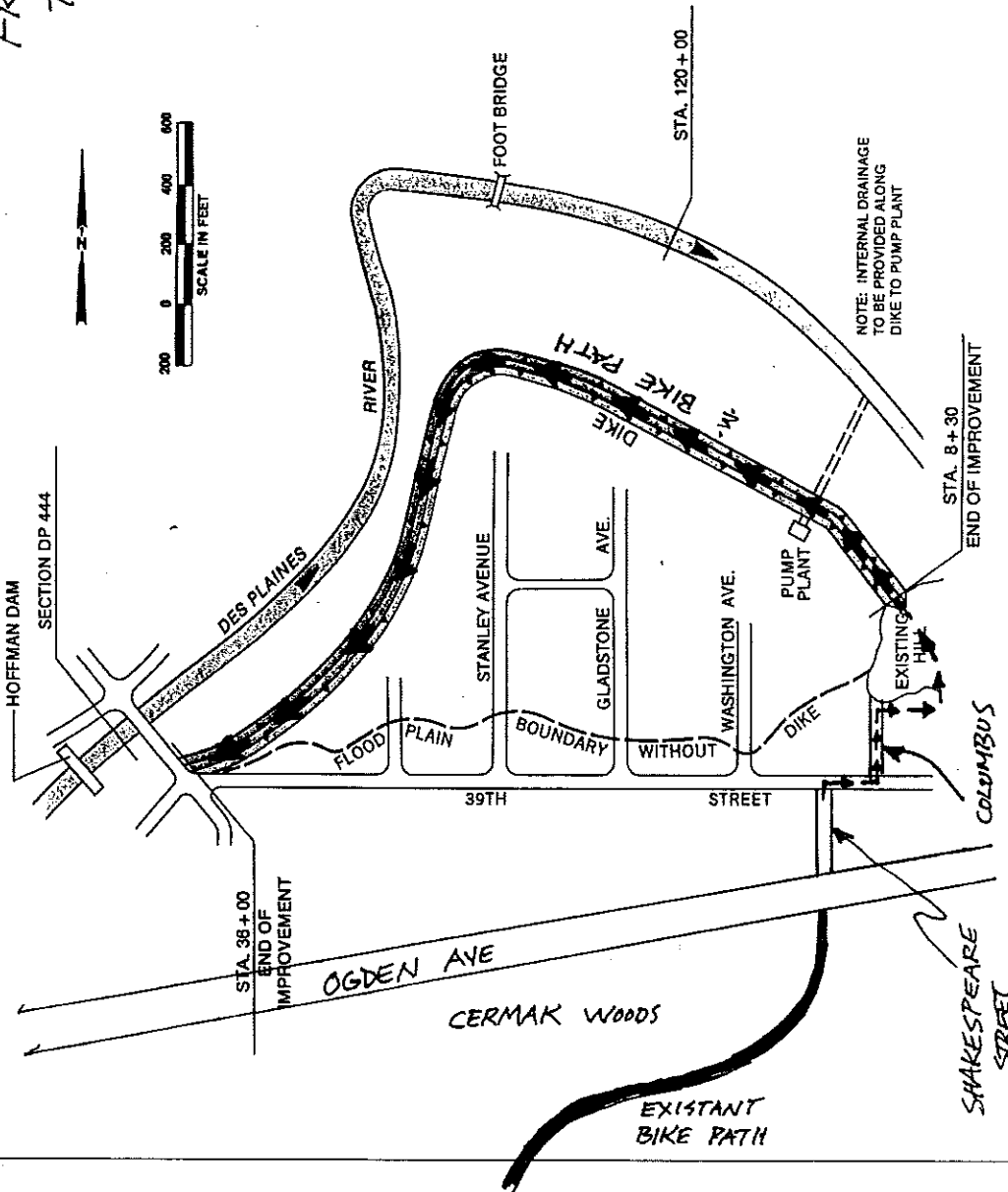
FROM: THE LOWER DES PLAINES
TRIBUTARIES DRAFT WATERSHED
PLAN - E1S OCTOBER 1984

STA. 8+30 TO STA. 38+00
FLOOD CONTROL DIKE
TOP WIDTH 10 FEET
BOTTOM WIDTH 28 TO 58 FEET
HEIGHT 3 TO 8 FEET
SIDE SLOPES 3:1

APPENDIX B-11

RIVERSIDE LAWN DIKE
LOWER DES PLAINES
TRIBUTARIES WATERSHED
DES PLAINES RIVER
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

JUNE 1984 4R-38809



SCALE IN FEET

Nov 3, 2009

Mr Joseph Sobanski
100 E Erie Street
Chicago, IL 60611

To: Mr Sobanski,

I urge the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to adopt a strong watershed management ordinance to protect Cook County residents from additional flooding and improve river, stream and wetland quality. A strong ordinance should be strengthened in three areas:

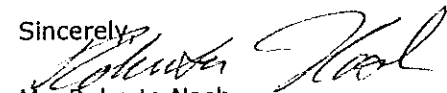
- Revise the stormwater management ordinance to apply to the many small lots that exist in a highly developed county like Cook. Right now the draft ordinance would only cover a small fraction of property in the county. The ordinance should be revised to cover smaller lot sizes.

- The Watershed Management Ordinance needs to ensure that new development and redevelopment in the county do not worsen localized flooding and intensify flooding problems for downstream neighbors by requiring developers to properly manage their stormwater. The ordinance should require projects to use commonly applied practices like rain gardens to capture rainwater where it falls and hold it in place so it can soak into the ground. Projects should also adequately hold back stormwater so that it doesn't rush down stream banks, ruining habitat and carrying pollutants into our waterways.

- The best streams and wetlands in Cook County should be protected with higher standards against destruction and with larger buffer requirements.

Please adopt the Stormwater Management Ordinance and extend the best protections possible to our watersheds.

Sincerely,



Ms. Roberta Nash
282 Dickens St
Northfield, IL 60093-3225
(847) 446-5816

December 23, 2009

Mr. Joseph Sobanski, Director of Engineering
Attention: Stormwater Management Section
100 East Erie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Subject: Comments on WMO Draft

Dear Mr. Sobanski:

I am a professional engineer with over 10 years experience consulting in the Chicagoland area. I have experience performing stormwater design and site design throughout the area with an emphasis in Chicago, Cook County, DuPage County, and Will County. I am originally from Oak Park and a lifelong resident of Cook County. I am writing on my own behalf to comment on the Draft WMO.

First, please let me express my appreciation for undergoing this process. I know that rewriting ordinances is a difficult process and I appreciate the effort put forth on all our behalves. Also, I would like to commend the MWRD for the "green" and "BMP" water quality initiatives in the ordinance. These technologies are still relatively new and I am confident that your guidance will lead to the larger acceptance of these technologies. Finally I especially want to thank the MWRD for putting their money into action by researching as well as testing permeable pavements. This study also was long overdue. Additionally, I apologize that I could not arrange my schedule to attend a public meeting and comment in person, therefore I am submitting my comments in writing.

My comments are as follows:


- 1) I think the new ordinance should not be compared to DuPage, Kane, Lake, Will Counties. These areas are not equivalent to the many densely developed urban areas of Cook County. It would have made more sense to compare the ordinance with Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Philadelphia, and similar older dense urban areas.
- 2) When considering economics, 0.15 cfs/acre appears to be too strict of a standard for dense urban areas in Cook County. The Sewer Permit Ordinance (SPO) recognized this and thereby excluded combined sewer areas from providing detention. DuPage County is restudying their ordinance as well to determine if there are better ways to promote stormwater control and economic redevelopment. While I am not arguing to exclude detention from our developed dense urban areas, there should be a lower standard. By my calculation the 0.15cfs/acre release rate for a 95% impervious dense urban site will result in approximately an 0.5 acre-ft/acre requirement. For dense urban areas, often the only option is underground detention, which averages \$300,000/acre-ft to construct. This results in a \$150,000/acre encumbrance where perhaps before there was no encumbrance. In these difficult economic times I question the feasibility of a new \$450,000 property encumbrance on a 3 acre site. I would recommend a lower release rate standard for dense urban areas. Consider the Chicago model where release rate is based on the critical downstream capacity. At a minimum provide Municipalities or the Chicago Metropolitan

Agency for Planning the option to establish Central Business Districts where alternate standards could be established.

- 3) Many of the large property owners who will be affected by the increased detention requirements are School Districts, Colleges, Universities, and Park Districts. School Districts in particular have no room to grow and typically have used their land to the extent possible. They don't have land available to expand detention storage without cutting services. It is unclear if these properties are included under table 5-1d. Again, I question the value of encumbering these entities and would recommend a lower release rate standard for these type of properties.
- 4) The requirement to incorporate a watertight lining to prevent groundwater infiltration in combined sewer areas seems counter intuitive. I understand the desire to avoid inflow and infiltration (I&I) of sanitary sewers; however with our pervasive clay soil areas and the restriction on underdrains, it seems the I&I potential is low. It seems it would be cheaper to infiltrate water into the groundwater table --however slow-- instead of avoiding infiltration and force all water to go to direct to the combined sewer. I also understand that we would not want to infiltrate combined sewer water, however there are back flow preventers available to keep the combined sewer separate from upstream infiltration areas. Also, in some areas, storage basins can be located well above a combined sewer. I would recommend further study and some allowance for infiltration in combined sewer areas.
- 5) In order for many permeable pavements in clay soils to perform correctly they must be under-drained. It appears this would not be allowed in combined sewer areas. With the infiltration restriction it appears that permeable pavements are not an option in combined sewer areas. I would recommend that underdrains are allowed in combined sewer areas for permeable pavements, possibly with underdrain release restrictions. See City of Chicago Ordinance for examples.
- 6) Offsite trade off are not specifically addressed in the Ordinance, therefore I recommend that trade off areas for unrestricted release are allowed to be located off the subject property. Often it is too difficult to provide trade off areas on a subject property, and drainage patterns are usually static.

Thanks you for taking the time to review my comments. Good luck on the final Ordinance draft!

Very truly yours,


Thomas Powers P.E., LEED AP, CFM, CPESC

Mr. Joseph Sobanski, Director of Engineering
Attention: Stormwater Management Section
100 East Erie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

John Sheerin
10336 S. Lavergne
Oak Lawn, IL. 60453

December 28, 2009

Dear Mr. Sobanski,

I am writing to support the Draft Watershed Management Ordinance with no further reduction of standards or relaxing of thresholds. While the MWRDGC is to be commended for taking a watershed approach to stormwater management, I want to emphasize the under no circumstances are the Forest Preserves to be treated as mere stormwater detention areas. Rather, these natural areas are gems encircling the city which by their current and existing nature help reduce the storm water problems we face. The Cook County Forest Preserves should not be treated as a solution to the county's stormwater problems and must receive full and fair notice of any developments or applications for variances adjacent to preserves.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sincerely,

John Sheerin



ENGR.
DEPT.
MWRD
GRTR. CHGO.
DEC 29 AM 11:02

100 E. 163rd Street
South Holland, IL 60473
December 26, 2009

Mr. Joseph Sobanski, Director of Engineering
Attention: Stormwater Management Section
100 East Erie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Re: MWRD Stormwater Management Plan

Gentlemen:

My husband, Paul, and I want the current MWRD Stormwater Management Plan to remain while also improving a few key areas:

- Revise the ordinance to include parcels as small as one acre or larger.
- Improve rain capture techniques to prevent runoff by requiring all developments 5,000 square feet or larger to manage stormwater.
- Protect homes from flooding by requiring greater compensation for flood water storage lost when floodplain is developed. Cook County should follow the lead of other northeast Illinois counties and require replacement at 1:5 to 1 as a safety factor to prevent the new development from causing flooding problems downstream.

This is a wonderful opportunity to protect the quality of our waters, wetlands, wildlife habitat and mitigate additional flooding. It is ridiculous to crowd development which only later causes future problems to homeowners and businesses. Squeezing more development in an area may immediately help developers, but how does that prevent heartaches and financial disaster to taxpayers and businesses that eventually live in that area?

We ask that you consider the whole picture of development. MWRD should protect the Greater Chicago area from future flooding and consider what is best for each of our communities. Developers and communities need to work together for the greater good and, in turn, we will have less costs in cleaning up and repairing damages from floods. People's lives will not be disrupted with home and financial losses. Businesses lose out, also, when there are floods.

Yours very truly,



(Mrs.) Carol Strand

REC'D ENGR.
PLANNING DEPT.
DEC 30 AM 10:56
M.W.R.D.
OF GRTR. CHGO.

31 December 2009

Mr. Joseph Sobanski, Director of Engineering
Attention: Stormwater Management Section
100 East Erie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Mr. Sobanski,

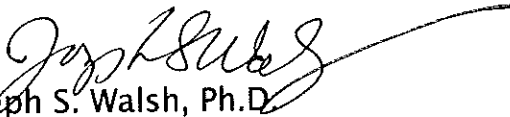
I wish to support the Draft Watershed Management Ordinance with no further relaxing of thresholds or reduction of standards.

I would add that if the ordinance is to be changed, that it should increase the required compensatory storage for building in a floodplain above what is currently proposed; that it should provide credits for green infrastructure to reduce the amount of land required for detention; and that thresholds similar to those in neighboring counties will do more to protect water quality and reduce future flooding problems.

Particularly, as a frequent Forest Preserve user (for personal recreation, and for university education), I would like to state that the Cook County Forest Preserves should not be treated as a solution to the county's stormwater problems and must receive full and fair notice of any developments or applications for variances adjacent to preserves.

I commend the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District for taking a comprehensive, sustainable watershed approach and exercising its authority to reduce flooding and protect water quality in the county's rivers and streams.

Sincerely,


Joseph S. Walsh, Ph.D.

Evanston, IL 60202

November 3, 2009

Mr. Joseph Sobanski
100 East Erie Street
Chicago, IL 60611

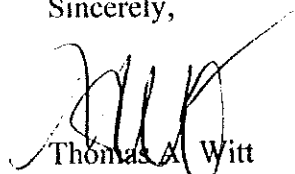
Dear Mr. Sobanski:

I urge the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to adopt a strong Watershed Management Ordinance to protect Cook County residents from additional flooding and improve river, stream and wetland quality.

I believe that the ordinance should be strengthened in three key areas:

1. Protect smaller parcels of land. The current draft would only apply to large parcels of land that are a small fraction of Cook County. Even the best rules won't help if they don't apply to most of the County.
2. Make development part of the solution. Common practices like rain gardens that absorb runoff and permeable pavement that allows water to be absorbed into the ground are simple, effective tools for managing storm water. The ordinance should make smart practices like these should be part of development in Cook County.
3. Make high quality waters a priority. Cook County's high quality streams are valuable resources for recreation, wildlife and clean water. The ordinance should specifically protect Cook County's highest quality streams and wetlands with larger buffers and more careful protections.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Witt
2312 Hartrey Ave
Evanston, IL 60201-2553

5101 N Central Park Ave
Chicago IL 60625-5500
18 December 2009

Mr. Joseph Sobanski
100 E Erie Street
Chicago IL 60611

Re: Watershed Management Ordinance

Dear Mr. Sobanski,

I urge the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to adopt a strong watershed management ordinance to protect Cook County residents from additional flooding and improve river, stream and wetland quality. MWRD's proposed Watershed Management Ordinance should be revised to:

- Apply to the many small lots that exist in a highly developed county like Cook. Right now the draft ordinance would only cover a small fraction of properties in the county, which would limit its overall impact on floods and water quality.
- Prevent flooding by allowing developers to utilize innovative, green, stormwater best management practices such as rain and rooftop gardens, bioswales, and porous paving to capture rainwater where it falls and hold it in place so it can soak into the ground.
- Include language to direct and strengthen the MWRD's existing education efforts to focus on educating the public about actions they can take on their property to reduce runoff, including a "zero discharge" goal for every property.
- Protect the best streams and wetlands in Cook County with higher standards against their destruction and with larger buffer requirements.

Please adopt the Watershed Management Ordinance and extend the best protections possible to our watersheds.

Sincerely,


Robert Kastigar

December 10, 2009

Re: Watershed Management Ordinance
Mr. Joseph Sobanski
100 E. Erie. Street
Chicago, IL 60611

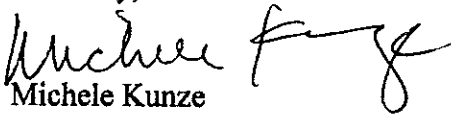
Dear Mr. Sobanski,

I urge the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to adopt a strong watershed management ordinance to protect Cook County residents from additional flooding and improve river, stream and wetland quality. MWRD's proposed Watershed Management Ordinance should be revised to:

- Apply to the many small lots that exist in a highly developed county like Cook. Right now the draft ordinance would only cover a small fraction of properties in the county, which would limit its overall impact on floods and water quality.
- Prevent flooding by allowing developers to utilize innovative, green, stormwater best management practices such as rain and rooftop gardens, bioswales, and porous paving to capture rainwater where it falls and hold it in place so it can soak into the ground.
- Include language to direct and strengthen the MWRD's existing education efforts to focus on educating the public about actions they can take on their property to reduce runoff, including a "zero discharge" goal for every property.
- Protect the best streams and wetlands in Cook County with higher standards against their destruction and with larger buffer requirements.

Please adopt the Watershed Management Ordinance and extend the best protections possible to our watersheds.

Sincerely,



Michele Kunze
2525 W. Hutchinson
Chicago IL 60618
Michele@signsnowchicago.com

Kog Lewis
6283 North Lewis
Chicago IL 60646

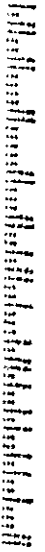


Mr Frank Siberski
Director Engineering

Attn: Systemwide Management Section

100 Erie Street

Chicago, IL 60611



I've mentioned one of the best ways to improve
the old FD program, and passed to the North Branch of the Change
Fund. They have it right above the river valley, so if in not normally
harvested plant being needed. But if you want to start the
change that the program can be along the river banks.
I can count many trees that had been of the river caused
by fluctuations in many high and fast. The requested by
higher rates that I can see while in nature. I feel that
agencies such as you've had the presence of a better
view. I approved the Draft National Management Measure
and we would like to be included in it. Please do not change
it by making any. The whole on reducing any of the
general standards. I'm like a standard with the Cook County
Forest Preserve District with the people. CCFPD's holding property
the CCFPD much more full and fair notice among developments
on applications for measures adjacent to the preserved.
I think you're right. Consideration and may it be
happy. I will be for both water and for the water for
happy. I will be for both water and for the water for

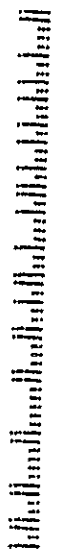
WEL MARRELL
555 W IRVING PARK ROAD #316
CHICAGO IL 60613

104
0391 \$ 00.440
2683 MAILED FROM AURORA IL 60506



MR. Joseph Sabansky, Director of Engineering
Attention: STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SECTION
100 EAST ERIE ST.
CHICAGO IL 60611

60611+2223



Mr. Joseph Sobanski, Director of Engineering
Attention STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
100 E. Erie St
CHICAGO IL 60611

Dear Mr. Joseph Sobanski,

I am writing to you regarding the Cook County Watershed Management Ordinance, WMO for short. I am urging you to please support Good Green public policy when it comes to the WMO. First of all let me reiterate how much Cook County needs the WMO to protect not only wildlife habitat and water but also people's property. I also hope that the WMO will include better provisions for developments to use commonly applied practices such as rain gardens, porous pavement and green roofs to capture rainwater where it falls and hold it in place so it can soak into the ground. These practices help reduce flooding while

improving water quality and habitat.

Please make sure the WMO does what it is intended to do. Promote Green space and protect and improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat. Thank you for your time,

Sincerely

Mel Morelli

January 4, 2010

Mr. Joseph Sobanski, Director of Engineering
Attention: Stormwater Management Section
100 East Erie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Mr. Sobanski:

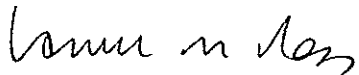
I am writing to let you know that I fully support the Draft Watershed Management Ordinance with no further relaxing of thresholds or reduction of standards.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District is to be commended for taking a watershed approach and exercising your authority to reduce flooding and protect water quality in the county's rivers and streams. There is no issue more important in 2010 than clean water. Thresholds similar to those in neighboring counties will do more to protect water quality and reduce future flooding problems.

The ordinance should increase the required compensatory storage for building in a floodplain above what is currently proposed and furthermore it should provide credits for green infrastructure to reduce the amount of land required for detention.

The Cook County Forest Preserves should not be treated as a solution to the county's storm water problems and must receive full and fair notice of any developments or applications for variances adjacent to preserves. We must not lose sight of the Forest Preserve District's mission to "preserve and protect, restore and restock" our natural lands.

Sincerely,



Laurel M. Ross
3908N. Kostner
Chicago, IL 60641

1719 E 54th St #3
Chicago IL 60615
Nov. 5, 2009

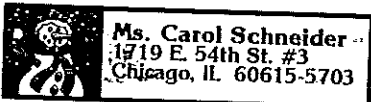
Cook County Watershed Management

Dear Mr. Sobanski

I urge the MWR district to adopt a strong watershed management ordinance. It will help protect our county residents from additional flooding and the quality of our rivers, streams and water lands will improve.

The ordinance should also require practices like rain gardens and rain barrels.

Sincerely
Carol H. Schneider
Carol Schneider



CHICAGO IL 606

05 NOV 2009 PM 4 T



Mr. Joseph Sobanski
attn Metropolitan Water Reclamation D,
Storm Water Management Section
100 East Erie Street

Kevin G. Anderson
2546 West Cullom Avenue
Chicago IL 60618-1502
773 583-7042
kgander@pobox.com

December 29, 2009

Re: Watershed Management Ordinance
Mr. Joseph Sobanski
100 E. Erie. Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Mr. Sobanski,

I would like to comment on the draft Watershed Management Ordinance currently being considered by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD). First I would like to commend the MWRD for making efforts to protect water quality along with mitigating flooding, and for taking a watershed approach to this work.

I support the efforts to date, and trust that MWRD will make sure that in the revision process there is no relaxing of thresholds or reduction of standards as presented in the draft. I would also like to offer the following suggestions:

- The ordinance should also address the many small lots (less than .5 acres) that make up a large part of district, in order to expand the ordinance's positive impact on flooding and water quality.
- The ordinance should provide credits for green infrastructure to reduce the amount of land required for detention, and encourage developers to utilize innovative stormwater best management practices like rain gardens, green roofs, bioswales, and porous paving.
- The ordinance should increase the required compensatory storage for building in a floodplain above what is currently proposed.
- The ordinance should increase the buffer requirements for the best streams and wetlands in the district.
- Because of the special role the Cook County Forest Preserves plays in stormwater management, they should receive full and fair notice of any developments or applications for variances adjacent to them.

Please adopt a Watershed Management Ordinance that ensures the best protections possible of the environmental quality our watersheds.

Sincerely,

ffKevin G. Anderson

REC'D
M.W.R.D.
OFF. GRTR. CHGO.
DEC 31 AM 11:33
CHIEF ENGR.
DEPT.

December 28, 2009

Mr. Joseph Sobanski, Director of Engineering
Attention: Stormwater Management Section
100 East Erie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Mr. Sobanski,

I am the Director of Ecology Programs at Waters elementary School and lead organizer of Riverbank neighbors, a local group that manages a four block section of the Chicago Riverbank. I write to support the Draft Watershed Management Ordinance *with no further relaxing of thresholds or reduction of standards.*

In addition, the ordinance should increase the required compensatory storage for building in a floodplain above what is currently proposed;

- * The ordinance should provide credits for green infrastructure to reduce the amount of land required for detention;

- * Thresholds similar to those in neighboring counties will do more to protect water quality and reduce future flooding problems;

- * The Cook County Forest Preserves should not be treated as a solution to the county's stormwater problems and must receive full and fair notice of any developments or applications for variances adjacent to preserves;

- * The MWRD is to be commended for taking a watershed approach and exercising its authority to reduce flooding and protect water quality in the county's rivers and streams.

We will continue to work locally to involve our neighbors and school families in stormwater management.

Many Thanks,

Pete Leki
2546 West Hutchinson
Chicago, Illinois 60618
773 463-8968
peteleki@yahoo.com

Nov 3, 2009

Mr Joseph Sobanski,
100 E Erie Street
Chicago, IL 60611

To: Mr Sobanski,

I urge the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to adopt a strong watershed management ordinance to protect Cook County residents from additional flooding and improve river, stream and wetland quality. A strong ordinance should be strengthened in three areas:

- Revise the stormwater management ordinance to apply to the many small lots that exist in a highly developed county like Cook. Right now the draft ordinance would only cover a small fraction of properties in the county. The ordinance should be revised to cover smaller lot sizes.

-The Watershed Management Ordinance needs to ensure that new development and redevelopment projects in the county do not worsen localized flooding and intensify flooding problems for downstream neighbors by requiring developers to properly manage their stormwater. The ordinance should require projects to use commonly applied practices like rain gardens to capture rainwater where it falls and hold it in place so it can soak into the ground. Projects should also adequately hold back stormwater so that it doesn't rush over stream banks, ruining habitat and carrying pollutants into our waterways.

- The best streams and wetlands in Cook County should be protected with higher standards against their destruction and with larger buffer requirements.

Please adopt the Stormwater Management Ordinance and extend the best protections possible to our watersheds.

Sincerely,

Ms. Karen Stephenson
2746 N Wolcott Ave Apt 2S
Chicago, IL 60614-1085
(310) 487-6169

To: Mr. Joseph Sobanski, Director of Engineering
Attention: Stormwater Management Section
100 East Erie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Cook County residents deserve clean water and strong watershed management. I support the Draft Watershed Management Ordinance with no reduction of standards. Furthermore, the ordinance should increase the required compensatory storage for building in a floodplain above what is currently proposed. It should also provide incentives for green infrastructure to reduce the amount of land required for detention.

I live near, and volunteer for, the Cook County Forest Preserves which harbor rich but rare ecosystems. Our fragile preserves should not be treated as a solution to the county's stormwater problems. They deserve protection from damaging runoff and must receive notice of any developments or applications for variances adjacent to them.

The MWRD is to be commended for taking a watershed approach and exercising its authority to reduce flooding and protect water quality in the county's rivers and streams.

Susan Witkowski
6050 N. Forest Glen
Chicago, Il 60646

2009 FEB 31 AM 11:33
M.W.R.D.
GRTR. CHGO.

Ms. Suzanne Carlson
2679 Stewart Ave
Evanston, IL 60201-1489

Nov 3, 2009

Mr. Joseph Sobanski
100 East Erie Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Mr. Sobanski,

I urge the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to adopt a strong Watershed Management Ordinance to protect Cook County residents from additional flooding and improve river, stream and wetland quality.

I believe that the ordinance should be strengthened in four key areas:

1. Protect smaller parcels of land. To be fair and effective, the WMO must apply to as many parcels in the County as is possible. As such, the size threshold for a parcel to be subject to the WMO should be reduced. Appropriate size thresholds for detention requirements are three acres for single residences, one acre for multiple residences, and one acre for roadways. These are the thresholds in place in neighboring counties. An appropriate threshold for water quality and stormwater volume requirements is 5000 square feet. Even the best rules won't help if they don't apply to most of the County.
2. Make development part of the solution. Common practices like rain gardens that absorb runoff and permeable pavement that allows water to be absorbed into the ground are simple, effective tools for managing stormwater. The ordinance should make smart practices like these be part of development in Cook County.
3. If development must take place in the floodplain, it is imperative that any water displaced be offset by adding storage elsewhere (this is called "compensatory storage"). To account for measurement error and uncertainties, a large safety factor must be included. At a minimum, for every one unit of volume reduced, 1.5 units must be added elsewhere.
4. Make high quality waters a priority. Cook County's high quality streams are valuable resources for recreation, wildlife and clean water. The ordinance should specifically protect Cook County's highest quality streams and wetlands with larger buffers and more careful protections.

Sincerely,

Ms. Suzanne Carlson

12/8/09

To: Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

RE: Public study: Stormwater Study Session, December 8th, Lyons Village Hall

MWRD,

Please accept for public record, the comments attached below which come from four resident members of the Riverside Illinois citizen action group **Riverside Residents for Flood Prevention**. Our group has garnered the support of over 70 persons as of this date; our goals include making certain that our local concerns are taken into consideration during the many watershed studies. Our ultimate goal is to try and help prevent flooding along the Des Plaines River through active political involvement.

Riverside Residents for Flood Prevention
<http://www.riversidefloodprevention.org>
mail@ riversidefloodprevention.org

MWRD,

I'm a resident member of **Riverside Residents for Flood Prevention** and I am also a flood victim. I live along the Des Plaines River and I'm submitting this statement to support your efforts to adopt a strong Watershed Management Ordinance. I feel that this ordinance would help to lessen the unnatural amount of water that flows into the Des Plaines River during a storm surge due to run-off. The WMO would prevent future stress on an already volatile watershed. As I meet and work with residents from the growing ranks of other flood action groups in towns such as Des Plaines, River Forest and Riverside Lawn I'm finding out firsthand how many lives flooding affects, both in terms of monetary losses and in the great hardship that flooding causes.

I feel a strong ordinance should:

- Apply to the many small lots that exist in a highly developed county like Cook.
- Take into consideration the financial losses and the hardship incurred by residents and municipalities who flood along the Des Plaines River.
- Ensure that new development and redevelopment projects in the county do not worsen localized flooding and intensify flooding problems for downstream neighbors by requiring developers to properly manage their stormwater. The ordinance should require projects to use commonly applied practices like rain gardens to capture rainwater where it falls and hold it in place so it can soak into the ground. Projects should also adequately hold back stormwater so that it doesn't rush over stream banks, ruining habitat and carrying pollutants into our waterways.
- Protect streams and wetlands of Cook County with higher standards against their destruction by establishing larger buffer requirements.
- Not let the economic interests of developers and tax-hungry towns come before sound, forward thinking ecological practices and the social responsibility to help prevent flood disasters.

Please adopt the Stormwater Management Ordinance in a timely manner and extend the best protections possible to our watersheds. Our families' quality of life, their property values, and the ecology of our watershed are all at stake.

Thank you for your consideration,

Richard Rankin
73 Groveland Ave.
Riverside, IL 60546

To: Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
RE: Public study: Stormwater Study Session, December 8th, Lyons Village Hall

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding the Watershed Management Ordinance that is currently being considered, and to support you as you craft a strong watershed management ordinance that reduces flooding, protects our natural resources, and improves water quality. I have lived in Riverside, across the street from the Des Plaines River for 23 years, and have experienced three catastrophic floods. I am also a member of **Riverside Residents for Flood Prevention** which formed in response and frustration to the September 2008 disaster. Recently, the river seems to rise more quickly and stay higher longer than in previous years. We believe that this is due to a combination of factors which may include upstream development, the Forest Avenue Bridge, and the Hofmann Dam. I appreciate your effort to adopt an ordinance that will help reduce the increasing amount of water which flows into the Des Plaines River during a storm surge due to run-off. A strong Watershed Management Ordinance would protect the watershed as well as the people and wildlife that live near it. I feel the ordinance should:

- Apply to the many small lots that exist in a highly developed county like Cook. Right now the draft ordinance would only cover a small fraction of properties in the county. The ordinance should be revised to cover smaller lot sizes.
- Ensure that new development and redevelopment projects in the county do not worsen localized flooding and intensify flooding problems for downstream neighbors by requiring developers to properly manage their storm water. The ordinance should require projects to use commonly applied practices like rain gardens to capture rainwater where it falls and hold it in place so it can soak into the ground. Projects should also adequately hold back storm water so that it doesn't rush over stream banks, ruining habitat and carrying pollutants into our waterways.
- The best streams and wetlands in Cook County should be protected with higher standards against their destruction and with larger buffer requirements.

Please adopt a strong Watershed Management Ordinance quickly in order to protect our watershed, improve the water quality, protect property values, and avoid the devastation of future flooding.

Thank you very much for taking my comments into consideration,
Fran Alcántara
75 Groveland
Riverside, IL 60546
708-447-4178

I am so sorry that this meeting is taking place during the day and hope that will be stated to the MWRD! Not many of us are available on short notice at 2:30 on a weekday. It appears as though they are really discouraging our participation. I took off 9 vacation days to clean up after the flooding September 2008 (as did many of my neighbors and family members) and I would have hoped that they (MWRD) would have been more considerate of our time for this important subject.

I understand that the mayors' concern for economic development, however, this is short-sighted, putting the people that they serve in these communities last.

Mary Plunkett
Riverside, IL

MWRD,

Neither my husband nor I will be able to attend this meeting. We have big concerns about the build up of the bank of the des plaines on the west side of the river across from West Ave. Any help with the flooding would be most appreciated.

Peg and Terry Sweeney, 112 Pine Ave. since 1983
