1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call: Judy Gilmour (Chair), Elizabeth Flowers (Vice Chair), Tony Giles, Matthew Prochaska, John Purcell

3. Approval of Agenda

4. Approval of Minutes from May 21, 2018

5. Status Reports
   - Board of Health
   - Health Department
   - Soil & Water
   - Water Related Groups
   - Other Reports

6. Old Business

7. New Business

8. Chairman’s Report

9. Public Comment

10. Questions from the Media

11. Action Items for the County Board

12. Executive Session

13. Adjournment
COUNTY OF KENDALL, ILLINOIS
Health & Environment Committee
Monday, May 21, 2018
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by Chair Judy Gilmour at 3:01p.m. Member Gilmour appointed County Board Member Audra Hendrix temporarily to the committee to establish a quorum to conduct business.

ROLL CALL
Committee Members Present: Tony Giles – here, Judy Gilmour – here, Audra Hendrix - here

Members Excused: Matthew Prochaska, John Purcell

Member Absent: Elizabeth Flowers

Others Present: Jenny Wold, KC Soil & Water District, Dr. Amaal Tokars, Kendall County Health Department

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Member Hendrix made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Member Giles. With three members present in agreement, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – Member Hendrix made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 16, 2018, second by Member Giles. With three members present voting aye, the motion carried.

STATUS REPORTS

➢ Board of Health – Dr. Tokars reported that they had a large meeting focusing on the Opioid Crisis, and County Board Chair Scott Gryder was a guest. The Health Board also voiced their concerns to Chairman Gryder over employee health benefit costs, and other Health Department or County issues.

➢ Health Department – Dr. Tokars reported that the Health Department has not voiced concern either verbally or in writing regarding the retention pond behind the Health and Human Services building, but said the County could contact the designer of the retention pond for discussion about the pond. She said that Member Davidson did approach her about the traps.

Dr. Tokars also provided information about Animal Rabies testing for 2018, and explained that rabies among human beings from animal bites is more uncommon now due to increased owner vaccinations of pets.
Dr. Tokars stated that community members are welcome to contact the Health Department for instructions and possible situations where the Illinois Department of Public Health might test a bat for rabies. The Health Department will send deceased bats to the IDPH for testing. Dr. Tokars also highlighted some warning signs about bats such as appearance in daylight, low flying bats without being provoked. Dr. Tokars stated that it is extremely dangerous for a human to have contact with high-risk species (neurologic or extremely aggressive animals: bats, raccoons, skunks, foxes and coyotes).

Dr. Tokars briefed the committee on the annual Health Department Community Action Services Scholarship Program, which awards scholarships each year to low-income ($18,090 - $43,170 per year, based on household size), and disadvantaged students of high academic achievement potential since 1983, all students must be enrolling in an accredited institute of higher education in the state of Illinois.

These scholarships provide financial assistance to eligible individuals for education or occupational training. Applicants must be a resident of Kendall or Grundy County, funds must be used for either 2-year or 4-year training, applicants must have demonstrated positive community/school involvement, and funds must be used for books, tuition, fees, etc.

➤ Kendall County Soil and Water District – Jenny Wold reported that the Ag in the Classroom program is finished for this school year.

Ms. Wold also reported that she will be leaving her position with the Soil and Water District to return to a full-time teaching position in Ottawa Illinois. The District is currently accepting applications for the Ag in the Classroom position, and will conduct interviews in June.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS - None

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – None

COUNTY BOARD ACTION ITEMS - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Not Needed

ADJOURNMENT – Member Hendrix made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Member Giles. With no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Valarie McClain, Administrative Assistant and Recording Clerk
U.S. Drought Monitor
Midwest

June 12, 2018
(Released Thursday, Jun. 14, 2018)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>None</th>
<th>D0-D4</th>
<th>D1-D4</th>
<th>D2-D4</th>
<th>D3-D4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>75.60</td>
<td>24.40</td>
<td>4.81</td>
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<td>Last Week 06-05-2018</td>
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<td>23.00</td>
<td>3.78</td>
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<td>3 Months Ago 03-13-2018</td>
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<td>18.41</td>
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<td>Start of Water Year 09-26-2017</td>
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<td>3.02</td>
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Intensity:
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/
Rain Gardens and Native Plants at Home

Megan Andrews
Resource Conservationist
Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District

Kendall County SWCD...

- A governmental body created by state law for the purpose of promoting the protection and conservation of the county and state's soil, water and related natural resources.
  - "Independent unit of local government"
  - Formation was in part a response to the dust bowl of the 1930s.
  - 98 SWCDs in Illinois; Kendall County SWCD formed on June 2, 1947.
  - Co-located with USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at the USDA Service Center in Yorkville.
- Provide and assist in delivering programs that prevent erosion from urban development and of tillable soil that threatens our agricultural economy and the sustainability of our surface water supplies.

Kendall County SWCD...

- Provide resources, technical assistance and education opportunities.
  - Partners for Conservation Program — technical & financial assistance to landowners in the county to address erosion and drainage issues through best management practices (groomed waterways, filter strips, streambank stabilization and well sealing).
  - Educational Programs & Workshops to K-12 students, as well as adults, on natural resource and agriculture related topics.
  - Community assistance — public, local developers, elected officials, municipal government, county government, and state and federal natural resource agencies.
  - Resources — fish/tree, native plant, and rain barrel sales, map resources (floodplain, wetland, aerial, soil), used oil pick-up, natural resource related informational brochures and materials.

Native Plants

- "...occur naturally in a particular region, state, ecosystem and habitat without direct or indirect human actions."
  - Federal Native Plant Committee
  - Represent the natural heritage of the area
  - Well adapted to local conditions
  - Include grasses, flowers, sedges, forbs, and legumes.
Native Plants

- Long, extensive root structure

Native Plants

- Benefits:
  - Improve quality of:
    - air
    - water
    - soil
  - Help prevent flooding
  - Enhance biodiversity
    - Food & shelter for wildlife and insects
  - Hardy
  - Low maintenance
  - Cost effective

Native Plants at Home

- Considerations:
  - Using native plants does not have to be all or none - you control your landscape.
  - There is no right or wrong.
  - Let your yard work for you.
  - Neighbors
  - Local Ordinances
  - Define what you want – what is your goal(s)?
    - Attract wildlife & insects (birds, bees, butterflies)
    - Reclaim a flower bed or convert an underutilized portion of your yard?

Native Plants at Home

- Getting started...
  - Many ways to approach your project
    - What are you comfortable with?
    - What do you find helpful?
  - Inventory your yard & develop a plan
    - Existing features, utilities, patios, downspouts, landscaping
    - Site conditions: drainage, soils, sun & shade
Native Plants at Home

Assess Site Conditions:
- Water & Drainage
  - What & where are the sources of runoff? Where does water travel (how does water move across your yard)?
  - Do you have wet spots?
- Soils
  - What kind of soil do you have?
  - Each soil has different amounts of sand, silt and clay.
  - How does the soil feel?
  - Has the original soil profile been disturbed?
  - How will it drain water to support vegetation?
- Sun / Shade

Develop a Plan
- Keep in mind your goals, yard and site conditions.
- Sketch out the location - be as creative as you want with your design!
- Begin "painting" your picture with plants.

Native Plants at Home

Plants
- Select plants that fit your yard to ensure success.
  - Plants best suited for your conditions will flourish without additional water and fertilizer once established.
- There is a large variety of plants to fit all conditions, needs and desires.
- Take into consideration...
  - Plant color, bloom time, height, shape, texture
  - Diversity
  - Placement within the planting bed

Native Plants at Home

Plants
- Take into consideration (continued)...
  - Seed or plug? (affect establishment & manual inputs)
  - Use local genotypes - unique genetic makeup adapted to local conditions
  - Plants sources
    - Local nurseries
    - "Nursery Propagated" use the scientific name
    - Self Collecting
  - When do I plant?
    - Transplants: Spring or early Fall
    - Seed: Late Spring or Early Summer, Fall in some instances
Native Plants at Home

- Site Preparation
  - Smothering
  - Herbicide (low toxicity, non-persistent)
  - Equipment
    - sod-cutter
    - Tiller
  - Minimize Weedy competition
  - Organic Matter?
- Begin Planting

Native Plants at Home

- Plant establishment & Maintenance
  - Weeding
  - Water
  - Mulch (caution: weeds)
  - Mowing or Cutting
    - In place of a controlled burn, mowing removes debris and allows exposed soil to be warmed by the sun which stimulates new growth.
    - Late Fall or early Spring
    - Timing & Frequency favors different plants.

Rain Gardens

- What is rain garden?
  - A shallow depression, planted with native plants, that absorbs rain water (runoff) from impervious surfaces, mainly from the roof of your home.
  - Allows water to slowly filter into the ground rather than runoff into a storm sewer.

Rain Gardens

- Location
  - At least 10 feet away from your foundation.
  - Near a downsput (water source)
  - Extend and lay piping on the ground
  - Dig a trench and lay plastic piping
  - Topography (garden bed will need to be flat so the greater the slope, the more work necessary to prepare the bed).
  - Note the existing drainage pattern in your yard.
Rain Gardens

- **Design (size & shape)**
  - Drainage area:
    - estimate the area from which your garden will get rain (roof area - how many downspouts & yard).
  - Typical depth: 3-7 inches; 100-300 square feet in size.
  - Rain garden bed must be level so that water spreads out to maximize infiltration.
  - Considerations:
    - Larger size of the rain garden should face upslope to maximize the amount of water coming into the rain garden.

- **Sails**

- **Vegetation**
  - Keep in mind that a rain garden will go through very wet and dry periods - make sure to select plants accordingly.

- **Inventory**
- **Develop a Plan**
- **Site Preparation**
- **Rain garden Establishment & Maintenance**
- **Cost**
  - If you do all the work yourself: $3.50 per square foot
  - If you hire a landscaper: $10-15 per square foot

- **Native Plants**
  - Benefit our environment
  - Great way to learn about plants (colors, sizes, species), soils and water
  - Let your yard and perspective guide you - paint your own picture.
  - You can do it!
Resources

Audubon At Home: Take Action! Plant Natives
http://www.audubon.org/your-garden/native-planting

Green Landscaping: Greenacres, USEPA
http://greenacres.epa.gov/landscape.htm

Plant Native: http://www.plantingthenative.com

Rain Gardens: A How-to Manual for Homeowners, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/water/raingarden/hdbk.html

http://www.ianet.org/raingarden\

Build your own Rain Garden, Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries, Applied Ecological Services
http://www.applynatural.com

http://www.wildones.org/wildones.html