

EEHW COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, March 19, 2015
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Linda Little, Vice Chair
Gary Minich
Matt Brown
Jerry Potts
Merv Jacobs

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Kris Horton, Animal Control
Greg Collins, Vet Administration
Deb Garrett, Environmental Mgmt
Laurie Rasmus, Environmental Mgmt
Jennifer Hoffman, P&Z
Laura Lents, County Board Office
Dianna Heyer, Health Dept Administrator
Sgt Louann Hollon, Animal Control

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tim Dudley, Chair
Kevin Bird

Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Linda Little at the Macon County Office Building.

MINUTES

Gary Minich made a motion to approve the February 19, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Jerry Potts, motion carried 5-0.

CLAIMS

Jerry Potts made a motion to accept the report of the claims as presented, seconded by Matt Brown and motion carried 5-0.

ZONING –

Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case R-02-03-15, a Petition for Rezoning Permit Submitted by Beverly Carmean

Jennifer Hoffman explained that this resolution is for approximately 1 acre and the request is to rezone from RE5 Single Family Estate zoning to R1 Single Family Residential zoning. It is located at 5303 W. Center Street in Decatur Township. Rezoning is needed for the minimum lot size to be 1 acre. On March 4, 2015 a public Zoning Board of Appeals hearing was held and based on the finding of facts and staff recommended approval, the ZBA voted 5-0 for approval of the petition. She pointed out on the map that there is a house with approximately 2+ acres and some farmland. They want to divide off the house with one acre and put the rest of it with the farm ground. The remainder is the natural drainage way for that farm and they want to keep it with their existing farm ground. They don't want to build anything new. The zoning classification they are at right now is RE5 which is minimum lot size of 2 acres. They want to take the house down to one acre. They have to rezone the house and then they'll have to rezone the rest from RE5 to agricultural because it cannot be combined with the farm ground as is. It is the whole natural drainage way tiles for the back field.

Jerry Potts made a motion to approve forwarding this on to the full board with recommendation for approval, seconded by Matt Brown and motion carried 5-0.

Macon County Board Resolution Regarding Case R-03-03-15, a Petition for Rezoning Permit Submitted by Beverly Carmean

Jennifer Hoffman explained that this resolution is for the approximately 2.13 acres from RE5 Single Family Estate Zoning to A1 Agricultural Zoning. The property is located on W Center Street in Decatur Township. The rezoning is needed to be able to combine with the natural farm drainage outlet with the existing farm field located behind the property. On March 4, 2015, the Zoning Board of Appeals public hearing was held and based on the finding of facts and staff recommended approval, the ZBA voted 5-0 for approval of the petition.

Jerry Potts made a motion to approve forwarding this on to the full board with recommendation for approval, seconded by Gary Minich and motion carried 5-0.

SUBDIVISIONS – None

REPORTS

Environmental Management

Deb Garrett had no report.

Vice Chair Little explained that the resolution listed under new business is being pulled from the agenda, but an update on the aquifer situation would be presented by Laurie Rasmus as part of the Environmental Management report.

Laurie explained that she was going to give an update on the Mahomet Aquifer as it relates to the Clinton Landfill. The aquifer spans 14 Illinois counties and lies beneath the northeast section of Macon County where it is a direct drinking water supply. It also serves as a reserve for shallow aquifers which may be inadequate for the future. The aquifer is not isolated, but has connections with other sources of ground and surface water. Clinton Landfill in DeWitt County is in the center section of the aquifer. Any landfill in Illinois must seek approvals. The local siting and the Illinois EPA permit are the two that are required for a municipal solid waste landfill. If a landfill is going to accept toxic waste, they need to get the US EPA approval as well. Local siting of the Clinton Landfill #3 was approved by the DeWitt County Board in 2002. In 2007, the Illinois EPA issued a development permit allowing Clinton Landfill #3 to be constructed for the acceptance of municipal solid waste. The landfill began accepting waste in 2009. In 2010, the Illinois EPA modified the permit to allow for chemical waste. But, they still needed the US EPA permit. They submitted the application to the US EPA asking for a permit to accept PCB remediation waste that is rated at 50ppm. That is the federal regulation that has to be met. While the US EPA permit request was under consideration, the Macon County Board approved Resolution G3720-6-12 going on record as opposing the US EPA permitting acceptance of chemical waste. Also, in 2012, a coalition of public entities filed an application with the US EPA to designate the Mahomet as a sole source aquifer. During a public hearing

hosted by the US EPA, Macon County went on record supporting the sole source aquifer designation. Aquifers with this designation require that certain federally funded projects receive extra review by the US EPA and that new landfills must adhere to stricter location standards. On 3/11/15, the US EPA approved the application designating the Illinois portion of the Mahomet Aquifer as a Sole Source Aquifer. While the Sole Source designation was under review, an intergovernmental coalition was formed to share the costs in contracting legal counsel and technical experts to oppose the acceptance of PCBs in the Clinton Landfill. Per Resolution G4147-8-14, Macon County joined the coalition and authorized expenditures of \$7,000. To date, Macon County's share of the expenses is \$2,764. Under Phase I, the coalition filed a case with the Illinois Pollution Control Board saying that the Clinton Landfill did not obtain proper siting authority for the chemical waste unit. The Clinton Landfill responded, which resulted in the dismissal of the case, but an appeal is now under way. At the urging of the intergovernmental coalition, and others, Governor Quinn directed the Illinois EPA to not allow PCBs in the Clinton Landfill in July, 2014. Because of this, the US EPA permit process was halted. Now, the Clinton Landfill can continue to accept municipal solid waste and non-hazardous special waste. However, it now appears that the Clinton Landfill, in order for them to accept toxic waste, would have to go through all of the approvals beginning with the application to DeWitt County for local siting. Plus, there is now the location standards imposed by the Sole Source Aquifer designation. In anticipation of a local siting hearing in DeWitt County, the coalition has developed Phase II. The coalition intends to contract with technical experts, both legal and engineers, to participate in this hearing. There is also some developing legislation going on. The Illinois Senate & House have bills, which are the same, that propose to prohibit the disposal of manufactured gas plant waste in specified levels and PCB waste in any landfill whose runoff goes into the Mahomet Aquifer. Both of these are developing legislation.

Gary Minich asked if the US EPA designation pretty well killed it. Laurie said that it would hinder things. The location standards are written in the Illinois Environmental Protection Act. Clinton Landfill would have to prove that there is a stratum between the bottom of the waste disposal unit and the top of the aquifer that is at least 50' thick. They are probably going to get their hydro-geologists involved with that and take a close look at that. They also need to make sure that the hydraulic conductivity is at a -7. It is still possible if they can prove that they can meet these location standards. We will know if the Clinton Landfill does apply with DeWitt County.

Animal Control

Kris Horton distributed the monthly report and offered to answer questions. There were none.

Health Department –

Dianna Heyer updated members on tuberculosis in Macon County. This is an infection that has been around for many, many years. Years ago it was called consumption. It is a disease that still exists. Illinois, in 2014, across the state, had over 300 cases. Most of them were around the Cook County area. Our county has seen one case over the last 4 years – one every year. Right now, there are 2 lab confirmed cases. These individuals are very close contacts to each other.

Most commonly TB is an infection of the lungs. It is passed through coughing, sneezing, singing, etc... transmitting those germs out into the air and then somebody has to breathe in that germ. It commonly affects the lungs, but can affect other parts of the body such as the brain, spinal cord & kidneys. It infects other people if they breathe that germ in, but the person that has it has to have an active case of TB exhibiting symptoms to transmit it to someone else. When someone becomes infected with TB, they can be exposed and have the germ in their body not doing anything. That is what we call Latent TB. There are a lot of people walking around the country with latent TB and have had it for many years and they are perfectly healthy. That germ has just stayed there doing nothing. Those people who have been exposed cannot infect other people, but they will react positively to a TB skin test. Those folks who are not infectious, but have been exposed, will, most of the time, be prescribed a preventative antibiotic by their physician over a period of 6 to 9 months to eliminate the possibility of them sometime later in their life come down with TB. When you hear someone say they have the TB infection, most likely that means that they have been exposed and they have latent TB and have, more than likely, been treated for it. What the Health Department is concerned about is the two individuals that have come up as lab confirmed active cases. These individuals are no longer infectious. They have been on antibiotics long enough that they are no longer infectious. It is going to be important for us to monitor them for up to 9 months to a year to make sure that they take their medicine appropriately. That means that we make sure they take that medication every day. That is called directly observed therapy. Between the Health Department and nurses that are involved in these folk's care, we are assuring that is getting done. These two people are no longer infectious. A big part of what the Health Department does, is follow up on their contacts. Folks that get exposed to TB are usually people that live in a household with somebody or they have very close contact such as working with them. We follow up with those folks first and test them for TB with a Tuberculin Skin Test on their arm. If those folks have a positive reaction, then we will talk to them about whether they've been having symptoms. We will get a chest XRay and determine whether or not they are an active case. If they are not, they would be put on a preventative antibiotic. So far, we have tested over 100 people. There are a handful of people that have been exposed. They have been referred to their physicians to talk about receiving preventative antibiotics. Any time you have TB, it is a huge amount of work and follow-up, but that is our job – to make sure that we are protecting the public's health. Ms. Heyer said that she thinks they have done a good job of doing that.

There are a couple of other people that are being watched very closely and their final lab tests are being awaited. The problem with TB is the gold standard test is collecting a sputum if they are having symptoms. That sputum has to grow out on a culture media which takes about 6 to 8 weeks. If the doctor strongly suspects that they have it, they will go ahead and recommend that those folks get on the appropriate antibiotics just in case it is.

Dianna explained that she knew many people were hearing about this in the media, but she wanted to provide an update just as she had done with Ebola a couple of months ago. Luckily, there are no other issues with Ebola right now, but she said she thought it was important to let the committee know what was going on. The Health Department nurses do a lot of case management, meaning that they make sure all of the follow up is done and making sure the people are taking their medications. These people have been compliant with their medications and so have the contacts. That is a good thing, because if they were not, they have the authority

to seek a court order and isolate them somewhere and make sure that they do take the medication. That is not the case.

To recap, there are only 2 lab confirmed cases. They are not infectious at this time. They have taken their medication long enough that they are no longer infectious, but follow through and making sure that they do keep taking it for the appropriate amount of time is important.

Jerry Potts asked if these were doctor referrals. Ms. Heyer confirmed that yes, it usually does come about from a concerned doctor that an individual may have suspicious symptoms. If that is the case, a lot of times, the Health Department plays a big part in determining what tests are done. If they are highly suspect, the Health Department gets the investigation started. All of the recommendations of the Illinois Department of Health & the CDC are being followed. Mr. Potts asked what community the active cases are from. Ms. Heyer said they are within Macon County, within the City and due to privacy and HIPPA laws that is all that can be said. She said that if these people were not complying with treatment, more information would be released, but since they are complying, privacy is protected.

Planning & Zoning – Jennifer Hoffman had no report

Veteran's Assistance – Greg Collins had no report

Mental Health Board –No Report

Regional Office of Education – No report

Citizen's Remarks - None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

Closed Session – None Needed

NEXT MEETING Next regular meeting - Thursday, April 16, 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Jerry Potts made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Matt Brown the motion carried 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham