

**Mitigation Advisory Task Force  
August 18, 2005, Public Meeting**

1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Mike Spilsbury at 5:10 pm, on Thursday, August 18 at the County Board Room, Kankakee County Administration Building, 189 East Court Street, Kankakee. The following members were in attendance:

Ralph J. Bailey	Sun River Terrace
Robert Bleyle	Momence
Bill Carnahann	Herscher
Jerry Charter	Bonfield
Elden Dubuque	Chebanse
Scott Fitts	Grant Park
Norm Grimsley	Aroma Park
John Haley	Kankakee Community College
Bob Hart	Chebanse
Paula Karlock	Farm Bureau/Soil and Water Conservation District
Alan J. Labaj	Momence Township
Verlene Mullen	Hopkins Park
Shawn O'Brien	Floodplain resident
Gary Preston	Bourbonnais
Alan Ramsey	Kankakee Valley Fire Chiefs Association
Eric Sadler	Kankakee County Planning Department
Mike Van Mill	Kankakee County Planning Department
Bob Schurman	Grant Park
Ray Cummins	Buckingham
Vicki Senesac	Manteno
Mike Spilsbury	Kankakee Regional Planning Commission
Craig Bayston	Kankakee Regional Planning Commission
Bennie Walker	Hopkins Park

Also present for the public meeting were:

J. R. Black	Kankakee River Basin Commission
Mel Blanchette	Kankakee Regional Planning Commission
Loretta Cowhey	Kankakee Regional Planning Commission
Carl Gerdovich	Iroquois County ESDA/ Radio Station WGFA
Chad Miller	Kankakee Regional Planning Commission
French Wetmore	French & Associates

2. Procedures: Chair Spilsbury reviewed the procedures for the public meeting and the subsequent review of comments and plan approval processes.

3. Overview of the draft *Plan*: Consultant French Wetmore provided a PowerPoint presentation that reviewed the process the Task Force had followed, the organization of the *Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan*, and the 25 recommended action items.
4. Comments from other agencies: The Executive Summary had been sent to 19 agencies and organizations that might be interested in hazard mitigation, such as the National Weather Service, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Home Builders Association. They were invited to review the plan on the County's website and comment on their concerns. Only one agency responded. The Illinois State Geological Survey provided some new information on the risk of an earthquake in Illinois.
5. Comments from communities: In addition to all the participating municipalities, the Executive Summary had been sent to all adjacent counties. They were invited to review the plan on the County's website and comment on their concerns. French reported that he had received only one comment. Manteno provided some updated building count data. At the meeting, the Village of Hopkins Park asked for a clarification of the adoption process and timetable.
6. Comments from the public: J.R. Black of the Kankakee River Basin Commission provided a three page memo of comments, a copy of which is attached. He summarized his concerns as:
  - He praised the County for undertaking the planning effort and including sedimentation as a problem for flooding.
  - Sedimentation in the Kankakee River has been worse than appears in the *Plan*. The *Plan* uses 13% loss of storage while the number should be 30%.
  - The County needs a continuous effort to make sure the Rock Island District of the Corps of Engineers implements that planned dredging projects. He is not sure that action item 20 in the draft *Plan* is strong enough, as it leaves everything up to the Corps.
  - He supported the recommendation on drainage maintenance and noted that there is also good guidance from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.
  - The *Plan* does not adequately address protecting the area's water supplies (groundwater aquifers and the Kankakee River) from being drawn down or diverted, which will threaten supplies during drought.
7. Comments from Task Force members: There were no comments from the members of the Task Force.
8. Summary of the comments and concerns: Chair Spilsbury noted that there were six major comments and concerns:
  1. New technical information from the Illinois State Geological Survey
  2. Corrected figures from the Village of Manteno
  3. The discrepancy in the numbers representing loss of channel storage to sedimentation
  4. Guidance for local drainage maintenance programs
  5. The action item on the Corps of Engineers' projects
  6. Attention to water use problems and laws

9. Next steps: Chair Spilsbury noted that after the public meeting adjourns the Mitigation Advisory Task Force, the Community Development Subcommittee, and the Regional Planning Commission will review the comments and make a recommendation to the County Board, city councils, and village boards of trustees. All of their meetings are open to the public. It is expected that the recommended final plan will be presented to the County Board's October 12 meeting.
10. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 6:15.

*Note for the record: At the subsequent meeting, the Regional Planning Commission agreed to revise the plan to incorporate all six comments summarized above. This includes creating a 26<sup>th</sup> action item on water use.*