

Wetland Task Force Meeting Minutes

Executive Conference Room, City Hall, 3rd Floor
1528 3rd Avenue
April 30, 2025
8:30 AM



Task Force Members Present	Nina Struss Mayor Mike Thoms Missy Gasiorowski Kathy Wine Tim Pressly Jon Duyvejonck Hannah Alexander
Task Force Members Absent	Ald. Randy Hurt
Staff Present	Tom Flaherty Tanner Osing Todd Thompson Miles Brainard
Guests	

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am.

Discussion on wetland protection options

The Task Force discussed two primary approaches for long-term wetland protection: a conservation easement with a land trust and designation as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve.

The Task Force reviewed the process for establishing a conservation easement through a land trust organization. This includes site evaluation, appraisals, development of a baseline assessment, and preparation of legal agreements. Members discussed associated costs, ongoing compliance monitoring, and the importance of additional partners for stewardship activities.

The Task Force also reviewed the option of registering the property as a Land and Water Reserve through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. This process would involve collaboration with IDNR to develop both a proposal document and a management plan over approximately twelve months. Final approval would be granted by the state commission, with periodic review thereafter.

Members noted that this option allows for more flexible uses while still providing long-term protection. IDNR would play a significant role in management and stewardship,

including potential staff support and access to small grant funding. Discussion included potential costs such as surveys, as well as opportunities for state reimbursement.

The Task Force discussed other considerations for wetland protection including benefits for adjacent landowners, public infrastructure in the area, and future partnership opportunities.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present to comment.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by consensus.

Minutes submitted by Tanner Osing.