
**Illinois River Watershed Partnership
Board of Directors Meeting
February 14, 2012
Lakeview Baptist Church, Cave Springs, Arkansas**

Board Members Present: (Quorum Met To Conduct Board Business)

Scott Carney	Jennifer Michaels	Robyn Reed
Mike Faupel	Josh Payne	Tim Snell
Jay Hale	Gene Pharr	Rick Stubblefield
Hunter Haynes	Dirk Philipp	Evan Teague
Tom Hopper	Terry Rakes	Patrick Tenney
Jerry Hunton	Steve Randall	Scott Van Laningham

Board Members Absent:

Larry Adair	Judge Marilyn Edwards	John Sampier
Tracie Ashley	Sam Goade	Mark Simmons
Jonathan Barnett	Uvalde Lindsey	Jackie Smith
Dan Douglas	Jimmy Mardis	

IRWP Staff and Contractors:

Delia Haak, Exec. Director	David Duncan	Becky Roark
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IRWP Members and Guests:

Sandi Formica, WCRC	Christina Laurin, FTN	Suzanne Stubblefield
Joyce Hale, LWV	Jim Peterson, USGS	Ethan Reese-Whiting,
Karen Hunton	Kathy Randall	NWACC intern

1. Welcome and Call To Order – Mike Faupel, President

2. Introduction of Guests and Public Comments

No public comments.

3. Approval Of November 8, 2011 Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes by G. Pharr, seconded by J. Hale. All in favor.
Approved.

4. Treasurer And Finance Committee Report – Rick Stubblefield, Chair

- Finance Committee met and reviewed 12/31/11 financial statements and recommends approval.
 - Motion to approve financial statements by J. Hunton, seconded by H. Haynes. All in favor. Approved.
- 2010 Audit Report. Copies were sent to Board members via email. Hard copies available for review at Board meeting.
 - Motion to approve 2010 Audit Report by G. Pharr, seconded by J. Hale. All in favor.
Approved.

5. Technical Committee Report – Tom Hopper, Chair

Technical Committee met with FTN Associates on 2/14/12, prior to Board meeting.

Watershed Management Plan – Christina Laurin, FTN Associates

Christina Laurin and Kent Thornton of FTN will be completing the IRWP Watershed Management Plan.

- Will provide draft to IRWP and ANRC review for timely feedback as sections are revised.
- Timeline to complete June 1.

USGS Monitoring Project Preliminary Results - Jim Peterson, USGS

- Biological monitoring conducted at 14 of 18 selected sites in UIRW Arkansas.
- Site categories: Agriculture, Agriculture W, Urban and Urban W (W=downstream from wastewater treatment plant.) Primarily forested sites were not able to be sampled in summer 2011 due to drought conditions. Forested sites will be sampled in summer 2012 and included in study.
- Explained objectives of study.

NRCS Pre-Proposal Grant Applications – Dr. Josh Payne, OSU

Pre-proposals submitted by IRWP and OSU on two NRCS CIG grant requests:

- Project 1: Phosphorus Removal Structures - presented project at May 2011 IRWP Board meeting.
- Project 2: Poultry Litter Subsurfer- equipment and demonstration project for potential commercial applications. High % phosphorous reduction in runoff due to subsurface injection.

Stream Mitigation Bank proposal – Sandi Formica, WCRC

Proposing creation of a high quality stream mitigation bank for the Illinois River Watershed as primary service area. Funding generated by credits would be used for more remediation projects.

Oct 4-5 Stormwater Conference – Tom Hopper

IRWP is organizing a regional/national conference “The Restoration of Our Rivers: A National and Regional Perspective on Urban Stormwater”. Tentative agenda attached. Conference will be held at Crystal Bridges October 4-5, 2012.

6. Lake Keith Planning Grant Committee - Hunter Haynes, Chair

Watershed Sanctuary at Cave Springs (WSCS) Executive Summary in board packet.

Document is not available to the public – for IRWP discussion purposes only.

- Discussion on appraisal for Lake Keith property and Lakeview Church property.
- If IRWP makes offer(s) on properties they must be contingent on funding.
- T. Snell explained that The Nature Conservancy, Arkansas Game and Fish, Arkansas Natural Heritage, and US Fish and Wildlife support IRWP’s goal to purchase Lake Keith. Past activities on the property have been detrimental. A conservation facility on lake side of cave would help greatly to protect bats. The water quality in the lake is an issue and the lake would potentially need to be drained in future. However, this is not a deal-breaker and IRWP could wait for Hwy. 112 to be expanded and work with Highway Dept. early on to meet our needs and work with their plan. Safety on Hwy. 112 is an issue but can be addressed.
- The Planning Committee believes that there are no deal-killer issues and IRWP will be able to come up with an endowment for maintenance as part of our requests for

sponsorship/grants/funding. The Committee recommends the Watershed Sanctuary project and authorization for negotiation on the properties, with further discussion following motion on offer details.

- Motion by R. Stubblefield to authorize the Executive Director and Planning Committee to proceed with offers on the two pieces of property. If counter-offer(s) are made by property owners, the Planning Committee will recommend offer(s) to the Executive Committee for authorization and approval. Seconded by G. Pharr. All in favor. Approved.

7. Bylaws/Nominations Committee Report, Evan Teague, Chair

Discussion on changing IRWP Board meetings to a different day so that Board members who must be present at various government meetings can attend Board meetings.

- Survey done on various public meetings in Northwest Arkansas to determine what day.
- Nothing currently in bylaws regarding meeting day.
 - Motion by H. Haynes to move regular IRWP Board meeting day to the first Thursday of the second month of each quarter. Seconded by P. Tenney. All in favor. Approved.
- R. Stubblefield suggested that staff do a survey on best time of day for regular Board meetings.
- 2012 meeting schedule: May 3, 2012 at Cherokee Casino, West Siloam Springs, August 2, 2012, and November 1, 2012.
- Delia is meeting with the Cherokee Nation and they will potentially send a representative to the May 2012 IRWP Board meeting.

8. Program and Planning Committee, Hunter Haynes, Chair

- Reported on WSCS earlier in meeting.

9. Education Committee Report, Dirk Philipp, Chair

- 2012 Action Plan in Board packet

Clean Water Rainers – Jennifer Michaels

- CWR packets have been delivered to numerous schools in Bentonville, Rogers, Springdale, Fayetteville, and other area schools. Scheduling is slow due to school testing, which will be completed in April.
- Will participate with area library summer reading programs with new songs, new stories, and activities.
- Have had requests and may expand program to Jr. High and High Schools, using specific songs and materials that would be effective for that age group.
- Working on new song/story/activity book with 4 new songs.

Rain Garden Grant – Becky Roark

- Thirteen rain garden sites selected and in process to be installed by June 30.
- Rain Garden Academy – April 5, 2012 at Fayetteville Townecenter. Registration and information is on the IRWP website.

CREP Program – David Duncan

- CREP Program – has three additional properties in the process of being evaluated for the program
- Demonstrated native plant grow-station for project with Springdale Southwest and Central Junior Highs, and Prairie Grove EAST Lab.
- AEP Tree Farm update: 1,000 seedlings being planted in new bags made from recycled plastic bottles and can be reused.
- Gentry and Siloam Springs High School agriculture and landscaping classes are planting seedlings for 2012 Tree Farm.
- IRWP Riparian Project – Sat. March 10. 4,000 seedlings to be planted at 6 Locations. Fayetteville Scull Creek/Gordon Long Park; Springdale Spring Creek/Grove Street Park; Rogers Blossom Way Creek/Trail; Prairie Grove Illinois River/Battlefield Park; Siloam Springs Sager Creek/Trail; Tahlequah with OSRC.

10. Membership Committee Report, Steve Randall, Chair

The Illinois River offers many recreational opportunities. In 2011, the Illinois River was never under the average flow according to USGS gauges. Despite this, the river is not “well-used” except on the Hwy. 10 corridor in Oklahoma.

- Committee is in preliminary stages of a project to obtain “Blue Trail” designation for the segment of river from Fisher Ford to the confluence of Flint Creek and the Illinois River, which crosses the state border, making it a bi-state opportunity.
- 4 Seasons of the River – he would like to have organized float trips once a quarter to enjoy the different seasons on the river; Board members, sponsors, stakeholders, government officials, etc. Steve would lead these floats.
- REMINDER: Renew your 2012 membership if you have not done so already.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Assist where you can at IRWP events and projects.

12. Meeting Adjourned – Mike Faupel.

Minutes Recorded By: Jennifer Michaels, Board Secretary