

2016 IRWP Board

DRAFT MINUTES

Illinois River Watershed Partnership Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, August 4, 2016
Watershed Learning Center, 221 S. Main Street
Cave Springs, Arkansas

Board members attending: Scott Carney, Mike Faupel, Cliff Gibbs, Tom Hopper, Sarah Lewis, Mike Malone, Josh Payne, Gene Pharr, Roland Pinault, Kurt Price, Terry Rakes, Mark Simmons, James Simpson, Tim Snell, Evan Teague, Patrick Tenney, Ralph Weber. IRWP Staff: Delia Haak, Jennifer Michaels

5:00 p.m. Dinner at Watershed Learning Center (AQ Chicken)

6:00 p.m. Welcome and Call to Order – Tom Hopper, IRWP President

Introduction of Guests: Seth Walters, Simmons Foods Director of Environmental Quality

Minutes of May 5, 2016 Board Meeting

Board Action: Motion by Weber, second by Pharr to approve May 5, 2016 minutes. Motion passed.

6:15 p.m. Work Items

1) Welcome New Members

2) **Working Session Minutes** – May 26, 2016 minutes approved by attending board members.

3) Delia Haak recognition of 9± years of service

a. Words of Appreciation – “Thank you ALL for the wonderful words of appreciation and thoughtful dinner and gifts. It has been an honor to represent the Partnership and our wonderful watershed. Thanks for the opportunity and all of the wonderful memories and future volunteer opportunities!” Delia Haak

4) Executive Director Search

Search Committee:

Agriculture	Gene Pharr
Business	Scott Van Laningham
Conservation	Tim Snell
Construction	
Government	Sam Goade
Tech, Res, & Ed	Mike Faupel
At Large	Mark Simmons
President	Tom Hopper

Process:

1. Executive Director job description will be posted August 8 on IRWP website, blog and facebook.
2. Resumes will be accepted until Friday, August 19, at 5:00 pm.
3. The Search Committee will review applications and recommend candidates to interview in a Board member “meet and greet”. Candidates will be asked to make a presentation on their vision for the IRWP as part of the interview process.
4. The Board will vote on final selection of ED.

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5) IRWP By-Laws – Board Member Notebooks

Board resource manuals distributed includes By-Laws, Board contact information and terms of service, IRWP Policies, financial information including 2015 audit review and quarterly financial statement, prior meeting minutes and reports, and fundraising assignments and material.

6) Sponsorships

List of Board member sponsor contacts reviewed. Sponsorship brochure and pledge forms are available for Board members to recruit sponsors. Updated Board assignments, sponsorship flyers and pledge forms available included as Appendix A, B, C. Gibbs asked if the IRWP should consider a part-time fundraising professional position in the future. Malone suggested an annual fundraising event could help achieve goals. Question: Does the annual Illinois River Salon and Golden Paddle Awards at Crystal Bridges meet the goal of an annual fundraising event where IRWP Board members invite sponsors and potential sponsors and donors?

7) 2016-2018 IRWP Grant Requirements (included in Board Resource Manual under Reports)

a. **2016-2017 Walton Family Foundation:** \$150,000 (2016 \$100,000; 2017 \$50,000). Grant requirements included as Appendix D. AR Farm Bureau will help to identify members for landowner outreach. NRCS EQIP and RCPP Fact Sheets will be emailed to Board members for distribution among contacts. IRWP will check with WFF to see if Oklahoma landowner sign-ups would count toward the goal of NRCS contracts during grant period. Outreach should include Cattlemen's Association.

Special grant: \$38,960. Impaired Stream Assessment: Working with Tim Snell & TNC to identify qualified sub-contractor to complete assessment for future grant opportunities for stream restoration. Timely completion of assessment a grant requirement and will facilitate future grants for projects.

b. **2015-2018 Arkansas Natural Resources Commission** 15-800 Green Infrastructure Projects. ANRC funds \$213,287; IRWP Match \$160,772. Total Grant Project: \$374,059.

c. **2015-2018 NRCS RCPP** \$1,200,000. IRWP Match \$1,100,000 education outreach/volunteers. Total Project: \$2,300,000.

8) Beall Barclay 2015 Audit

Copy of 2015 audit review in Board folders. Motion by Simmons, second by Pinault to accept Beall Barclay 2015 review.

9) Grants completed as of June 30, 2016

a. **ANRC Grant: Razorback Greenway 5 Trailheads** at The Amazeum, Rogers Mercy, Lake Springdale, Johnson Scull Creek, and Gordon Long Park Fayetteville. Recognition July 14 at The Scott Family Amazeum. 2013-2016 ANRC Grant \$300,000; \$226,315 IRWP Match. Total Grant Project: \$526,315.

b. **ANRC Grant: Low Impact Development** demonstration and education programs at the Watershed Sanctuary and Learning. 2013-2016. ANRC Grant \$286,380; IRWP Match \$216,041. Total Grant Project: \$502,421.

c. **NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) Phosphorus Removal Structure** project at Green Country Farms in Westville, OK. Oklahoma State University and Dr. Chad Penn and associates sub-contractors for built structure and monitoring. 2013-2106. NRCS Grant \$132,823. IRWP/OSU Match \$200,927. Total Grant Project: \$333,750.

d. **US Forest Service and Arkansas Forestry Commission:** Urban Riparian Buffers and Water Quality Demonstration and Education. 2014-2016. USFS Grant \$50,095; IRWP Match \$74,237. Total Grant Project: \$124,333.

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10) Dan Sullivan, Executive Director, Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) visit to WLC

- a. Rick Stubblefield, IRWP Board member and chair of OSRC brought Dan Sullivan for visit June 30 to the Watershed Sanctuary and Learning Center to meet staff and Tom Hopper.
- b. Scenic Rivers Commission now under GRDA through legislative restructuring

11) Trail Head and Trail Property Transfer Request on IRWP Sanctuary Property

City of Cave Springs request via e-mail for IRWP property to submit application for parking lot on east side of Hwy 112 and north shore of lake and for land to build a 20' trail along IRWP property bordering Midway Avenue.

Motion by Gibbs, second by Simmons to negotiate with the following conditions of exchange of property for parking lot and trail in lieu of payment for property. Motion passed.

- a. Low Impact Development elements should be incorporated into design and built to meet LID standards. IRWP paid McClelland Engineering \$8,500 for LID design of parking lot on this location and that design, or its equivalent, should be used to build parking lot.
 - b. City will agree to maintain the parking lot and allow IRWP to use the parking lot for visitors to the Watershed Sanctuary and IRWP events.
 - c. City will provide daily cleaning of restrooms and trash removal at the North Shore Pavilion in order to keep restrooms open 24/7. (We currently pay \$16.73 per month for trash service for the Learning Center and \$16.73 for trash service at the Pavilion while required to purchase trash pickup from Waste Management as well.)
 - d. City will provide weekly removal of lake algae at the control gate of the lake during the months of March through September or as needed.
 - e. City will mow and weed all lawns and grass areas at the Sanctuary.
 - f. City will maintain the trail.
 - g. City will control geese and other wild animal population.
- b. 50/50 Grant from Parks & Tourism Requirement of Land Ownership

12) Sanctuary Ownership

No discussion on this item.

13) Cliff Gibbs Field Tour on Osage, September 14, 2016 (11 am to 1 pm)

a. IRWP will host NRCS, WCRC, and NWA Land Trust representatives to present conservation programs available for eligible landowners in the Illinois River watershed. IRWP Board members and Washington and Benton County Farm Bureaus will help recruit landowners to attend the Field Tour. IRWP will send list of 608 landowners on the impaired stream list to Farm Bureau for member identification and recruitment. Mark Simmons will invite John Brown III from the Windgate Foundation. Josh Payne will invite Oklahoma IRW landowners. **RSVPs by Monday, Sept. 12 to IRWP for lunch count.** Information and map of property will be on the IRWP website, blog and Facebook page.

14) Partners Lake:

- a. Pavilion Maintenance – City of Cave Springs agreed to clean restrooms and remove trash if IRWP would keep restrooms open 24/7. Need better maintenance to discourage bird nesting.
- b. Lake Maintenance – Recommendation from Tom Aley, Ozark Underground Lab to regularly remove lake algae as much as possible for best results to control algae growth.
- c. 2015 Contract for lake algae treatment with Matt Pierce, Turn Pro Aquatics recommended by Dr. Reed Green, USGS and North American Lake Management Society president. \$609 per month for estimated March – September includes treatment as needed.

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- 15) Randy Young Retirement; Bruce Holland new Executive Director of ANRC, former Fort Smith legislator**
a. Tony Ramick, ANRC: IRWP grant application to be submitted Fall 2016 for 2017-2019 grant project

16) Illinois River Salon and Golden Paddle Awards October 6, 2016 Event at Crystal Bridges 6:00 pm.
2016 Golden Paddle Award nominations: Motion by Pharr, second by Snell, motion passed to approve 2016 awards for the following:

AGRICULTURE:	Cliff Gibbs Ranch – Osage Creek Riparian and Stream Restoration
BUSINESS:	Anheuser-Busch – John Tomescko, NWA Team Leader
CONSERVATION:	Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
CONSTRUCTION:	Nabholz Construction – The Scott Family Amazeum
GOVERNMENT:	Grand River Dam Authority, Oklahoma
TECHNICAL/RESEARCH/EDUCATION:	John Brown University
Ron & Jennifer Michaels VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR:	Tom and Lisa Edmiston

17) IRWP June 30, 2016 Financial Statements

Finance committee recommends payment of \$17,000 on balance of \$34,800 on Arvest loan for the Learning Center. Recommendation of loan payment approved by Board.

Statement of Activities and Budget Report:

Income: \$404,994 of \$652,920 is 62% of annual income goal
Expense: \$318,768 of \$651,086 is 49% of projected expenses

Statement of Financial Position:

Cash in Bank:	\$245,560	
Other Assets:	\$2,021,570	
Total Assets:		\$2,267,131
Current Liabilities:	\$38,811	
Net Assets:	\$2,228,319	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets:		\$2,267,131

18) Computer Data Storage

Crafton Tull computer specialist Clint Hopper donating time and technical services to inventory IRWP computer assets and wireless system and back up files for archival and storage. Tenney recognized and thanked Crafton Tull on behalf of the Board for this valuable in-kind service provided to the IRWP.

Committee Reports:

Nominations Committee: Evan Teague, Chair

2016 Board Nominations Process:

- August 4 –** First Thursday of the month. Third quarterly board meeting. To meet eligibility requirements for board service individuals must begin active committee participation by this date.
- August 12 –** Contact incumbent directors to verify that they are willing to serve another term.
- August 15 –** Commencement of the nominations process. Mail and/or email notifications requesting input for open Board seats to the general membership. Members must respond within two weeks to have their suggestions appear on the list sent to the category representatives.
- August 28 –** Deadline for the general membership to submit the names of potential candidates.
- September 2 –** Mail and/or email notifications including a nominations form and a list of suggested candidates to the category representatives.

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September 30 –Deadline for category representatives to return the nomination forms, and the last day for new members to join and have voting privileges at the November annual meeting.

October 24 – The latest date by which the committee must provide the slate of candidates for the Board’s review.

November 3 – First Thursday of the month. Fourth quarterly board meeting and annual meeting. Approval of slate by the Board and affirmation by the membership.

2016 Expiring Board Member Terms:

Jerry Hunton - Agriculture

Mark Simmons - Business

Tim Snell - Conservation

Tom Hopper - Construction

Sam Goade - Government

Tracie Ashley - Tech, Res, & Ed

Gene Pharr - At Large (AGRI)

Cliff Gibbs - At Large (BSNS)

Patrick Tenney - At Large (CNST)

New Business/Announcements

August 10 Scenic Rivers Joint Study Committee (Stressor Response) to meet in Tulsa at 10 am at Renaissance Hotel.

August 31 Nutrient Water Quality Trading Advisory Panel meeting at 1 pm ADEQ Little Rock

October 27 Arkansas Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission at 9 am at the IRWP Learning Center

8:10 p.m. Adjourn Motion by Teague, second by Simmons to adjourn. Motion passed.

REMINDER: 2016 Board Meeting Dates: November 3, 2016