

Illinois River Watershed Partnership

Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting #15

6:00 pm, Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Nabholz Construction

Rogers, Arkansas

Meeting called to order by Karen McSpadden, President

Roll Call of Board of Directors

Introduction of Guests/ Karen McSpadden

Board Members Present: Barnett, Bowman, Faupel, Gaston, Hale, Herron, Lindsey, Mardis, McDaniel, McSpadden, Michaels, Pharr, Reed, Sampier, E. Teague, Van Laningham, Woolbright

Guests & Members Present: Michael Lindsey (Ozarks International Consultants), Brian Haggard (AWRC), Andrew Sharpley (University of Arkansas), Mrs. Tony (Kirksey Middle School), Tracy Argo (White River Fertilizer Supply), Bruce Johnson (White River Fertilizer Supply), Don Day (NWAR Property Rights), Jake Gibbs (Osage Creek Folk Festival), Chuck Bushong (StreamTeam volunteer), Louise Mann (City of Fayetteville), Carolyn Long and Tim Crane (Jones Television), Dr. Lynn Burh (Sea Minerals from Arkansas), Nicole Hardiman (IRWP member)

Executive Summary on Activities in the Watershed:

- Mrs. Tony, Kirksey Middle School: 90 students and teachers learned about the IRW in classes on April 24 and conducted creek cleanup on Osage Creek on April 27. Students cleaned Osage Creek from west of Church at Pinnacle Hills to east of Home Depot in Rogers and learned a lot about the watershed and participating in community service.
- Don Day, NWAR Property Rights Association: Wanted to attend IRWP board meeting as consideration of Beaver Lake forming a watershed partnership like IRWP.
- Van Laningham: NWA Business Council: Support for modeling Beaver Lake Partnership after IRWP. Unanimous decision to create an official organization.
- Michaels: Thad Scott, UofA, studying water out of Lake Fayetteville and Lake Elmdale, catching fish to have them analyzed for contaminants.
- Sampier: NACA met to discuss wetlands and outdoor education center on acreage they have.
- Woolbright/Gaston: Task force of Audubon and Beaver Water District, writing a management plan for Wilson Springs in Fayetteville. Beaver Water District to take property and construct riparian buffers and use it as demonstration project. Grant to convert acreage to native grasses and manage as riparian buffers.
- McSpadden: Congrats to Delia and Bill Haak on being Benton County Farm Family of the Year.
- Lynn Burr: Promoted the use of Sea Minerals from Arkansas as fertilizer to replace poultry litter.
www.SeaMineralsFA.com

Presentations:

- Stitt Energy Systems, www.stittenergy.com, Orlo Stitt
 - 31 years in Rogers
 - Their office building is a LEED Certified Building, seeking platinum rating. The U.S. Green Building Council developed the LEED Green Building Rating System which is a third-party certifications program that is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

- Stitt designs, guides, and assists in building energy efficient, environmentally sustainable, green homes.
- 18 Principles of a Holistically Green Home (new book)
- The HERS Index (Home Energy Rating System)

Minutes:

- Minutes from February 10, 2009
Motion to accept minutes from Meeting #14, February 10, 2009, made by Michaels, seconded by Van Laningham. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Michael Lindsey, Ozarks International Consultants

- Financial statements presented through March 31, 2009
Motion to approve financial statements made by Sampier, seconded by E. Teague. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Education Committee, Robyn Reed, chair

- Carolyn Long and Tim Crane – Jones Television
 - Techniques for teaching children about environmental concerns
 - Jones Television is under Jones Foundation Trust, established to help non-profits send out their messages.
 - Marshall Mitchell show. If the IRWP would like to sponsor his children's show, it could be written so the organization gets exposure with every show. 30 minute program seen multiple times monthly on channel 22. \$1,000 per show commitment.

Motion to empower the Education Committee to develop an agreement with Jones Television, including a plan for editorial oversight, to be approved by Executive Committee and to approve funding for 12 months at \$12,000 made by Mardis, seconded by Faupel. Motion passed.

- Educators will be on site June 6 IR Watershed Appreciation Day for outreach for children.
- Trying to find ways to increase board participation on education committee.

Membership Committee, Gene Pharr, chair

- June 6th Illinois River Watershed Appreciation Day, at Lake Fayetteville Veterans Memorial Pavilion, 2 pm to 7 pm
 - GPS geocaching treasure hunt, children's games, canoe races and BBQ, Marshall Mitchell concert
- Don't forget to pay your dues! Goal is 150 paid memberships this year.
- Cliff and Jay Gibbs: Own property on Osage Creek as it intersects with Illinois River and want to partner with IRWP to have bluegrass festival in July 2010. Need help marketing and getting underwriting. They will donate a portion of the proceeds to the partnership.

Program and Planning Committee, Mike Faupel, chair

- 2009 Riparian Project very successful due to work with numerous community groups, Wal-Mart and Sam's Club. Planted 6,000 tree seedlings with 150 volunteers on March 28. Plantings at Scull Creek, Fayetteville; Spring Creek, Springdale; Turtle Creek, Rogers; Sager Creek, Siloam Springs; Town Branch, Tahlequah. Riparian Project expanded into Oklahoma! Will continue to expand riparian project and creek cleanups into the rest of the watershed.
- Creek cleanups: Mud Creek, February 21 and Osage Creek, April 27.

Technical Committee, Sheri Herron, chair

- Watershed Management Plan update provided by Brian Haggard, AWRC
- IR Hwy 59 and Ballard Creek monitoring project calculating annual loads. Getting good samples and on track with schedule. Final report will be end of July.
- Volunteer StreamTeam Monitoring – Last sample being collected this month. All in by May 22 for analyses for display at June 6 Appreciation Day. Contract ends June 30.
- Discussion on continuing volunteer sampling.

Motion for Technical Committee to review monitoring projects for 2009-2010 and make recommendation on continuation of a volunteer monitoring program and challenge the finance committee to raise funds. Motion by Faupel, seconded by Van Laningham. Motion passed.

Finance Committee, Larry Adair, chair (presented by Uvalde Lindsey)

- Hunton is chairing fund raising committee and he and Delia will send out letters and will visit with cities and other donors.
- Hunton suggested that we try to get into a three-year budget cycle if we can't get into the 2009 budgets since they're so tight this year

Nominations Committee, Evan Teague, chair

- Two board members have resigned, Mark Weathers and Jan Skopecek, due to time constraints. Mark has recommended Dan Schweider to replace him. Jan has recommended the incoming director of the Homebuilders Association to replace her. Committee will meet to discuss.

Motion to recognize and thank Jan and Mark as founding board members of the IRWP made by Faupel, seconded by Michaels.

President, Karen McSpadden

- Need to develop an Organizational and Strategic Plan for the partnership to complement the Watershed Management Plan coming out this fall. Where do we want to be in the future?
- Time for performance evaluation for Delia this summer.
Committee to work on this: VanLaningham, Lindsey, Woolbright, Simmons
 - Illinois River float for the board on June 27. Woolbright is organizing it and will send an email to board. Must bring PFD. No children under 7.

Adjourned 9:12 pm.

Strategic Goals for 2007-2016

1. *We will develop and implement a comprehensive watershed management plan, which addresses all potential sources of water quality degradation.*
2. *The Illinois River Watershed Partnership will conserve, restore, and protect the Illinois River and its tributaries through urban runoff and decentralized septic system runoff control projects, by promoting riparian best management practices and conservation easements, by organizing river cleanups, and through other conservation tools on sites that need conservation efforts while at all times respecting private property rights.*
3. *We will educate the public, advocate continuing improvements in wastewater treatment systems in the watershed's cities, and promote implementation of measurable and creative solutions to all entities involved in point-source discharges and their regulation.*
4. *We will issue an annual watershed report of what is being done in the watershed including information on stakeholders and landowners.*
5. *We will become an information clearinghouse about the Illinois River and its tributaries.*
6. *We will support subwatershed partnerships.*
7. *We will coordinate with neighboring watershed groups.*