

Illinois River Watershed Partnership

Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting #4

6:00 pm, Thursday, August 17, 2006

Washington County CES Office

Fayetteville, AR

Board Members present:

Diffin, Faupel, Gaston, Haak, Hale, Herron, Hunton, Lindsey, Mardis, Michaels, Pharr, Rakes, Saunders, Seward, Simmons, Snell, E. Teague, K. Teague, Thomas, Weathers, Woolbright

1. Meeting called to order - Luanne Diffin

2. Introduction of Guests - Luanne Diffin

John Moore, Morning News

Amy Wilson, Beaver Water District

Mike Malone, Northwest Arkansas Council

Rob Smith, Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Billie Brown, Oklahoma Sierra Club

Chairman Bill Blackard, Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission

Commissioner Gerald Hilsher, Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission

Commissioner Jennifer Owen, Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission

Commissioner Rick Stubblefield, Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission

Suzanne Stubblefield, wife of Commissioner Stubblefield

3. Public Comments

- Amy Wilson gave an update on Shecci Day.
- Chairman Blackard stated that he supports the IRWP and is proud of its progress and efforts.

4. Treasurer's Report - Jimmy Mardis

The IRWP currently has \$ _____ cash on hand.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report made by _____, seconded by

_____. Motion passed without dissent.

5. Committee Reports

a. Executive Summary/ Executive Committee - Luanne Diffin

- The IRS approved the Partnership's 501(c)3 application. The IRWP is now an officially recognized non-profit organization.
- Executive Director, Nick Brown, was introduced. He will need the support of all the directors because one individual will not be able to accomplish all the IRWP's goals.
- President Diffin reminded the board members of the challenge to recruit 10 new members.
- Discussed the upcoming sponsorship social to be held at James at the Mill in Johnson.
 - Scheduled for Tuesday, September 12, 2006 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM,

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- need to make sure we know who will be bringing what size donations so that they can be appropriately recognized,
- Jennifer Michaels offered to hand address envelopes,
- Tyson Foods offered to cover the cost of the function and will also be in attendance,
- Activities will include the introduction of the IRWP's website, the recognition of sponsors, the recruitment of new members/sponsors, and the introduction of the executive director, and
- the goal will be to raise enough funds to match the Walton Family Foundation grant of \$100,000 per year for three-years.

Motion made to form a committee to plan the "social" at James at the Mill by Faupel, seconded by Simmons. Motion passed without dissent.

- AWAG Conference will be held November 2 – 4, 2006 in Fayetteville, AR. IWRP has been asked to sponsor the meal at this conference. Discussion lead to the following motion. **Motion made to sponsor the conference with the sponsorship not to exceed \$500 made by Simmons, seconded by Michaels. Motion passed without dissent.**
- Low Impact Development Workshop has requested a sponsorship from the IRWP. Discussion revealed that the IRWP's workshop sponsorship was covered through the Urban NPS Survey grant of \$300,000.

b. Program and Planning Committee - Mike Faupel

- The IRWP has completed several small achievements and is looking forward to more significant achievements.
- Strategic Planning Meeting:
 - tentative dates of September 16 or September 30, 2006,
 - meeting is open to Board Members and all paid members,
 - discussed framework for developing a Strategic Plan, and
 - Discussed goals as being guidance for Strategic Plan development:
 - Cooperate with state agencies in development of watershed management plans
 - Engage watershed landowners, residents, and other interested individuals and organizations
 - Recruit and maintain members
 - Demonstrate and maintain fiscal responsibility

c. Technical Committee - Sheri Herron

- Arkansas Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP): Environmental Assessment Contract awarded \$35 million; Cooperative Extension Service and Arkansas Natural Resources Commission are discussing specifics of implementation.
- Database of projects being created for all projects in Illinois River Watershed to aid in the knowledge of what other projects are under way. Members will receive a list as well as the list will be posted on the website. List will be updated quarterly by deciding what to post and what to file. Euchia Spavinaw has similar project that is over 5-pages in length.
- Mark Nelson's Monitoring Data- 2005 Loads
- Discussed the release of report by Sorens, Fite, and Hipp about the ruling that an upstream state meeting a downstream state's standards.

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d. Technical, Research and Education Committee - Katie Teague

- Urban NPS phone surveys performed by UofA Survey Research Center.
 - The survey included 33 questions plus demographic info, 793 Illinois River Watershed residents, and 580 Conway area residents as the control group.
 - The survey was translated into Spanish.
 - Examples of sample questions: Knowledge of phosphorus? Do you garden? How do you know how much to apply? Do you soil test before applying nutrients?
 - This will be the IRWP's guide to what urban educational issues need to be addressed.
- Urban NPS Outreach Campaign will begin on September 11, 2006.
- *Urban Home*Assist* will be included in closing documents package for all home buyers. Paid for by the municipalities.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Low Impact Development Workshop, September 21 – 22, 2006 at the Radisson in Fayetteville, AR
 - AWAG Watershed Conference, November 2- 4, 2006 at the Radisson in Fayetteville, AR
 - “ABC’s of BMPs” Construction Workshop, October 11, Holiday Inn in Springdale, AR

e. Membership Committee - Jennifer Michaels

- New membership forms produced by Maloney Marketing are ready.
- Current Members – 67 paid
- Membership Drive scheduled for July 8, 2006 was cancelled due to a perceived conflict with another event. President Diffin apologized for any confusion.
- Membership Recruitment:
 - September 12 Sponsorship event at James at the Mill
 - “Make A Difference” – University of Arkansas student recruitment by Janie Hipp
 - Working on development of a “New Member Packet”
 - Meet with executive director to plan recruitment efforts/membership drives.

f. Nominations Committee Report - Evan Teague

- Incumbent directors up for re-nomination:
 - Evan Teague – Agriculture
 - Scott Van Laningham – Business
 - Jennifer Michaels – Conservation
 - Jim Whitner – Construction
 - David Cameron – Government
 - Terry Rakes – Tech, Res, & Ed
 - Colene Gaston – At Large (TRE)
 - H.L. Goodwin – At Large (TRE)
 - Bev Saunders – At Large (AGRI)
- Mark Simmons suggested that contact with the incumbents be made to ensure they still want to serve on the Board. Chairman Teague concurred.
- Letters to be mailed to “categories” on September 1, 2006, must be returned to Nominations Committee by October 1, 2006.
- Discussed waiving the eligibility requirements for director positions for this nominations process only. Concern was that membership base is still somewhat

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limited and that many members that have recently joined are ineligible under the current requirements. Also, the goal of the Partnership is to reach out to Oklahomans and add qualified Oklahomans to the board. The current deadlines for membership and committee participation would prevent to IRWP from adding Oklahomans.

Suggested that these requirements be temporarily suspended.

Motion made to temporarily waive the May 14th, 2006 membership and the August 14th, 2006 active committee participation requirement for this nominations process.

Motion made by Mark Simmons. Seconded by Jimmy Mardis. Motion passed without dissent.

- Discussed amending the nominations process requiring self nominated candidates to notify the Nominations Committee in writing 10-days prior to the September 1st commencement of the nominations process. This would provide the nominations committee time to include those individuals name on the nominations forms prior to sending them to the general membership.

Motion made to amend the nominations process requiring individuals nominees (self nominated) to inform the Nominations Committee in writing by August 22nd for their names to be included on nominations form. Motion made by Gene Pharr. Seconded by Colene Gaston. Motion passed without dissent.

g. Finance Committee - Jimmy Mardis

- Walton Family Foundation Matching Grant (WFF)
 - \$100,000 per year for three years
 - must be matched dollar for dollar

h. Search Committee - Mark Simmons

- Committee Members
- Thorough interview process
- Conducted 2nd Round with 3 candidates
- The Search Committee recommendation was to hire Nick Brown under a consultant contract to provide time to finalize benefit package.

Motion made by Jimmy Mardis. Seconded by Mark Simmon. Motion passed without dissent.

- President Diffin suggested that a committee be formed to create the contract, address tax issues, and determine the executive director's officials status.

Motion made by Gene Pharr. Seconded by Katie Teague. Motion passed without dissent.

6. Events, Activities and Updates - General

- August 26, Secchi Dish Day, Beaver Water/Audubon
- August 30, Poultry Partners Auction, Bev Saunders
- September 5, Lake Fayetteville Watershed Partnership, 6:00 pm
- September 8, Illinois River Clean-up, contact Meredith at 918.456.3251
- September 21-22, Low Impact Development Workshop, Fayetteville
- November 2-4, AWAG Conference, Radisson Hotel, Fayetteville

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- November 14, IRWP Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

7. Comments from the Executive Director - Nick Brown

- Excited about the challenges and opportunities and is ready to go to work
- Discussed some personal interests
 - 8-year old son, enjoys spending time on regional lakes, umpires little league baseball, enjoys carpentry and spent time build his own house.
- The Ozarks are the only temperate ecoregion that have remained intact
- Discussed Illinois River watershed and subwatershed issues.
 - Additional subwatershed data/mapping are needed to assist with strategic planning
 - Unique fish species exist in region
 - Discussed existing and potential impairments at various locations in the watershed
 - Silt and sedimentation, excess nutrients, industrial toxins, hydraulic modifications
 - The present population of over 200,000 will continue to create challenges as it grows.
- Discussed the Partnership
 - Its leaders and members are key individuals throughout the watershed
 - It has many strengths such as leadership and technical depth both of which will translate into successful fundraising.
- Discussed the Partnerships' opportunities
 - Potential to unite Arkansas and Oklahoma
 - \$100,000 grant from WWF provides unique opportunity to jump start efforts
 - \$900,000 EPA Targeted Watershed Grant is also a large opportunity
- Discussed what he is committed to as the executive director
 - Committed to reach the IRWP's goals over the next decade
 - Will maintain scientific and administrative professionalism
 - Will maintain unquestionable ethics
 - Will implement conservation projects at the direction of board
- Discussed short term plans for August & September tasks and events
 - Tours of the Illinois River watershed with members
 - Working on the Targeted Watershed Grant proposal
 - Participate in the Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission Illinois River Cleanup on September 8
 - Nothing would show a better commitment than to have Arkansans participate in an Illinois River cleanup in Oklahoma.
 - Assist in the planning of the sponsorship social on September 12