

# Illinois River Watershed Partnership

## Board of Directors & Annual Meeting

### Meeting #6

6:00 pm, Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission Office  
Springdale, AR

**Board Members present:** Diffin, Faupel, Gaston, Haak, Hale, Herron, Hunton, Lindsey, Mardis, Michaels, Pharr, Rakes, Saunders, Simmons, Skopecek, E. Teague, K. Teague, Thomas, Van Laningham, Weathers, Woolbright

**Staff Present:** Nick Brown, Executive Director

#### 1. Meeting called to order - Luanne Diffin

#### 2. Roll Call of Directors – Evan Teague

#### 3. Introduction of Guests - Luanne Diffin

Larry Adair, Arvest Bank

Martin Barns, EGIS

Steve Butler, Green Country Farms

Neil Carey, Simmons Foods

Mitchell Fram, OSU Extension, retired

Jeff Hawkins, NWARPC

Monty Henderson, Georges, Inc.

Paul Justus, NWAPRC

Rick Katzfey, Fairchild Construction

Michael Lindsey, Morgan Keegan

Sophie Morrison, Washington County Environmental

Glenda Phillips, Watershed Participant

Warren Phillips, Watershed Participant

Robyn Reed, Affairs and Recycling

Celia Scott – Silkwood, NWARPC

Julie Shannon, City of Tahlequah

Andrew Sharpley, UofA – Crop, Soils, and Environment

#### 4. Public Comments

- None

#### 5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- None

#### 6. Treasurer's Report - Jimmy Mardis/Michael Lindsey

- Statement of Activities on the budget and proposed accounting format
  - The budget will have three basic categories: a General Fund, an Education Fund and a Survey Fund

- The General Fund is used to track revenue and expenses for the general or operating fund. It includes such items as payroll, office, and program and project expenses.
- The Education Fund tracks revenue and expenses for the Education and Outreach grant program. All of the related budget items begin with "Education Grant." The budget reflects the amounts remaining on the EPA grant.
- The Survey Fund tracks revenue and expenses for the Survey Grant, and like the other funds, all related budget items begin with "Survey Grant."
- The Education and Survey Funds are restricted used funds.
- We have received some in kind donations but not all that are available to us.
- The largest budgeted item is \$87,000. This includes \$75,000 for the executive director and \$12,000 for the proposed administrative assistant.
- Largest expense was consulting at \$12,500. This covers the Executive Director's salary.
- Most funds spent on outreach materials were for website development.
- The IRWP's "Total Liabilities & Equity" is \$78,214.66.
  
- **Question:** Gene Pharr – Are there any remaining matching funds that we need to pursue before the end of the year?
- **Response:** The largest income was from the education grant at \$55,708. Discussion ensued about \$300,000 urban NPS grant expiring. Those funds running out will have an impact on our budget at the end of the third year. It is important that we have as much in bank as possible by then.

**Motion to accept "Statement of Financial Position" made by Scopecek, seconded by Simmons. Motion passed without dissent.**

#### **7. Executive Summary – Luanne Diffin**

- Much has been achieved in less than one year. Expressed appreciation to Directors and is excited about new Directors coming to carry torch. Stressed the need to keep the momentum going.
- Referenced the book "Swimming Upstream" by Matlock & which discusses the need for trust.
- Federal & state funds continue to decline. We must rely more and more on ourselves.

#### **8. Executive Director's Report – Nick Brown**

**The following is a summary of Mr. Brown's photo slide show and Powerpoint™ presentation. A copy of his full report is attached.**

- Power Point presentation
  - Watershed News and Info, August – November Reports (Events, Results and Progress), ADEQ/AWAG Awards, November – February Plan (Core Functions and Programming)
- Field trip with Debbie Doss
- Pumpkin Hollow – Hollow Access
- Goats Bluff – Down from Nichols Preserve
- Fisher's Ford – only location containing Class II rapids

- Glum Spring Road
- Lake Fayetteville Clean-up

## 9. Committee Reports

### a. Executive Committee – Luanne Diffin

- Working on job description and employment packet for the executive director
- New board should finalize by year end
- Executive director currently working as contractor

### b. Program and Planning Committee – Mike Faupel

- Directors Lindsey, Van Laningham and Haak served on an ad hoc committee to refine goals generated by strategic planning committee.
- Chairman Faupel presented the “Strategic Goals for 2007-2016” as drafted by the committee. He noted that a lot of time was spent discussing the goals. They were as follows:

1. 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, promotion of riparian best management practices and conservation easements, organization of river cleanups, and through other conservation tools on 90% of the sites that need conservation efforts.
2. 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.
3. We will develop and implement a comprehensive watershed management plan, which addresses all potential sources of water quality degradation.
4. We will issue an annual watershed report of what is being done in the watershed, including information on stakeholders and landowners that do and do not meet regulatory requirements and best management practices.
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.

**Note: In reference to the above strategic goals, Q = Question, A = Answer, R = Response, and C = Comment in the following paragraphs.**

### Discussion of Goal #1

- **Q:** K. Teague – What is 100% so that we know what our goal is?

- **Q:** Gaston – Question the definition of “sites that need conservation efforts”. This is not clear. Also question “90%”. Assume there are 4000 stream miles. How do we determine the priority sites? This appears to be an unachievable task. How do we measure success?
  - **A:** Faupel – Measurement of success will be data driven and will require assessment.
  - **A:** Brown – This is a 10-year goal requiring assessment to identify those areas that need it.
  - **R:** Faupel – We don’t know exact numbers, but this is designed to be ambitious.
  - **R:** Snell – This is a place holder goal that can be re-evaluated as data is collected.
  - **R:** Herron – It is a starting point.
- **C:** Pharr – Property rights are a concern that could lead to animosity towards the IRWP. We must be careful with how we present this to the public.
- **C:** Haak – The goals being numbered 1 through 7 make it look like this is the order of priority. If this is so it means that nonpoint sources are the most important. Just because 1 and 2 are listed in that order should not mean this is the order of priority. We should work on all equally.
  - **R:** Faupel – Agreed and appreciates comments.
- **C:** Barns – Speciation should also be addressed so that “dumbing down” of species is addressed.

#### **Discussion of Goal #4**

- **C:** Haak – Goal #4, “State of the Watershed Report”, To remain consistent with the reason the IRWP was formed we should recognize those that are meeting requirements and following BMPs by using “positive reinforcement”. Recommend removing the language “. . . that do and do not meet regulatory requirements and best management practices.”
  - **Motion made to strike “that do and do not meet regulatory requirements and best management practices”. Motion made by Faupel and seconded by K. Teague. Motion passed without dissent.**
  - **Goal #4 now reads as follows:** We will issue an annual watershed report of what is being done in the watershed including information on stakeholders and landowners.
- **Q:** Weathers – How and where will we get the information to do a watershed report?
  - **A:** Group – Municipalities, Conservation Districts, Extension Service, ADEQ, ANRC, etc.

#### **Discussion of Goal #1 (continued)**

- **Q:** Simmons – Goal #1, Why improve only 90% of the sites?
- **Q:** Woolbright – The goal is to address all sites. Why leave out 10%? Also suggest adding “. . . while all the time preserving private property rights” to the end.
- **C:** Gaston – Suggest using “recognize or acknowledge” instead of “preserving”.
- **C:** E. Teague – What about “respecting”?
  - **Motion made to strike “on 90% of the” and add “while at all times respecting private property rights”. Motion made by Mardis and seconded by Pharr. Motion passed without dissent.**

- **Motion made to strike “at all times” from the previously approved language. Motion made by Mardis and seconded by Weathers to approve as edited. Motion passed without dissent.**
  - **Goal # 1 now reads as follows:** 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.
  - **C:** Sharpley – In reference to the earlier discussion of Goal #1, the IRWP must be cautious of what an assessment is, and how the information will be used.
  - **Q:** Brown – Does this mean we are not going to address problems?
  - **R:** Weathers – We do not want to be too “fluffy” because no one will take us seriously, but we also do not want to be too “controversial” because no one will want us around.
    - **Motion made to move Goal #3 to #1, renumber the goals accordingly, and approve all as amended. Motion by U. Lindsey and seconded by Pharr. Motion passed without dissent.**
    - **The “Strategic Goals for 2007-2016” as modified and approved by the board are as follows:**
      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.
- **C:** Faupel – The calendar for the upcoming year is an ambitious proposal and our success will depend on the new board’s strengths and interests. Some of us have been involved longer than others. People expect great things out of the IRWP, and we must begin to take steps to act.
- **R:** Pharr – Reiterated Faupels’ comments and stated that we must accomplish some things soon or we will lose public’s attention.

**d. Financial Committee – Jimmy Mardis**

- The Committee is not ready to present a final budget and will meet with Uvalde and Michael Lindsey to consider the budget. The proposed budget is temporary and will be updated with Mr. Brown’s input. A rough budget estimate for the upcoming year is \$137,000.
- Chairman Mardis posed the following question to the board: Can we send reports out electronically or do we need to reconvene to approve budget for upcoming year?
- **Q:** Simmons – How do we address questions?
- **A:** Mardis – Budget will be emailed with a reasonable comment period. Address questions or comments by using “reply to all”.
- **C:** Brown – A conference call is also an option.
- **Motion made to approve the budget electronically. Motion made by Simmons and seconded by Saunders. Motion passed without dissent.**

**e. Technical Committee – Sheri Herron**

- The ANRC Watershed Strategy was submitted on Friday, November 10th to ANRC. They may have comments or they may send to the EPA for approval.
- A new watershed map has been generated which includes roads, cities, and counties. The file size is 3 Megs. Can email the file or provide on a CD to those that would like a copy.
- The new map should provide on website so that the information is always accessible.
- **Q:** Gaston – Can the maps be sold to generate income for the IRWP?
- **A:** Herron – That would be inappropriate because the map was generated through donated time. It can be used for personal uses only for now. We could approach the person that created the map for permission to sell copies and offer to compensate for each map sold.

**f. Education Committee – Katie Teague**

- EPA 319 Grants – “IRW Urban NPS Survey”
  - Survey costs \$56,000
  - Phone surveys conducted ( June through August 2006)
    - Included 793 urban residents in IRW and 580 responses in Conway area (control population)
    - Received passionate responses although not all participants were accurate in their understanding of watershed issues. Answers to later questions would contradict earlier responses.
  - Featured in the August 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* and *The Morning News*.
  - The final report was 282 pages and was issued on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Copies of the 35-page are available.
- EPA 319 Grants – “IRW Urban NPS Outreach & Education”
  - Mass media campaign emphases:
    - Urban stormwater runn/off drainage system
    - Home nutrient management including soil testing, measuring lawn areas, precise fertilizer application

- Pet Waste
- Household hazardous waste disposal
- “Low Impact Development Workshop” – September 21 & 22, 2006
- “Grow Right – Keep it on Site!” display at the Fayetteville Farmers’ Market – September 23, 2006
- “ABCs of BMPs” – NWA Construction Stormwater Management Workshop – October 11, 2006
- “Clean Water – Strong Communities” – AWAG Watershed Conference
- Chairwoman Teague presented the concept of declaring one month of the year as “Watershed Awareness Month” for the Illinois River Watershed.
  - Would feature a series of coordinated events and activities spanning all stakeholder interests.
  - Would include clean-ups, educational workshops, civic presentations, media promotions, and developing partnerships/collaborations.
  - Proposed the month of May and/or coinciding with “Earth Day” kickoff.
    - C: Pharr – Thinks that it would be a good idea.
    - **Motion made to declare a month as “Watershed Month” for the Education Committee. Motion made by Diffin and seconded by Pharr. Motion passed without dissent.**
  - C: Simmons – The Beaver Water District is a significant player. They could be a key partner.

**g. Membership Committee – Karen McSpadden (Jennifer Michaels)**

- Director Michaels reported that a previously scheduled Membership Committee meeting was postponed due to a lack of direction. The committee is seeking direction from the Board on what events, activities, we should pursue.
  - C: Faupel – This is an issue for the new board to address after new committee assignments are made.
  - Q: Simmons – Who is responsible for pursuing the larger donors and sponsors? Don’t know if this should be split up among committees.
  - C: Brown – Suggests forming an ad-hoc fundraising committees and scheduling a meeting not to exclude anyone but to allow those who have a specific interest to participate. Deborah Batson (NARTI) has shown an interest and would be a good resource.
  - Q: Michaels – Should the Membership Committee focus on a membership data base or on new member outreach?
  - A: Brown – We need to see a 2007 data base.
  - C: Mardis – The Finance Committee has been focusing on sponsors.
  - C: Simmons – The Finance Committee should pursue additional members and update create a subcommittee.
  - C: Diffin – This will be “fleshed out” after the new president takes office.
- Presentation of Sponsorship plaques
  - Watershed (\$10,000+) – Tyson Foods, Simmons Foods, City of Fayetteville
  - River (\$5,000+) – Washington County
  - Stream (\$2,500+) – Benton County Farm Bureau, Jimmy Mardis, Luanne Diffin

- Tributary (\$1,000) – Poultry Federation
- Spring (\$500+) – Washington County Farm Bureau, Poultry Partners, Peterson Farms
- Announcement of New Sponsor Donations
  - Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation – \$5,000 per year for three years
  - City of Rogers – \$10,000 per year for three years

**h. Nominations Committee Report – Evan Teague**

- Chairman Teague provided a brief explanation of the nominations process and the last minute changes that were made to make it more manageable. He presented the slate of candidates as recommended by the general membership, as nominated by the category representatives, and as approved by the Nominations Committee. The boards action on the slate presented was as follows:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>
Agriculture	E. Teague	Haak	Herron
Business	Van Laningham	Mardis	Pharr
Conservation	Michaels	Lindsey	K. Teague
Construction	Katzfey	Van Laningham	Pharr
Government	Shannon	Lindsey	Pharr
Tech, Res, &Ed	Rakes	K. Teague	Michaels
At-Large	Gaston	Mardis	Faupel
At-Large	Goodwin	Simmons	Pharr
At-Large	Saunders	Simmons	Weathers
At-Large	Adair	Lindsey	Woolbright
At-Large	Butler	Herron	Haak
At-Large	Fram	Saunders	Hale

- The lack of attendance by Director Goodwin to any IRWP board meetings and committee meetings prior to his approval was discussed. Director Goodwin has been experiencing some health problems during the last year.
- The slate of nominees as approved by the Board was then presented to the general membership for affirmation of the entire slate.
  - **Motion made to affirm the slate of nominees. Motion made by Pharr and seconded by Weathers. Motion passed without dissent.**
- The newly elected board then went into executive session to elect officers by secret ballot. The slate of officers as elected by the Board were as follows:
  - President – Dr. Susan Thomas (received 23 votes)
  - Vice President – Bill Haak(received 24 votes)
  - Treasurer – Jimmy Mardis (received 23 votes)
  - Secretary – Sherri Herron(received 23 votes)
    - **Note:** Director Herron indicated that she would serve as Secretary as long as she did not also have to chair the Membership Committee along with the Technical Committee. The Board felt the IRWP would be better served if Director Herron continued to chair the Technical Committee and agreed to change the bylaws by removing the requirement that the Secretary chair the Membership Committee.

- President Thomas' first action as the new president was to make committee assignments. The committee chairs were assigned as follows:
  - Planning & Programming – Faupel, Chair
  - Education - K. Teague, Chair
  - Technical –Herron, Chair
  - Nominating – E. Teague, Chair
  - Finance – Mardis, Chair
  - Membership – Herron (Temp), Pharr & Weathers, Co-chairs
    - **Note:** Herron will remain chair on a temporary basis until the bylaws are officially changed. Pharr and Weathers will serve as acting co-chairs during this time frame.
  
- **Motion was made to Review Bylaws. Motion was made by E. Teague and seconded by Herron. Motion passed without dissent.**
  - E. Teague volunteered to serve as committee chair. President Thomas appointed E. Teague as chair.

MEETING ADJOURNED