

Illinois River Watershed Partnership
Annual Membership and Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting #18
6:00 pm, Tuesday, February 9, 2010
JBU – Siloam Springs, AR

Meeting called to order by M. Faupel.

Roll Call of Board of Directors

Board Members Present: S. Carney; M. Faupel; C. Gaston; S. Goade; J. Hale; H. Haynes; J. Michaels; J. Payne; G. Pharr; S. Randall; M. Simmons; T. Snell; E. Teague; S. Van Laningham

Executive Director: Delia Haak

IRWP Intern: Jeff Hickle

Guests & Members Present: Rick and Suzanne Stubblefield, OSRC; Leslie Massey, AWRC; Dr. Larry Bland, JBU

Public Comments:

- No public comments.

1. Minutes: Board Meeting, August 11, 2009

- August 11, 2009 minutes still need to be approved. Hard copies were not available for Board members so item is still pending for May 2010 Board meeting.

2. Minutes: Board Meeting, November 10, 2009

- ▶ **Motion to approve minutes made by Pharr/seconded by Van Laningham. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Treasurer's Report: Michael Lindsey, Morgan Keegan.

- Review of 2009 financial statements, including WMP funds, A/P, A/R, and 2009 budget.
- ▶ **Motion to approve 2009 financial reports made by Simmons/seconded by Hale. Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Finance Committee: Larry Adair, Chair (was not able to attend board meeting)

- Delia requested an amendment to the 2010 budget to include a WalMart grant of \$7,500 for the watershed festival and \$40,000 for a watershed media campaign.
- Discussion on possibility of adding Education and Outreach Coordinator to staff.
- ▶ **Motion to amend 2010 budget, adding \$47,500 grant, made by Gaston/seconded by Haynes. Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Watershed Management Plan/WAG Update

- M. Faupel started discussion on last 2 WAG meetings. Last meeting was 3 ½ hours and they are going through line-by-line of the revised draft. They have intermediate comments from ANRC, as well as board member comments. Notes on WAG meeting will be sent out.

- No decision yet on next WAG meeting. If WAG members do not attend the meetings faithfully they are not getting all input needed. All Board members are invited to attend WAG meetings.
- Discussed lack of clarification on who gets to vote at WAG meetings.
- Remaining Issues
 - Changes to be given to AWRC in written form.
 - Request by ANRC to move data tables to appendix.
 - Discussion on whether WAG or full board will meet to review and suggest revisions to the draft WMP. Stressed need to streamline process to meet the deadlines.
 - M. Simmons requested clarification on WAG members. M. Faupel said there is one board member from each board category; Josh Payne, Jerry Hunton, Uvalde Lindsey, John Sampier, Karen McSpadden, Jimmy Mardis, Tim Snell.
 - WAG would be charged with compiling comments and giving instructions for revisions to AWRC.
- ▶ **Motion: WAG is authorized to look through comments and make revisions, and when process is complete, schedule a board meeting before final submission to ANRC. Motion made by Van Laningham and seconded by Randall. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Special Board meeting tentatively planned for Tuesday, March 30th.
- C. Gaston offered to send her comments in pdf format to any board member.
- M. Faupel commented on the need for cohesive comments.
- C. Gaston noted that we are still missing Dr. Saraswat's data. M. Faupel commented that we do not control the model.

6. Committee Reports:

Program and Planning Committee: Hunter Haynes, Chair

- Rain Garden – H. Haynes discussed rain garden project.
 - Garden is in a City of Rogers park.
 - Garden will be 2,200 square feet.
 - Great teaching opportunity.
 - Installing April 16th and 23rd, WalMart volunteers will assist from 1-4 on those dates.
- Riparian Project – S. Goade discussed details of the riparian project.
 - Tree planting on Saturday, March 13th
 - Rogers, Springdale, Fayetteville, Gentry, Siloam Springs, and Tahlequah.
 - Plan to plant 3,000 trees.
 - Delia and Sam meeting with the cities for planning purposes.
 - Stilwell might be interested in participating.
 - Springdale is getting some trees from the UA Cooperative Extension Service Clear Creek project.
- Arkansas Forestry Commission Grant – S. Carney discussed this grant.
 - Grant amount of \$15,000 for Gentry and Springtown to help them become a Tree City USA.
 - Riparian Project activities on March 11th and March 13th. Festivities include an Arbor Day celebrations and tree planting at the Eagle Watch area.

Education Committee: Robyn Reed, Chair (Robyn could not attend board meeting)

- Delia discussed last Education Committee meeting. For various reasons, no board members were able to attend meeting. Other committee members gave Delia feedback on projects.
- Discussed video production contest that has been launched on IRWP website.
- J. Michaels gave report on status of Clean Water Raingers Kid's Club.
- Delia reported that Tracie A. and subcommittee are working on the watershed festival.
- T. Snell gave an update of the meeting with NWA city mayors and EPA Region 6 Coordinators, Bobby Hernandez (our previous contact) and Randy Rush (new). EPA reaffirmed that they give money to ANRC and IRWP gets 319 funds from ANRC, not directly from EPA.

Membership Committee: Gene Pharr, Chair

- Membership meeting held February 5th.
- S. Randall and J. Hale have agreed to organize IRWP annual float trip.
- IRWP needs better new board member orientation and we will work on that.
- Delia has sent out thank you letters/membership renewal requests.

Technical Committee: Chair position is vacant at this time.

- Leslie with AWRC discussed water quality monitoring at USGS sites.
 - Continuation of the project that was formerly done by Marc Nelson.
 - Protocol has been changed.
 - Results given in quarterly reports to ANRC.
 - Made request to send reports to IRWP board members.
- Guatemala Clean Water Project – Dr. Larry Bland
 - 150 homes/450 people affected.
 - UN money built original water system, water storage with vertical drop.
 - Animal feces contamination is making people ill.
 - Project has been looking at various types of simple systems and building trust with residents.
 - Project will work with 20-40 families at a time.
 - The project is funded with \$2,000 donated to IRWP for this project.
 - Project gives a good perspective on how water quality affects lives.

Nominations Committee: Evan Teague, Chair

- Open Board Positions
 - Could not get meeting together before this board meeting.
 - There are 3 board positions open.
 - E. Teague attended a meeting with the Cherokee tribe. IRWP asked the Tribal Chief to recommend someone to represent them on the IRWP board.
 - Discussion on having the Cherokee tribe participate on IRWP board and projects. Luanne Diffin did contact tribe when IRWP began its formation process.

Other Business:

- J. Payne attended the first EPA Illinois River Watershed TMDL Study public comment meeting in Fort Smith and gave a handout to board members. More EPA meetings will be held in various locations.
- Delia reminded board members of the board retreat on May 11, 2010 (our regular board meeting date). Retreat will be at New Life Ranch in West Siloam Springs, Oklahoma. Executive Committee will work on agenda.
- S. Van Laningham suggested that the rain garden project should be documented with photos/video and narrative.
 - M. Simmons suggested that channel 40/29 might partner in this capacity.
 - Suggestion that Harold Hull photograph the project.
 - Suggestion that it would be worth spending the funds to have Maloney Marketing document this project for IRWP.

Meeting adjourned by M. Faupel.

Meeting minutes by Jennifer Michaels, Secretary