

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.

Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2011

Midtown Carnegie Library

Meeting Called to Order at 7:35 AM

Watershed Committee Updates—Mr. Murr called the meeting to order. Mr. Bullard announced WCO received a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) through USDA working with urban farmers, Urban Roots and Millsap Farms on innovative water conservation practices. The WCO received a \$15,000 donation from Burlington Northern/Santa Fe for the Watershed Center to help complete the parking lot. Mr. Murr stated Mr. Kromrey will be presenting “Natural Environment Strategic Plan 2030” in April.

Review of Minutes—Mr. Murr asked participants to review the January Monthly Meeting minutes and forward any additions or corrections to the Watershed Committee office.

Contaminant Source Tracking the South Dry Sac Watershed, Springfield, MO—Emily Sturnfield, Graduate Student, Ozark Environmental Water Research Institute, Missouri State University—Ms. Sturnfield stated she has been conducting a contaminant source tracking study in the Little Dry Sac Watershed and she is basing her study on a previous study by DNR in 2006. The purpose of her project is to determine the sources of coliform bacteria present in the Little Dry Sac and whether it is human or bovine. The experimental design project incorporates environmental microbiology and geochemistry to better understand water contamination. Ms. Sturnfield displayed a field area map of the South Dry Sac River. She sampled thirteen sites and focused on five that had easy access. Her methodology instruments included optical brighteners, IDEXX Quanti-Tray analysis and Microbial Source Tracking. Ms. Sturnfield analyzed her data and summarized that cattle were the dominant coliform bacteria source. She sampled July through October 2010 at 10am and 2pm.

National Weather Service Update—Megan Terry—Ms. Terry stated the three top rain events in 2010 were May 14, July 11 and September 1. The Climate Outlook for the next one to three months is above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. April through May is expected to be dry due to La Nina. Ms. Terry stated the current river level flows in the Springfield area are 25-50% below normal. Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 7-11 and Flood Awareness Week is March 14-18.

Regional Issues—Mr. Smith stated the groundwater study meeting has been postponed, due to the weather, until further notice. Mr. Bullard stated Drury is offering a Certificate of Sustainability course.

Other Business—none

Meeting adjourned 8:30 a.m.