

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.

Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2012

Midtown Carnegie Library

Meeting Called to Order at 7:33 AM

Watershed Committee Update— Mr. Murr stated the WCO has big changes with the new C.W. Titus Education Facility open this year and a new Director being hired. The March and April Monthly Meetings will be held at the Midtown Carnegie Library. The February presenter is Gail Melgren and Roddy Rogers with Tri-State Water Resource Coalition.

Watershed 101—Mike Kromrey, Education Outreach Coordinator, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Mr. Kromrey stated the Watershed Committee provides age appropriate, place-based education. It is important to connect youth to the outdoors as studies have shown that a child's time spent in nature increases attention span and concentration. There are three stages of development involving outdoors and water related issues: early childhood, ages 4-7, elementary, ages 8-11, and early adolescence, ages 12-15. Mr. Kromrey stated he uses place-based education so children start learning about nature here in the Ozarks. He said volunteers help the Watershed Committee use the Watershed Center site to the fullest extent and there is a Volunteer Appreciation Event at Noon on January 11th at the C. W. Titus Education Facility. Mr. Kromrey stated the Watershed Committee educates Kindergarten through Engineers at the Watershed Center. He begins each field trip with a Watershed Lesson and ends with "what you can do to conserve water and energy." Project WET has helped create an Activity Menu that meets teacher requirements. The Watershed Center site is heavily used, the Envirothon held their day of competition between schools there last fall, MDC's Nature Unleashed and the WOLF School use the Watershed Center site for place-based education and area schools use the site for field trips. Mr. Kromrey has organized Service Projects where students have helped build trails and plant trees. On the college level, the Watershed Committee works with MSU and Drury students and both colleges use the Watershed Center as a research site. Professionally, the Onsite Wastewater Training Center is used as an outdoor training center for installers and homeowners. Mr. Kromrey stated the new C.W. Titus Education Facility is "green" building that is being used for meetings and educational purposes. The Watershed Committee helps the City and County fulfill their MS4 requirements through stormwater education and outreach efforts.

Missouri Department of Conservation Update—Andy Austin—Mr. Austin said Eagle Days is January 21-22 at the Springfield Nature Center. Seedling forms are available now to order trees. He said the first successful captive breeding of hellbenders occurred, snowy owls have been spotted in Jasper County, a Mountain Lion was caught in a trap and successfully released back into the wild and MDC is taking questions on elk reintroduction in Missouri.

Regional Issues—Gopala Borchelt stated the MO Small Flows Annual Conference is in Springfield at the Expo Center January 16-18, 2012.

Other Business— none

Meeting adjourned 8:35 a.m.