

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.

Monthly Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2011

Midtown Carnegie Library

Meeting Called to Order at 7:33 AM

Watershed Committee Update—Mr. Cheek called the meeting to order and stated the July 1st presenter is Evan Kifer with DNR. Ms. Armstrong stated the WCO has been awarded a Section 319 Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The grant total award of \$1,000,000 will be applied over four years and project partners include City of Springfield Stormwater Services Division, Greene County Resource Management, Ozarks Environmental and Water Resources Institute, Missouri Project WET, James River Basin Partnership and Ozark Greenways. Mr. Bullard stated Water Watch Week is June 11-21, which includes a Water Quality Summit June 17th at Drury; the keynote speaker is Sara Parker Pauley, Director Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The WCO is hosting a Geology Tour for Public Officials in conjunction with the release of “Gargoyle Country: The Inspiring Geology of Greene County” by Jerry Vineyard. The Watershed Center is near completion and a Grand Opening will be planned in late July.

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

Parks and Waterways Update—Jodie Adams, Director, Springfield-Greene County Park Board—Ms. Adams stated the Springfield-Greene County Park Board 2010 Annual Report is available and the Park System will be 100 years old in 2013. The Springfield-Greene County Park Board manages 102 park sites and 40 facilities, including the zoo, and over 100 miles of trails. 2,755,793 County residents passed through these parks and facility gates in 2010, with several million more passive park users enjoying the system. Ms. Adams stated 2010 completed facility openings included Lost Hill Park Natural Resources Area north of Springfield’s city limits. The 60-acre, first-phase opening features a 1.5-mile linear park trail to Truman Elementary, a trailhead with parking, restrooms, picnic tables and a small playground. Silver Springs Park Pool saw a complete overhaul and Valley Water Mill Equestrian Center opened with outdoor/indoor arenas, horse barn, meeting/party rooms and pastures. Dan Kinney Park, Greene County’s first park east of Hwy. 65, came online with the Phase 1 opening of the 18.3 acre location. Ms. Adams said the Park Board is working with the Rex P. Krieder family to create a park by River Cut, next to the James River. A number of lakes, stream and waterways improvement projects continue in historic parks. Fassnacht and Sequiota Parks, along with Dickerson Park Zoo, all broke ground on waterway improvements in 2010, which will improve water runoff, reduce flooding, stabilize banks, improve aesthetics and overall improve the quality of our local watershed. Ms. Adams stated the Parks were in very good shape and the Park Board has approximately 3,000 volunteers throughout the year, a work force of 215 full-time employees and 700-800 part-time and seasonal employees. Ms. Adams said there is a groundbreaking tomorrow at Doling Park for the refurbished Grant Beach Pool. She said it is important to renew the sales tax because the tax helps support the projects that improve the parks, stormwater runoff and the environment.

National Weather Service Update—Megan Terry—Ms. Terry stated the storm event April 22-27 had a five day total of 4-8 inches along I-44 and 12-18 inches in southern Missouri. The lake impacts of that storm event caused 70,000 cf. to be released from Beaver and Table Rock Lake. She said record levels were set on Table Rock Lake and Taneycomo and most rivers in the areas reached major flood stage and more than 400 roads and low water crossings were affected. Ms. Terry stated the storm event May 22-31 prompted 131 Warnings-34 tornado, 88 severe weather and 9 flash flood. The 2011 precipitation totals thus far has the Branson-West Plains area 30+ inches and much of southwest Missouri 8-12 inches above normal. Ms. Terry said the 1-3 month outlook for southwest Missouri is above normal temperatures with normal to below normal precipitation.

Regional Issues—Terry Whaley said Ozark Greenways will celebrate National Trails Day with a Frisco Bike Ride. In April over 900 new trees were planted on the White Farm Site and the Ozark Greenways

website has been updated. Ted Hillmer said the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield 150th Anniversary will be a 3-Day weekend event August 12-14, with over 80,000 expected to attend. George Van Hoesen invited everyone to join the Ozarks Green Building Coalition. Barbara Lucks said the Environmental Resources Center is progressing with plans to open in late August or early September, and the sewer rate increase was approved by City Council. Stacey Armstrong said June 14th at 5:30 she will be hosting a free Onsite Wastewater Education Workshop at the Onsite Wastewater Training Center at Valley Water Mill Park.

Other Business—none

Meeting adjourned 8:45 a.m.