

*Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.*

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**October 7, 2011**

**Midtown Carnegie Library**

Meeting Called to Order at 7:31 AM

**Watershed Committee Update**— Mr. Murr stated the November meeting will be held at the Library and City Storm Water Services is giving an update. Mr. Bullard said he is presenting at the December meeting which will be held at the Watershed Center. His Retirement Reception will be held after the meeting.

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

**Severe Weather Events**—Megan Terry, National Weather Service—Ms. Terry stated the severe weather events that impact large groups of people are hurricanes, typhoons, tornados and flooding. Areas most affected by hurricanes, typhoons and cyclones are land masses close to warm waters and trade winds. The world's deadliest hurricanes, typhoons and cyclones have taken place around Bangladesh and India. The U.S. averages six hurricanes per year. The deadliest hurricane in U.S. history killed 8,000 people, striking Galveston, Texas in 1900 and the third deadliest was hurricane Katrina, killing 1,800 people when it hit the upper Gulf Coast in 2005. Ms. Terry said occasionally Missouri will feel remnants of these storms, such as hurricane Gustav and Ike, both bringing 3-6 inches of rain to the area. Ms. Terry said 75% of all the worlds tornados occur in the United States. Tornados occur when climatic conditions include moist, instable air with a lift, warmer climates (mid-latitude) and a jet stream. These conditions include the majority of the U.S. Ms. Terry presented a map of America's tornado allies: the original Tornado Alley (Oklahoma, Kansas Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Wisconsin) Dixie Alley (Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia), Hoosier Alley (Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio) and Carolina Alley (North and South Carolina). She said the Joplin tornado on May 22, 2011, was the third deadliest tornado in Missouri history. There have been 57 killer tornados in 2011 and 546 total US tornados this year. Ms. Terry stated the world's worst floods have been located in China, with the worst occurring in 1931 with up to 3.7 million deaths. The Midwest's most dangerous floods are flash floods and the two deadliest occurred in Rapid City in 1972 with 238 deaths and Colorado's Big Thompson Creek, July 31, 1976, with 143 deaths. She said flash floods do occur in the Ozarks such as the flooding event in late April and early May 2011. She said recent worldwide flooding has occurred in Cambodia, Pakistan and South Africa and on the U.S. east and northeast coasts as a result of Hurricane Irene. She said the upper Missouri River floods are now ending. Ms. Terry suggested visiting the following websites regarding extreme weather: [spc.noaa.gov](http://spc.noaa.gov) (Storm Prediction Center) and [nhc.noaa.gov](http://nhc.noaa.gov) (National Hurricane Center).

**National Weather Service Update**—Megan Terry—Ms. Terry said the Springfield area's rainfall is below average for the year by -4.01 inches. Stream flow conditions for southwest Missouri are fairly normal. Texas is experiencing severe drought, parts of Oklahoma are in drought, as well as extreme southwest Missouri. Ms. Terry said the area temperature outlooks for the next three months are near to above normal chances for rain and above normal temperatures.

**Regional Issues**—Mr. Burwick stated the Together Green event at the Watershed Center was successful. Volunteers constructed bird feeder stations, planted shrubs and installed a bubbler for birds. Kenny Knauer stated October 14-16 is the first Anniversary Celebration of the Botanical Center at Close Memorial Park. Commissioner Bengsch said the new Public Safety Center is under construction and tours can be scheduled by contacting Chris Coulter with Greene County Resource Management. Karen McKinnis stated the first confirmed case of the flu has been reported and encouraged getting a flu shot. She said Missouri is one of the most obese states and getting outdoors and staying active, even in the cooler weather, is important.

**Other Business**—none

Meeting adjourned 8:30 a.m.

