

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.

Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 2, 2011

Midtown Carnegie Library

Meeting Called to Order at 7:33 AM

Watershed Committee Update— Mr. Hillmer stated the October 7th presenter is Megan Terry with the National Weather Service and the meeting may be held at the Watershed Center. Mr. Kromrey stated WCO is hosting the Envirothon, November 2nd, at the Watershed Center and needs volunteers. Charlie Burwick stated Master Naturalists and Together Green need volunteers September 24 to set up the bubbler and bird feeders, tree planting and trail maintenance at the Watershed Center.

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

Water Management 101—James Sandberg, Army Corps of Engineers—Mr. Sandberg stated the lakes are operated as a system, not lake by lake. He said 2008 and 2011 proved the flood plan does work as damages were reduced. Mr. Sandberg presented pictures of Table Rock Dam; there are 10 gates, 42 ft. wide and 45 ft. tall. The project vision of managing the lakes is to provide ethical stewardship, balancing public, private and commercial uses. The lake is used for flood damage reduction, hydropower and recreation. Mr. Sandberg stated the Corps receives around \$1.2 million in annual user fees. He said there are roughly 100 resorts on the lake, 22 dock buildings, and 20,000 slips and 325 permitted fishing tournaments annually. The White River Operations purpose of the dam is to reduce peak flows. He said the floods of 2008 and 2011 are not common events. He said the best plan was agreed by all users in the system and the Corps can only change a plan at the Congressional level. Mr. Sandberg presented a typical river basin map showing the lake, tributaries flowing into the lake, and the dam. He said the White River Basin was a little shy of 20,000 square miles. A Typical Multipurpose Project Map showed the dam, spillway, powerhouse, and water levels: flood pool, conservation pool and inactive pool. If the water rises above the flood pool, then they release water. Mr. Sandberg said Hydro-power is subject to 1) 7 day and 28 day drawdown limits, 2) downstream conditions, 3) seasonal requirements, and 4) water requirements. He said regulating stages are Dec.1-April 15: 21-24 feet, April 15-May 1: 14 feet, May 7-15: 12 feet, and May 15-Dec.1: 12 feet. Mr. Sandberg explained how the dams did their jobs during the floods and showed high water impact pictures from 2011. He said the Corps is building a new Visitor Center in Branson and the Corps is a part of the Department of Defense. They also provide support to Disaster Relief Efforts and Military Missions.

Missouri Department of Conservation Update—Andy Austin—Mr. Austin said the Taneycomo trout sample is complete and MDC cooperates with the Corps on fish samples and fish habitat in Taneycomo and Table Rock Lake. He said MDC has partnered with JRBP and TRLWQ to help pinpoint and remediate failing septic systems. He said the Great Outdoors Day is September 24, 2011.

Regional Issues—Jerry Vineyard said there was a write up in the News-Leader regarding his new book, Gargoyle Country. Tammy Tranthom said the Lake Taneycomo Clean-Up is Saturday from 9am-1pm. Information on the Tire Collection Day, and the Watershed Management Plan Meetings can be found online at trlwq.org. Erica Cox said a Project WET Workshop will be held at the Watershed Center on October 29th. Joe Pitts stated the 4-State Watershed Academy is September 29-30th and the BANFF Film Festival is September 15th at the Gilloiz Theatre.

Other Business—none

Meeting adjourned 8:30 a.m.