

*Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.*

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**April 6, 2012**

**Midtown Carnegie Library**

Meeting Called to Order at 7:33 AM

**Watershed Committee Update**—Mr. Kromrey stated that the Watershed Committee 2011 Annual Report is available on the WCO website. The Monthly Meetings will become paperless, with the meeting minutes, agenda and upcoming events available on the WCO website. Mr. Kromrey introduced Rob Hunt as the new Watershed Center Coordinator. Mr. Hunt has been an interpretive leader for the Missouri State Parks and a site steward at the Watershed Center.

**“What’s Green In Branson?”**—Mona Menezes, Environmental Specialist, City of Branson—Ms. Menezes stated Branson is a small town with around 10,000 residents, but tourism brings in around 7 million visitors a year. Table Rock Lake and Taneycomo Lake are listed on the state impaired waters list. Ms. Menezes stated the city received a 319 mini grant to place decals on storm drains and stormwater education. The city of Branson has green initiative awards for the public and city employees and the Branson City Administrator is the chair of the sustainable council. Mr. Matt Filice reported on the trails system in Branson. He said the Wilderness Area trail is the site of a future nature center located next to Taneycomo Lake. Urban paths are being moved farther from the roads for safety purposes. Mr. Filice said Roark Creek trail is mostly paved and ADA accessible. Ms. Menezes said David Miller could not attend the meeting, so she would give the presentation on stormwater detention. She said Branson has regulations that every 14 feet of rise contain 4 feet of greenery and a landscape ordinance that charges a \$50 fee for any tree that is cut down. The fee can be avoided by planting new trees on the site. The city of Branson installed stainless steel baffles underneath the ground at the Branson Landing to capture the stormwater runoff before it drains to the lake. Ms. Lonnie Winkles stated the city of Branson wastewater treatment has 45 people on staff and serve a population of 60,000 to 80,000 dependent on tourism. She said there are 210 miles of sewer lines with 7,900 connections. Ms. Winkles stated 46 lift stations are located in Branson including 2 activated sludge plants which treat 1/5 million gallons/year. The Cooper Creek plant treats 3.4 million gallons/day and the Compton Drive plant, expanded in 1993, treats 10.6 million gallons/day. Ms. Winkles said Wastewater Class B Sludge application in Branson is 6 million gallons/year, equating to 800 tons of solids. The City is pushing for Class A Sludge. The city of Branson has 2 surface water treatment plants with 95% of the supply coming from Lake Taneycomo, which can provide approximately 5 million gallons/day. Ms. Winkles said the high peak of water use in the summer is 6.5 million gallons/day and the low in winter is 2.8 million gallons/day. There are three water districts in Branson and 95 miles of distribution lines.

**Natural Resources Conservation Services Update**—DeDe Vest—Ms. Vest introduced Rachel Wilson with the Leadership Development Program to give the update. Ms. Wilson reported that first quarter of the Farm Bill program was busy with 158 contracts totaling 58 million in water quality improvements for pasture, forests and crops. A new initiative for organic programs has funded 50 high tunnels, helping encourage the production of fresh, local food. The energy program funded one program in southwest Missouri to improve conservation practices on land management. Ms. Wilson said three office closures have occurred in Missouri and local meetings have been held with producers to find out information regarding which offices are used the most and general feedback.

**Regional Issues**—Barbara Lucks presented Loring Bullard his retirement picture with signatures. Tim Smith said Saturday in Strafford there will be an unveiling of a National Historic Trail of Tears and the Dedication of the Cherokee Trail of Tears across Greene County. Charlie Burwick said April 14<sup>th</sup> is the Audubon and Parks Springfield Lake clean-up. Bob Rainey said April 14<sup>th</sup>, Battlefield will be giving away free native trees. Terry Whaley reported that the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Ozarks Greenways Adventure Race will be held by Willard on May 12<sup>th</sup> and volunteers are needed.

**Other Business**— none

Meeting adjourned 8:25 a.m.

