

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.

Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2013

Midtown Carnegie Library

Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 AM

Watershed Committee Update—Mr. Hoy called the meeting to order and stated new Board Chair, Mr. Lemons was unable to attend. Mr. Hoy is the current Vice Chair and Mr. Bridges is the Secretary. Mr. Kromrey said the WCO has started a Long Term Endowment Fund held at the Community Foundation and he is working on a fund raising campaign for that fund.

Roll Call

Review of Minutes

City of Springfield Clean Water Services “Protecting Water for Future Generations”—Barbara Lucks, Sustainability Officer, city of Springfield, Department of Environmental Services— Ms. Lucks stated the theme of Environmental Services was “Go Green in 2013” and she brought ‘Greene’ magazines for everyone. She said the City recognizes the importance of clean water to quality of life, recreation, economy and tourism. SSO’s (Sanitary Sewer Overflows) are not allowed and upgrades have been made over the years to the treatment plants to improve water quality. Ms. Lucks stated the City currently maintains a sanitary sewer system that includes over 1,200 miles of sanitary sewer pipe, 19 left stations, 28,000 man holes and serves 75,000 to 80,000 customers. The City of Springfield's Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) Program works to maintain and improve the efficiency of the City's sanitary sewer collection system and treatment plants and to prevent sewer overflow and backups. The City of Springfield conducted a Sewer System Evaluation Survey (SSES) in 2001 to identify sources of Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) by smoke testing, visual inspection, TV inspection, Building inspection and dye tracing. The City addressed the problems and achieved 34% reduction in wet weather flows, improved city data management and expanded capacity for wet weather flows at treatment plants. Ms. Lucks said a key aspect to the City’s 2012 Amended Consent Judgment and Early Action Plan Implementation, which calls for \$50 million in improvements to the City’s wastewater system. The Private Sewer Repair Program is in place and removing rainwater from the sewer system is part of the City's \$50 million Early Action Program (EAP) to reduce overflows and improve water quality. Ms. Lucks said much of the excess water comes from downspouts, sump pumps and area drains improperly connected to the sanitary sewer. The City is pursuing this pilot program to find the most cost effective way to keep rainwater out of the sewer system at no additional cost to the property owner. Ms. Lucks said other key aspects of the 2012 Amended Consent Judgment include investing in aging infrastructure, educating the public, and keeping water that doesn’t belong out of the sewer systems. For more information, visit the City’s website at www.springfieldmo.gov/cleanwater

Missouri Department of Conservation Update—Dave Woods—Mr. Woods said that Bob Schroepel has retired from MDC and is now working at the NRCS office in Marshfield. One current project is improving accessing to fishing at Bennett Springs Trout Park and there is wintertime habitat work at Pomme de Terre and Stockton Lakes. Eagle Days is January 26th at the Springfield Nature Center from 9am-3pm.

Regional Issues—Ms. Haxby stated Ozarks Water Watch is addressing septic issues in rural communities and have some funding to assist homeowners with failing septic systems. They are also recruiting volunteers for water quality monitoring. Tammy Trantham with Table Rock Lake Water Quality said the Missouri Smallflows Conference is January 22-23 in Columbia, Missouri.

Other Business— none

Meeting adjourned 8:25 a.m.