

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.
Monthly Meeting Minutes
August 1, 2014
Midtown Carnegie Library
Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 AM

Roll Call

Review of Minutes

Watershed Committee Update—Mr. Hoy opened the meeting with a summary of the great success of the WCO 30th Anniversary event at the Springfield Art Museum. Mr. Kromrey said the next 30th Anniversary event is a free family day at the Watershed Center Saturday, October 4th from 9am-Noon.

“Local Food & Water” —Angela Jenkins, Registered Dietician at Cox Health — Ms. Jenkins stated in 2013, the Ozarks Regional Food Policy Council (ORFPC) conducted a food system assessment of 20 counties in southwest Missouri. The purpose was to explore the factors impeding and supporting a prosperous regional food system to meet the growing demand for locally-produced food. She said water quality is a part of local food production as the overuse of fertilizers, pesticides and E.coli can affect water quality. Ms. Jenkins said nearly 88% of adults in the region do not consume the recommended five servings of fruits and vegetables a day and less than 2% of the food consumed in our region is locally produced. The food system assessment included 12 policy recommendations designed to advance the development of a regional food system for southwest Missouri that produces good food, strengthens the local economy, protects our natural resources and improves our health with an overarching goal of 20% of all food consumed in southwest Missouri being produced locally by 2030. She encouraged everyone to take the 20% local food pledge and buy 20% of their food from local farmers markets, farmers or even growing more food at home. Ms. Jenkins had a handout called *Good Food Matters, Cultivating a Healthy Southwest Missouri*, outlining the food system assessment, recommendations, goals, challenges and what we can do to help.

Natural Resources Conservation Service Update —DeDe Vest— Ms. Vest passed around a flyer titled *Your guide to the new Farm Bill Conservation Programs*. She said highlights for the southwest Missouri area included an Environmental Quality Incentives Program, a Conservation Stewardship Program and Agricultural Management Assistance. There is a new program called Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

Regional Issues—Bridget Dierks said the Community Foundation of the Ozarks Grant Innovation Program deadline was September 26th. Commissioner Bengsch said Tim Smith retired from Greene County and is now working for the City of Springfield and there is an election on Tuesday. Stacey Armstrong stated the Big Urbie stormwater grant she is managing has had a busy summer; pervious concrete was poured at Boyd Elementary, a rainwater system is going in at the Darr arena to capture water from the roof to help with dust suppression and stormwater basins are being retrofitted at Drury and MSU.

Other Business— none

Meeting adjourned 8:30 a.m.