

*Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.*

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**February 6, 2015**

**Midtown Carnegie Library**

Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 AM

**Watershed Committee Update**—Mr. Bratcher opened the meeting and said Ms. Armstrong has recently returned from an International Rotary Exchange trip from India. Mr. Kromrey said the Annual Report is almost finished and 2014 was a record breaking year.

**Roll Call**

**Review of Minutes**

**“Missouri Stream Team Watershed Coalition Initiatives and Update”**—Holly Neill, Director— Ms. Neill stated the Missouri Stream Team Watershed Coalition (MSTWC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that supports the Stream Team Program and advances the protection and improvement of Missouri’s waterways through education, advocacy, and stewardship efforts. This includes providing grants and scholarships to Stream Team volunteers, developing statewide educational watershed programs, encouraging citizen engagement by distributing alerts about issues affecting water resources, and publishing comprehensive reports of Stream Team Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring data. The MSTWC is sponsored by MDC, MDNR and the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM). Ms. Neill said Missouri Stream Teams are a network of people concerned about streams across the state. There are over 4,500 teams and 90,000 volunteers. There are 18 Stream Team Associations (a group of Stream Teams in same or nearby watersheds working together) across the state. Ms. Neill said as Director some of her duties include strategic planning, education and outreach, sustainable funding and managing programs such as the Missouri Clean Marina program which is a voluntary, incentive-based program encouraging marina operators and recreational boaters to protect water quality by engaging in environmentally sound operating and maintenance procedures. So far twelve marinas have applied and ten have been designed on Table Rock Lake, which is the pilot program. The MSTWC also helps watershed organizations who are not a 501c3 with grant opportunities and they gave away \$10,000 in scholarships in 2013. On the technical side, MSTWC showcases Stream Team volunteers’ data and has released two The State of Missouri Streams reports on chemistry data and invertebrate data. Ms. Neill said the Missouri Stream Team license plate is a funding stream for them and they have a collaborative agreement with CFM to build an advocacy program and create a water resource advocacy committee to develop and implement a water resource advocacy policy to help inform, guide and react to legislature.

**National Weather Service Update**—Megan Terry— Ms. Terry stated in 2014 the precipitation for Springfield was 38.59 inches which is a -6.98 from normal and October 9-10, 2014 was a big rain event bringing 2-3 inches of rain to the area with flash flooding in southwest and southcentral Missouri. The Severe Storm Stats for 2014 included 24 hail reports, 24 wind reports and one tornado in Greene County. Ms. Terry said the climate outlook for the next 8-14 days was warmer than normal temperature and below normal precipitation and the one month outlook showed equal chances for temperatures and precipitation to be normal/above or below average.

**Regional Issues**—Commissioner Bengsch stated Bob Cirtin is the new Greene County Presiding Commissioner, Chris Coulter is the new County Administrator and Kevin Barnes is the new Resource Manager. Barbara Lucks said the Choose Environmental Excellence awards are Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at the White River room. Ted Hillmer said entrance fees will increase for national parks in August and this is the first increase since 2006. Mona Menezes said the City of Branson is giving out Green Business Awards. O-Stream announced the Ozarks Mini Maker Faire and Innovation Expo will be held Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Other Business**— none

Meeting adjourned 8:35 a.m.