

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.
Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2015
Midtown Carnegie Library
Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 AM

Watershed Committee Update—Mr. Kromrey said the Watershed Committee is participating in the Community Foundations Give Ozarks day. It is a 24 hour online giving blitz and the WCO is raising money to help repair the fishing piers and boardwalk at the Watershed Center. He also announced to Save the Date-July 18, 2015 for WCO's Watershed Summer Gala fundraiser at the Springfield Art Museum.

Roll Call

Review of Minutes

"Water Protection and Ash Storage Solution"— Roddy Rogers, Manager Water Resources Projects, City Utilities of Springfield— Mr. Rogers gave a project overview, said the John Twitty Energy Center in Springfield has developed in a responsible way. He presented a graph that showed a large reduction in emissions from CU plants over the last 35 years. Coal combustion residuals or coal ash is not considered a hazardous waste and does have some beneficial uses such as embankment fill and pavements. Southwest Missouri and the surrounding area have seen a lot of growth in the last ten years and will continue to see growth in the future. City Utilities is the water utility for this community and it is committed to make sure that water isn't compromised for the people. Mr. Rogers said there has been coal ash storage around the John Twitty Energy Center for 35 years and CU is looking into expanding that storage area. CU is doing diligent research to make sure the fly ash can be stored safely in the ground. He showed a picture of what the ash storage would look like and said if it is determined this storage won't work then CU will look into other avenues, one being shipping it somewhere else.

Natural Resources Conservation Service Update—Michael Squires — Mr. Squires stated NRCS is part of the USDA and they work mostly with private agriculture land owners. Two of the cost-share programs are the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program. He said internally the NRCS has been restructured statewide with a tighter budget and smaller staff. To find out more about cost-share and programs, he suggested contacting the local NRCS office.

Regional Issues—Barbara Lucks said April is 'Earth Month' and events are posted on Ozarksenvironment.com. Arbor Day is April 10th, the CEE Awards Luncheon is April 17th and the native plant at the Springfield Nature Center is tomorrow. Stacey Armstrong said one Big Urbie project will be a part of Art Walk tonight. A rain tree was constructed to collect rain water for watering plants by the Coffee Ethic and the Park Central Branch Library. Rob Hunt said he was awarded a scholarship by the Stream Team Watershed Coalition to attend a week-long float trip in Georgia.

Other Business— none

Meeting adjourned 8:30 a.m.