

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.
Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 5 2015
Midtown Carnegie Library
Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 AM

Watershed Committee Update—Ms. Dierks opened the meeting and said she attended one of Watershed Coordinator, Rob Hunt’s, field trips at the Watershed Center. Mr. Kromrey said the July 3rd Meeting is cancelled in observance of Independence Day and tickets are on sale for the Watershed Summer Gala.

Roll Call

Review of Minutes

“Sacrificial clams: native mussels and water quality”—Dr. Chris Barnhart, Missouri State University — Dr. Barnhart gave an introduction to mussels, explaining why they are significant to water quality and why many are endangered. He said the North American freshwater bivalves are in the taxonomic order, unionoida. Unionoida’s relationship with fish is in the parasitic stage; they produce larvae that attach to the fish, then they drop off as a juvenile mussel. Dr. Barnhart showed a video of how the mussel larvae attach to the fish. He said mussels are suspension feeders and act as living water filters. They filter the water through their gills. The importance of the native mussel is ecological, economic, and conservation. There used to be an abundance of mussels but they were overharvested and used to make shell buttons. Now many mussels are endangered, 88 species are listed as federally endangered, 9 of those species are in Missouri. Dr. Barnhart began propagating mussels in 1999 in an attempt to recover endangered mussels, in part with the KC Zoo. Mussels were grown and then put in the river. Work to re-establish mussels has taken place in Kansas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri and San Francisco, California. Mussels act as the “canary in the coal mine” because they are very pollution sensitive. They are also an important part of the food chain in rivers and they improve the water quality, if they are abundant.

National Weather Service Update—Megan Terry — Ms. Terry gave an update on spring weather. She said 2015 precipitation for Springfield, Jan-May was 15.40 inches. A stagnant weather pattern over our area has caused heavy rainfall and flooding. The abundance of rain in Texas and Oklahoma has broken their drought. She said USGS website shows stream flow trends. The 8-14 day outlook is for scattered storms and normal temperatures.

Regional Issues—David Casaletto invited everyone to sign up for his weekly Ozarks Water Watch newsletter. Barbara Lucks said Randy Lyman retired from the City. The professional Water Warrior award was given to Carrie Lamb and the individual Water Warrior award given to Bob and Barb Kipfer.

Other Business— none

Meeting adjourned 8:30 a.m.