

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.
Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2016
Midtown Carnegie Library
Meeting Called to Order at 7:35 AM

Watershed Committee Update—Mr. Dove opened the meeting. Mr. Kromrey said Watershed Center Coordinator, Rob Hunt, is leaving the Watershed Committee. We will have work day party on April 15th from 9am-11:30am. He recognized Mr. Paul Obermann with Commercial Metals Company as he is retiring soon and CMC has been a sustaining supporter of the WCO. Give Ozarks Day is May 3rd and WCO is raising funds to improve the trails and interpretive signage at the Watershed Center.

Roll Call

Review of Minutes — February minutes were reviewed.

“Big News from Ozark Water Watch”—**David Casaletto, Director, Ozarks Water Watch** — Mr. Casaletto said Ozark Water Watch (OWW) mission is to preserve the water quality of the Upper White River Watershed in southwest Missouri and northwest Arkansas including Beaver, Bull Shoals, Table Rock and Taneycomo lakes. The three main program priorities are 1) Coordinating a volunteer monitoring network for the streams and lakes throughout the Upper White River watershed which that information then creates a water quality report, 2) promoting better wastewater treatment (septic tanks and community treatment plants) and 3) water quality education. Mr. Casaletto said OWW has grown to now include Ozarks Environmental Services, Table Rock Lake Water Quality, Beaver Lake Smart and Ozarks Clean Water Company. He said programs include Septic tank/Grant loan program, Septic tank pump-out rebates, water quality monitoring, Status of the Watershed reports, Clean Marina program, and lake clean-ups. Mr. Casaletto the big news is the acquisition of Ozarks Environmental Services, a non-profit organization, whose mission is to maintain the environmental quality of lakes, rivers and streams and protect the health and welfare of the public by providing drinking water and wastewater treatment services. Ozarks Environmental Services is financed by OWW and has eight employees, a fleet of eleven vehicles, a back hoe and maintains over one hundred wastewater systems.

Natural Resources Conservation Service Update—Mike Squires— Mr. Squires said NRCS targets private land owners in rural communities. NRCS Missouri obligates 1.2M in Emergency Watershed Protection Funds to areas that have a Declaration of Disaster. Twenty projects have been identified where problems with stream bank erosion around bridges and roads exist. A past similar project included the bridge above Galena, MO where the James River was trying to shift east. This area was repaired in 2011-12 that stopped the erosion of the stream. MO Dot contributed 25% of the funding for that project.

Regional Issues—Ted Hillmer said the Wilson’s Creek Park day clean-up is tomorrow at 9am and Arts in the Park begins at the end of April. Wilson’s Creek will be one of the hosts for the solar vehicle challenge in August. Mona Menezes said Branson won the Glass Recycling Program of the year. Dan Chiles said the Sac River Revenant was formed and they are working with NRCS and MDC on a public/private partnership including 6,000 trees to be planted along the stream. Tiffany Frey said Give Ozarks Day is May 3rd, June 4th is River Rescue and the Dam Jam is back at the Finley River on June 11th. Barbara Lucks said there are 42 events in April and they are listed on the Ozarks Environment website. The native plant sale is tomorrow at the Nature Center and the CEE Awards are April 29th at the White River Room.

Other Business— none

Meeting adjourned 8:30 a.m.

Minutes taken by Kelly Guenther