

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.
Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2016
Midtown Carnegie Library
Meeting Called to Order at 7:35 AM

Watershed Committee Update—Mr. Dove opened the meeting. Mr. Kromrey introduced Jeff Birchler as the new Watershed Center Coordinator. He said tickets are on sale for the Watershed Summer Gala.

Roll Call

Review of Minutes — May minutes were reviewed.

“The Year of the Trail” —Terry Whaley, Director, Ozark Greenways — Mr. Whaley said in 1991 Ozark Greenways (OG) was formed with a mission to preserve and enhance the Ozarks natural heritage. He showed a map of the Greenway’s Trail and Bike Route Network. Three trails have been designated by the National Parks Service: Galloway Creek, Frisco Highline and South Creek trails. Ozarks Greenways Land Trust works with private landowners to establish easements. Approximately 95% of the trails are on private property and OG had to get easements. Mr. Whaley said OG is currently working with James River Basin Partnership to establish riparian corridor easements along the James River. The Frisco Highline Trail is the second longest rail trail in Missouri at thirty-five miles. Mr. Whaley said in twenty-five years OG has built sixty-five miles of greenways, one hundred miles of trails, has 1,000 members and three staff. Four projects OG is currently working on are connecting Wilson’s Creek to South Creek (dedication tomorrow at 10am), Frisco Highline Trail improvements, Fulbright Spring Greenway and the Trail of Honor which includes a section of trail through the Veteran’s Cemetery. He said the vision of OG is to connect Ozark, Springfield and Nixa. OG provides the City of Springfield with the following benefits: community greenway development, urban forestry awareness, stormwater and water quality participation, Lets GO Smart initiative, open space and conservation protection, community health benefits through active living and economic tourist benefits.

National Weather Service Update—Megan Terry— Ms. Terry said Springfield precipitation through May 31, 2016 was 11.24 inches (6.78 below normal) and 3 inches of snow (14 inches below normal). This is the 3rd lowest snow season on record. She gave details from the March 13th flash flood event stating some areas downtown received 7-8 inches of rain in three hours, there were water rescues near the intersection of Barnes and Bennett, roads were flooded near Patterson, Rockhurst and Bellview and there was two feet of water over a section of University street at the 2900 block. Ms. Terry said 2016 is below normal for tornados, hail and severe winds. She said usually there is 30 days of severe weather and up to this point this year, only 11 days. The next 8-14 days are trending higher than normal temperatures and lower than normal rainfall. The 3-Month Outlook, June-August will be a little wetter than normal with slightly higher than normal temperatures. Ms. Terry said as the El Nino weakens a La Nina phase will move in which has more impact in the winter.

Regional Issues—Mr. Coonrod said James River Basin Partnership’s River Rescue is tomorrow and next Friday is the Sunset Soiree and next Saturday is the River Jam at Finley River Park. Erica Cox said Tammy Trantham will be helping with Project WET & WILD. Deb Wilson with OSTEAM talked about the OSTEAM project and the Mini Maker Faire coming to Springfield again this Fall.

Other Business— none

Meeting adjourned 8:30 a.m.

Minutes taken by Kelly Guenther