

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.
Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2017
Midtown Carnegie Library
Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 AM

Watershed Committee Update—Ms. Greene opened the meeting.

Roll Call

Review of Minutes—February minutes were reviewed.

Watershed Committee Update—Mr. Kromrey said WCO has teamed up with a Drury Communications class and next Friday, April 14 is Watershed Night at the Park at Hammons Field and tickets will be available for sale after the meeting.

“Restoring the Green Water Cycle on Western Working Lands,”— Mollie Walton, Land and Water Program Director, Quivira Coalition — Ms. Walton said the Quivira Coalition is based in Santa Fe, New Mexico whose mission is to build resilience by fostering ecological, economic and social health on western landscapes through education, innovation, collaboration and progressive public and private land stewardship. Part of her work is managing what she calls the ‘green water cycle’, using best management practices that keep water in the soil for moisture. These techniques include water infiltration and vegetation management, managing the land to be a water catchment. She said this area of New Mexico used to receive 15 inches of rain annually but now annual rainfall is 9 or 10 inches. Along with reduced rainfall and hard use of the land over the last century, much work is needed. Slides were shown of projects before and after, including better grazing practices for horses and cows, riparian corridor repair, grassland and wetland improvements and improvements in Comanche Creek. Partnerships with land owners and tribal peoples are very important to completing projects. From 1997 to present, at least 1 million acres of rangeland, 30 linear miles of riparian drainages and 15,000 people have directly benefited from the Quivira Coalition's collaborative efforts.

Natural Resources Conservation Service Update — Michael Squires — Mr. Squires said NRCS biggest programs are the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). He said 72 million dollars-worth of conservation practices were applied last year.

Regional Issues— Earth Day is Saturday April 22 and there are many events taking place during the month.

Other Business— none

Meeting adjourned 8:30 a.m.

Minutes taken by Kelly Guenther