

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.
Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2017
Midtown Carnegie Library
Ms. Greene called the meeting order at 7:35 AM

Agenda

Roll Call

Review of Minutes—September minutes were reviewed.

Watershed Committee Update— Mr. Kromrey said the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks (WCO) was born out of crisis when the water tasted and smelled bad in 1983-1984. The City of Springfield, Greene County and City Utilities of Springfield (WCO's sponsors) created the Watershed Committee and the mission is still relevant today. The Watershed Committee's main focus points are funding, people, education and outreach and projects. He said education and outreach includes field trips to the Watershed Center, outreach programs, collaborative efforts including Splash!, Greener Greenspaces and Placeworks. Field trips to the Watershed Center have increased from 1,600 students in 2012 to over 7,500 in 2017. Mr. Kromrey said over 50 schools have participated in field trips this year and multiple grades, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 7th graders and 26 different classes/sections from MSU. An incredible group of interns and volunteers make this work possible. Splash! Is a collaborative effort with Springfield Public Schools (SPS) Explore Summer program for 2nd and 3rd graders. Greener Greenspaces is a collaborative effort with SPS 7th grade fall program with students from Reed, Carver and Pleasant View. Outreach includes Jordan Creek tours, classroom visits and public events. Mr. Kromrey said current projects include the Little Sac Restoration and Improvement Project. Milestones of this grant include updating the Little Sac River Watershed Management Plan, a stream restoration project that will restore a 300-foot section of eroding streambank, located between Fellows and McDaniel lakes, hands-on stream stabilization workshops with Dave Derrick, the second which will be November 6-8 and restoring an agricultural demonstration farm near Fellows Lake. Mr. Kromrey said the Watershed Committee collaborates with the Springfield-Greene County Health Dept. by sampling weekly at local swimming hole locations throughout the summer months. The Health Dept. provides the results as a community service on their website. The WCO participates in the Drug Take Back Event in the spring and the fall. The upcoming take back event is October 28th. He said Watershed Committee has been involved in the hydrilla effort assisting in looking for hydrilla in local ponds and lakes in the Little Sac watershed. There are many ways to be involved such as helping with educational field trips, leading volunteer activities, and assisting with native landscaping and invasive species removal at the Watershed Center. Other ways to be involved include attending, sponsoring or volunteering at the Watershed Summer Gala and liking/following WCO on social media.

National Weather Service Update — Megan Terry— Ms. Terry said year-to-date precipitation is 35 inches with a large part of southwest Missouri 40+ inches. Departure from normal is 6-12 inches. In the last 30 days there has been ½ inch to an inch of rain. She said the lake level trends from April to October saw a peak in April through early May. She said the river trends of the James, Sac and Wilsons Creek also peaked in April to early May. The climate outlook for October to December is normal to below normal precipitation and normal to above normal temperatures. She said the average first frost is in October. The snow statistics chart is showing 2017 to have the lowest snowfall in the last 30 years. A La Nina is expected to develop this winter which could impact snowfall in our area January through March.

Regional Issues — Diana Sheridan said November 17 is the cut-off date to apply for fiscal year 2018 funds through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Commissioner Bengsch explained the importance of the upcoming Greene County General Revenue Tax and how the County plans to use the funds.

Other Business— none

Meeting adjourned 8:30 a.m.

Minutes taken by Kelly Guenther