

*Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.*

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**February 7, 2014**

**Midtown Carnegie Library**

Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 AM

**Watershed Committee Update**—Ms. Dierks opened the meeting and Mr. Kromrey stated Ms. Dierks is the new Vice Chair, and WCO is planning a big Anniversary event July 12<sup>th</sup> at the Art Museum and a friends/family event in the fall.

**Roll Call**

**Review of Minutes**

**Asher Creek and Conservation Innovation Grant Project Reviews**—Will Rhodes, Greene County Soil and Water District (GCSWD), Adam Millsap, Urban Roots Farm and Curtis Millsap, Millsap Farm— Mr. Rhodes stated the Asher Creek 319 Project was implemented by the GCSWD, Watershed Committee, OWERI at MSU, and Natural Resources Conservation Service and it was partially funded by the EPA through MDNR. He said this was a two year project (2012-13) and received a one year extension for 2014. The focus was reducing the amount of nutrients and bacteria going into Asher Creek. The use of rotational grazing systems, riparian exclusion and pH correction for forage production to lower nutrient and bacteria levels were promoted. Water samples were collected weekly at six sites in the watersheds. WCO collected the samples and OEWR performed the analysis. The samples measured total nitrogen, total phosphorus, bacteria and optical brighteners. Mr. Rhodes presented maps of the Asher Creek Watershed area and sample results. In conclusion he said an underserved watershed in Greene County had been identified and multiple potential participants for future BMP practices. Analysis indicates the need for further study to determine the source of bacteria and the timeframe was too short and the BMP's too few to show a measured load reduction. Mr. Curt Millsap with Millsap Farm said WCO approached him in about being involved in the CIG grant. He said his big project was constructing a Chinese High Tunnel, a design unique to the U.S. He said this tunnel will extend his growing season by 2-3 months. Mr. Millsap said other CIG projects included a vermicomposting unit, implementing water and energy demonstration practices, planting an organically disease-resistant orchard and testing bio-strip intercropping. Mr. Adam Millsap with Urban Roots Farm said their big project was constructing a packaging and washing house for storing and washing produce prior to distribution. Other CIG projects included installation of high tunnels and installing a rain garden to catch parking lot runoff and water from the packaging house.

**National Weather Service Update**—Megan Terry— Ms. Terry stated the total precipitation for 2013 in Springfield was 51.84 which was 6.27 inches above normal. The big rain event of August 1-10, 2013 gave some areas in our region 30% of their annual rainfall in 5-10 days. December was a snowy month with 13.5 inches of snow in Springfield. Daily snowfall records were broken on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Terry said the rest of the month would be below normal and March – April would be near normal temperature and precipitation.

**Regional Issues**—Barbara Lucks said the Field Guide 2030 party was last night and she thanked Mike Kromrey for his work as co-chair with Matt O'Reilly on the Natural Environment section. She said there is a video on the City's homepage.

**Other Business**— none

Meeting adjourned 8:35 a.m.

