

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.
Monthly Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2015
Midtown Carnegie Library
Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 AM

Watershed Committee Update—Ms. Dierks opened the meeting and said WCO will be participating in Give Ozarks Day May 5th and WCO has named this year’s summer fundraiser the Watershed Summer Gala and it will be held Saturday, July 18th. Roddy Rogers will be presenting at the April 3rd Monthly Meeting and the 2014 Annual Report is available on the website.

Roll Call

Review of Minutes

“Springfield Urban Watershed Stewardship Project (a.k.a. “Big Urbie”) Final Year Wrap Up”—Stacey Armstrong, Projects Manager, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks (WCO) — Ms. Armstrong said the Big Urbie is a 319 Nonpoint Source Implementation grant with an objective to improve the water quality and reduce the quantity of runoff leaving the Springfield-Greene County urban area. This would be done with Best Management Practices (BMP’s), education and monitoring. The grant amount was 1.1M in Federal funds and \$733,333 in Nonfederal matching funds with a four year time frame from May 2011 to April 2015. The grant is community collaboration. It was awarded and managed by WCO and there are six grant partners including City of Springfield Stormwater Services, Greene County Resource Management, Ozarks Environmental and Water Resources Institute (OWERI), James River Basin Partnership, Ozark Greenways and Missouri Project WET. The four targeted watersheds addressed are Pea Ridge Creek, Jordan Valley Creek, Fassnight Creek and South Creek. Projects over the last year included working with Springfield Public Schools at Robberson Elementary and Boyd Elementary. The Robberson Elementary stormwater problems were addressed by installing a gravel infiltration swale, native vegetation and two rain barrels. At Boyd Elementary pervious concrete, native vegetation and a rain barrel were installed to help alleviate stormwater issues around a parking area and playground. A rain garden was installed at Messiah Lutheran Church and at the First Baptist Church on Campbell and Elm. Ms. Armstrong said a rainwater harvesting project at Gilardi’s Restaurant was installed to capture 1,745 gallons of water that will be used to water an existing large garden area. In between Homegrown Foods and Cameo Salon on Pickwick and Cherry old parking spaces not being used were replaced with pervious pavers. At the MSU Darr Agricultural Center a large scale (20,000 gallon) rainwater harvesting collection process was installed and they have seen a 30% reduction in water usage thus far. Another large scale project is the Government Plaza Parking lot by the Busch Building. In Phase 1, the aging public parking lot was replaced with asphalt and pervious concrete, pavers, a 1,000 gallon cistern, bio-retention swales and rain gardens and trees. Phase 2 will include the other side (employee section) of the parking lot and include similar features. Ms. Armstrong said MSU and Drury Universities received detention basin retrofits that are being monitored. She said the totals for the Big Urbie grant include 25 stormwater projects, 10 rain gardens, 28,562 gallons in rainwater harvesting systems, 9,250 native plantings, 6 volunteer planting days with 110 volunteers. Big Urbie Education and Outreach included 4 field days, 6 workshops, 136 stormwater surveys, 7 stream clean-up events (with 319 volunteers) and an estimated 4.25 tons of trash removed, and a stormwater information brochure.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Update—Cindy Davies— Ms. Davies said the Missouri Outdoor Summit is March 19-20, 2015 at the Runge Conservation Nature Center in Jefferson City, MO. April 2nd in Jefferson City there is a work study group to discuss issues small communities face to fund requirements from the MDNR.

Regional Issues—David Stokely with US Sentaor McCaskill’s office congratulated WCO on the success and management of the Big Urbie grant as did Dan Waddlington with US Senator Roy Blunt’s office and

Matt Hough with Congressman Billy Long's office. Barbara Lucks said the native plant sale at the Springfield Nature Center is April 4th and the Choose Environmental Excellence luncheon is April 17th at the White River Room. Gopala Borchelt said the Table Rock Lake clean-up is Saturday, April 4th. Deb Wilson said the O'Steam Mini Maker Faire Expo is August 29th in Springfield.

Other Business— none

Meeting adjourned 8:35 a.m.