

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.
Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2015
Midtown Carnegie Library
Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 AM

Watershed Committee Update—Ms. Dierks opened the meeting. Mr. Kromrey recognized Joe Pitts, Director of the James River Basin Partnership (JRBP) retirement. Dave Coonrod, Chair of JRBP's Board stated Joe spent his life working for water quality and presented him with a Water Warrior Award. Joe Pitts stated he has been fortunate in his career and is looking forward to spending his time fishing and floating.

Roll Call

Review of Minutes –September minutes were reviewed.

“Watershed Committee Update”—Watershed Committee Staff — Mr. Kromrey said the Little Sac Restoration and Improvement Project (through Missouri Department of Natural Resources) is going well. Partnering with USDA NRCS, they have successfully installed three grazing systems. There is a major streambank stabilization project planned. The intensive watershed sampling through the summer will provide data for best management practices. Mr. Kromrey said there is a possibility for an extension to update the Little Sac Management Plan. Through Give Ozarks and the Summer Gala, WCO has raised enough money to buy the materials to replace the boardwalk and fishing piers. Parks has agreed to provide the installation labor. He recognized Lynn VandenBurg, Coordinator at the Parks Equestrian Center for being so great to work with. Mr. Kromrey said the WCO staff is moving from the downtown office to the Watershed Center mid-October. MSU helped archive WCO's library resources. Ms. Guenther encouraged everyone to visit the WCO website, www.watershedcommittee.org. The projects page has current projects and the completed projects page has projects archived over the last ten years. She said WCO social media is mainly on Facebook and twitter and staff posts about field trips, projects, updates, and Water Wednesday blog. The Summer Gala has been a huge success the last two years and she thanked everyone who attended, donated or volunteered. She will be emailing a short survey to get attendee feedback to make next year's event on July 16th even better. Ms. Armstrong said the Big Urbie grant ended in June and the final reports are online on WCO's website. She said the federal grant was 1.1 million and non-federal local match funds were \$769,672. The Big Urbie project totals included 25 stormwater projects, 10 rain gardens, 28,562 gallons of rain water harvesting, 9,250 native plantings, 10 workshops and 7 river clean ups. She is now working on the Our Missouri Waters project with Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The project runs May 15, 2015 to May 16, 2016. The goal of this project is to gather local input on water resource priorities by public engagement and assembling a watershed advisory committee to identify and develop resources to achieve the identified priorities. Through watershed collaboration and public engagement, the Sac River Healthy Watershed Plan will be created to help maximize resources and focus watershed priorities. There will be a public meeting November 17th in Stockton, December 15th in Dadeville, and January 12th in Willard. DeDe Vest is facilitating the meetings. Mr. Hunt said last year 2,900 students came to the Watershed Center for field trips and he will surpass that this year. He has had great interns and volunteers helping him with field trips and work days. College students have been especially helpful with habitat improvements around the park. He went on Paddle Georgia float with

Holly Neil, a Leopold Conference in Wisconsin and gave a presentation at the AMI conference in Kansas City based on the Land Ethic Leaders material in which he was awarded best concurrent session. Mr. Hunt asked everyone to read the quotes and answer the questions he provided.

National Weather Service Update—Megan Terry — Ms. Terry said the 2015 precipitation as of September 27th is about 5 inches above normal although some isolated regions in southern Missouri are over 50 inches for the year. There was a heavy rainfall event in mid-June due to two days of heavy rain before the remnants of Tropical Storm Bill came through our area. The James River crested at 22 feet and the Gasconade was just below major flood stage at 29 ½ feet. July 6-10 was another heavy rainfall event and some areas had 10 inches of rain in a 72-hour period. There was a six-foot rise on Table Rock Lake and a 1/ ½ foot rise on Pomme de Terre Lake. The Climate Outlook for October 8-14th is above normal temperatures and precipitation and the rest of October through the end of the year is below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation.

Regional Issues—Charlie Burwick said Valley Water Mill is a hot spot for birders due to the variety of habitat and health of the environment at the park and data is downloaded onto a birding app which sometimes brings people from all over the world. Erica Cox said Thursday November 19th and Saturday December 5th are Project WET Workshops. Gail Melgren said the Tri-State Water Coalition annual water conference (MSU is a co-sponsor) is October 22-23 at the Darr Agricultural Center. Mona Menezes said the Table Rock Lake clean-up sponsored by the City of Branson and Ozarks Water Watch cleaned up 2 ½ tons of trash this year. Barbara Lucks said the Drug Take Back Event collected 1,276 pounds this year.

Other Business— none

Meeting adjourned 8:30 a.m.