

**Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**May 6, 2016**  
**Midtown Carnegie Library**  
Meeting Called to Order at 7:35 AM

**Watershed Committee Update**—Mr. Dove opened the meeting. Mr. Kromrey said Give Ozarks Day was a success and the money raised will be used to help improve the trails and interpretive signage at the Watershed Center. The Watershed Summer Gala Save the Date postcards are out and the date is July 16, 2016.

**Roll Call**

**Review of Minutes** — April minutes were reviewed.

**“A Long-term View of Watershed Health and Threats”**—Joe Koloski, District Ranger, Mark Twain National Forest

— Mr. Koloski said the Mark Twain National Forest encompasses over 1.5 million acres in Missouri. The area he manages includes Ava, Cassville and Willow Springs. Important watersheds impacted by this area include Table Rock Lake, Bull Shoals Lake and the North Fork of the White River and includes the habitat for the Ozarks Hellbender. Mr. Koloski said he is tasked to help manage the forest into the future, twenty to forty to one hundred years out. The Forest Service is a Multiple Use Agency as timber, recreation, water quality, air quality and other factors all have to be considered and sometimes they are not compatible with each other. He said historically the forest areas were 70% open woodlands and 30% glade areas, now the areas are 75% closed woodlands and upland forest. When the area was settled natural disturbances such as fire were removed so they are trying to shift those areas back to the way they were before. Mr. Koloski said threats to the area include insects and disease and climate change and loss of species.

**Missouri Department of Conservation Update**—Andy Austin— Mr. Austin said the spring sampling on reservoirs was completed and went well. Bennet Springs Fishing Day is tomorrow and Roaring River Fishing Day is May 14<sup>th</sup>. The hydrilla eradication project is still underway and two ponds recently inspected received good news that hydrilla tubers were not found any longer. There is a hydrilla identification training class May 19<sup>th</sup>. He said zebra mussels have not been detected in Table Rock Lake, Stockton Lake or the North Fork of the White River but they have been found in Bull Shoals Lake. Barbara Lucks said April was Earth Month and over 50 events were held. David Stokley said a Grant Symposium will be held in Jefferson City on June 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:30am-4pm.

**Regional Issues**—Terry Whaley said Ozark Greenways is celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> year with a dedication at the new South Creek/Wilson’s Creek trailhead connecting the two greenways on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Ted Hillmer said the National Parks are celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and all 4<sup>th</sup> graders get into the Parks for free this year. Arts in the Park is every Saturday through June 4<sup>th</sup> and is free to attend. Dave Coonrod said James River Basin Partnership’s River Rescue is June 4<sup>th</sup> and River Jam on the Finley is June 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Other Business**— none

Meeting adjourned 8:30 a.m.

Minutes taken by Kelly Guenther