

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.
Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2017
Midtown Carnegie Library
Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 AM

Watershed Committee Update—Mr. Hainline opened the meeting.

Roll Call

Review of Minutes—January minutes were reviewed.

Watershed Committee Update—Mr. Kromrey said the WCO Annual Report will be out soon. February 15 a meeting will be held at the Watershed Center to discuss taking environmental education to the next level. WCO has a new partnership with Springfield Public Schools that includes 7th grade classes at Reed, Pleasant View and Carver taking field trips to the Watershed Center.

“Introduction to Biomimicry”— Margo Farnsworth, Screendoor Consulting and Missouri Prairie Foundation— Ms. Farnsworth said biomimicry is the science of looking at and mimicking nature to help humans solve problems. She gave a few examples including the Namib desert beetle. The beetle’s back is designed to collect dew drops that then go down channels into his mouth. This design is being looked into in areas of scarce water supplies, putting up sheeting that will collect dew in grooves that will run down into a collection barrel. Another example was how the study of shark skin led to a new technology and company called Sharklet. This technology inspired by shark skin deters colonization of certain disease-causing microbes. It is being incorporated into some hospitals on bed rails, hand rails and catheters. Ms. Farnsworth said Australian Jay Harman created the Lily Impeller. The design was inspired by studying the ‘golden mean’ in nature. The Lily Impeller is spiral shaped and is successfully used in utilities water tanks to move water around, which in turn, saves energy and makes economic sense. Another example was a carpet company, Interface, who used biomimicry to create glue-free carpet tiles. Ray Anderson is the founder and she encouraged watching his Ted Talk. Ms. Farnsworth said when looking to biomimicry, she suggests the following: 1) Identify the base problem and its function, 2) Ask nature how it accomplishes that, 3) Identify your context and parameters, 4) Look at how nature answered and analyzed strategies used, 5) Emulate those forms, processes and materials and systems, 6) Develop your solution in a life-friendly manner. She suggested visiting AskNature.org

National Weather Service Update —Megan Terry — Ms. Terry reviewed the final accumulations for 2016 with totals not far from average. Except for snowfall. The normal is 10-11 inches and the area received 1-2 inches. She went over last quarter of 2016 precipitation numbers and showed the latest drought monitor. She said it was the first time in years there wasn’t any exceptional drought in the United States. Individuals can report to the droughtreporter.unl.edu/. The forecast for the next three months is above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. February 25 is the Severe Weather Awareness Expo at the Battlefield Mall.

Regional Issues—Mr. Hillmer said National Park passes for seniors is increasing from \$10 to \$80 and the 2017 Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield calendar is out. Charlie Burwick suggested checking out GreatMissouriTrail.com for a list of various local birding hot spots, including Valley Water Mill Park.

Other Business— none

Meeting adjourned 8:30 a.m.

Minutes taken by Kelly Guenther