

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.

Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2017

Midtown Carnegie Library

Ms. Greene called the meeting order at 7:30 AM

Agenda

Roll Call

Review of Minutes—April minutes were reviewed.

Watershed Committee Update—Mr. Kromrey said May 9 is Give Ozarks Day and Watershed Committee is participating.

“Grassroots Geotourism,”—Linnea Iantria, Geotourism Coordinator, Missouri State University — Ms. Iantria said Geotourism is defined as tourism that sustains or enhances the distinctive geographical character of a place—it’s environment, heritage, aesthetics, culture, and the well-being of its residents. She said geotourism is about developing sustainable destinations. She worked with National Geographic to develop the Geotourism courses at MSU. She said part of the curriculum in her senior class at MSU is for the students to develop a tourism strategy that incorporates the areas natural resources and small businesses to bring people to the destination. Ms. Iantria said Geotourism celebrates the place, engages tourists and locals, creates financial incentives, is holistic and takes care of the environment.

Examples of areas the student projects focused are Webster, Wright and Douglas counties, and Fordland, Missouri. She said her 2016 class looked at three counties and created a ‘Destination Management Organization’ to celebrate what the communities already have like farms, wineries, craft shops, and other local goods. They created a day trip of the area and the ‘Homegrown Highway’. Ms. Iantria said more information can be found at destinationcenter.org.

Missouri Department of Conservation Update — Andy Austin— Mr. Austin said flooding repair is taking place at trout parks and access should be open by Memorial Day. Roaring River Kids Fishing Day is still May 20 as scheduled. Other Kids Fishing Days have been cancelled and/or rescheduled. Hydrilla treatments are going well. There will be a public hydrilla training May 31 at the regional office from 10 a.m. to noon.

Regional Issues — Gail Melgren said Tri-State is working on a survey that will cover 16 counties inquiring about citizens’ views as water as a resource, including quantity and quality.

Other Business— none

Meeting adjourned 8:30 a.m.

Minutes taken by Kelly Guenther