

**Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Inc.**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**November 3, 2017**

**Midtown Carnegie Library**

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

**Agenda**

**Roll Call**

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

**Watershed Committee of the Ozarks Update:** Mr. Kromrey said WCO educational programs continue to grow and so does the habitat restoration at the Watershed Center.

**Springfield Community Gardens: building neighborhoods with sustainable integrated agriculture, Maile Auterson, Co-Founder, Springfield Community Gardens** — Ms. Auterson said the vision of Springfield Community Gardens (SCG) is to empower and strengthen neighborhoods, improve food culture, create a sense of place, build relationships and social capital and retain and attract families and businesses. SCG began in 2010 with the idea to build a neighborhood garden in the Grant Beach neighborhood. SCG programs include Seed Swaps, Bluegrass Festivals, Urban Sustainability Sessions and other related education and training. Ms. Auterson said SCG partnered with Springfield Public Schools to engage youth with gardening, including guest speaking, students taking field trips to SCG and community gardens on school property. The SCG has distributed over 177,000 pounds of fresh produce, valued at over \$300,000, to 10,816 individuals. She said SCG grows and sells food at the Market Garden at the Fairbanks and to local businesses. SCG also educate people how to grow and sell their own food, creating a local food system and a social enterprise for the neighborhood. Ms. Auterson said the land the gardens sit on used to be a hard, compacted surface. Now the land is more arable and best management practices such as rain barrels and berms were installed on the property. Moving forward she plans to support policies that strengthen the local food system and secure more land for gardens.

**Missouri Department of Natural Resources Update** — Randall Willoughby— Mr. Willoughby said the Department is pushing an initiative to help small communities 5,000 and under. He said DNR is working on updating the State Water Plan, the original was created in 1938. The Department is looking for input from citizens and stakeholders. Upcoming technical workgroups that are open to the public in Jefferson City will be held November 14-16. He suggested looking at the Water Protection Program page on the MoDNR website.

**Regional Issues** — Megan Terry said there is a new river gage at Wilson's Creek. Tim Smith said in the next thirty days the updated Flood Control and Water Quality Manual should be formally adopted. The Give Five Program is being started by the City focusing on volunteer opportunities for retired baby boomers.

**Other Business**— none

Meeting adjourned 8:30 a.m.

Minutes taken by Kelly Guenther