



Missouri
Department of
Natural Resources

WATER QUALITY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

DNR Conference Center
1738 E. Elm Street
Bennett Springs Conference Room
Jefferson City, Missouri

November 15, 2005
10:00 a.m.

MEETING AGENDA

Water Quality Futures: Watershed Planning for the Lower Meramec River,
Steve Nagle and Dave Wilson, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

Southwest Missouri Water Quality Project,
Betty Wyse, Environmental Resources Coalition

Other
'Dedicating a Decade' to Volunteer Water Monitoring

Agency Activities

Meetings & Conferences

MISSOURI WATER QUALITY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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MINUTES

Attendees:

Becky Shannon	DNR/WPP/Water Pollution Control Br.	Donna Menown	DNR/WPP/Water Pollution Control Br.
Buffy Santel	MSD	Candy Schilling	Environmental Resources Coalition
Ken Struempf	DNR/Soil & Water Conservation Pgm	Elaine Callaway	MO Dept. of Conservation
Gary Krizanich	USGS	Betsy Blake	MO Dept. of Conservation
Jack Dutra	JD Information Services, Inc./Syngenta	Priscilla Stotts	DNR/WPP/Water Pollution Control Br.
John Johnson	DNR/WPP/Water Pollution Control Br.	Mark Osborn	DNR/WPP/Water Pollution Control Br.
Anne Peery	DNR/WPP/Water Pollution Control Br.	Ann Crawford	DNR/WPP/Water Pollution Control Br.
David Wilson	East-West Gateway Council of Govts.	Mary Clark	DNR/WPP/Water Pollution Control Br.
Steve Nagle	East-West Gateway Council of Govts.	Betty Wyse	Environmental Resources Coalition
Bart Hawcroft	MO Dept. of Agriculture	Steve Mahfood	The Nature Conservancy
Gerald Feller	MO Assoc. of Municipal Utilities	Angel Kruzen	Water Sentinel
Bob Hentges	MO Assoc. of Municipal Utilities	Sarah Fast	DNR/Soil & Water Conservation Pgm
Gary Pendergrass	Springfield City Utilities	Bob Steiert	Little Blue River Watershed Coalition
John Waitman	Springfield Wastewater Operations	Miya Barr	USGS – MO Water Science Center
Tim Rielly	MO Dept. of Conservation	Darlene Schaben	DNR/WPP/Water Pollution Control Br.
Valerie Hentges	MO Dept. of Conservation	Trent Stober	MEC Water Resources

Introductions were made.

Water Quality Futures: Watershed Planning for the Lower Meramec River, Steve Nagle and Dave Wilson, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

Handout: PowerPoint Presentation; 2 brochures –

Steve said they are just finishing a water quality coordination grant from EPA to establish a framework for watershed planning for the Lower Meramec River Valley. Steve is the director of the Planning Department and Dave is the Division Planning Manager. The East-West Gateway Council is the metropolitan planning organization for the St. Louis bi-state area. They began in 1965 so they are celebrating a 40th anniversary. The Regional Water Resources Council was established using 604(b) funding in 2002. Through the council they could look at some priority water planning issues in the area. In 1978, they wrote a Water Quality Management Plan. Their role was established through Executive Order and through section 208 of the Clean Water Act. Since that funding is no longer available, they seek funding from other sources. The Water Resources Council is composed of municipal and county governments, state agencies, MSD, citizen organizations, RCGA, Coalition for the Environment, Homebuilders Association, and other collaborators. The Council's priorities include watershed planning, storm water Phase II, and flood plain development and protection. The Council worked with MSD to help write the Storm Water Phase II Management Plan. They are currently serving on the Planning and Zoning Committee to help implement this plan. Steve said they work with other counties to help them implement some of the storm water management practices. Department of Conservation, DNR and MSD worked in collaboration with the Council and created a 'toolbox' for watershed management and watershed planning. It can be found on their Web site and is also available from the collaborators.

The EPA grant assisted with work on the Lower Meramec River Valley and the three tributaries that feed into it that had been neglected in terms of planning. It encompasses Franklin, Jefferson, and St. Louis counties and includes Fox, Calvey, and LaBarque creeks. They are rural areas but are rapidly urbanizing. They completed the study of the Lower Meramec with the idea of building a framework for watershed planning. Of the three tribs, LaBarque Creek is the most pristine and under the most development. Jefferson County has agreed to fund the development of a watershed plan. Steve passed around a copy of the plan funded with the EPA grant. With DNR assistance they developed a brochure that was received positively.

Dave explained the work done in LaBarque Creek. He showed some pictures of the area involved. He said they focused on these streams because of the fish diversity and they are still healthy. Developers can develop anywhere and don't mind flattening out the steep slopes. They can see development coming and the challenge is how it can be managed in a way to protect water quality in the streams. Dave said they have been working with the City of Pacific to preserve the family farms within a seven-mile radius and see development happen in a sustainable way. He showed pictures of the St. Peters sandstone and the limestone formations in the St. Louis area that creates some really beautiful areas. Nature Conservancy has acquired land with rare and endangered plants.

Residents and landowners helped plan a watershed festival. They organized the Friends of LaBarque. Planning and visioning meetings were held with a lot of interest. Dave felt that watershed planning is really critical.

Dave said they plan to continue the Water Resources Council even though the grant has ended. Of course, they will still need funding. A Low Impact Development workshop was held this fall, which was designed to minimize the impact of water on any development. They received positive response from builders, developers, and local government. They would like to do another workshop in the spring. They have submitted a proposal for a watershed summit for the entire 220-mile Meramec River area. Steve said there are several groups who are working for the same cause. He felt it was time they came together to share their work with the entire watershed.

Their web address is ewgateway.org if anyone would like to view the toolbox.

'Dedicating a Decade' to Volunteer Water Monitoring, Priscilla Stotts, Stream Team Program

There are trained volunteer monitors that have been with the Stream Team program for 10 years or more. This is a success to celebrate! They have submitted and shared their data in a timely and regular manner. Since October 18 is World Water Monitoring Day, she felt this a great time to celebrate their success. This is unique and exciting. Priscilla read a quote from a Stream Team volunteer. She began October 1 presenting awards all over the state to other volunteers who have monitored for 10 years. There are presently 23 in total. Today, she presented awards to three that were in attendance--Mark Osborn, Bob Steiert, and Betsy Blake. Becky thanked them for all their work and dedication. Each mentioned the stream they monitor and talked about some of what they found in their monitoring.

Southwest Missouri Water Quality Project, Betty Wyse, Environmental Resources Coalition PowerPoint Presentation (Handout of presentation)

Betty said that several years ago, watershed managers in the southwest area began to feel pressure in their area from urbanization and development. There are four major active watershed groups that have been working in this area. They include the James River Basin Partnership, Table Rock Lake Water Quality Initiative, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, and the Upper White River Basin Foundation. These groups felt they

needed assistance because of the development from tourism, from retirement, and from growth in agricultural industries. They organized a Watershed Summit a few years ago. As a result of the Summit they came up with four concerns they felt needed to deal with in their watersheds. They approached their legislative and Congressional delegation with their recommendation. Senators Bond and Talent came through with assistance in 2004--\$10 million over five years with no match required. The money is just now becoming available for use. Betty began working on the project in May 2005.

Some of the goals include to protect water quality and maintain critical ecosystems; protect multi-billion dollar economic base generated by tourism, agriculture, and other industries in southwest Missouri; identify and address major water quality problems. Implement education and outreach, demonstrate effective water quality practices, and develop infrastructure. The project area includes the basins of James River, Table Rock, Upper White River, Elk River, Spring River, and Upper Sac River above Stockton Lake. This includes 14 counties. The Environmental Resources Coalition is the neutral party to administer the funding. An Advisory Committee includes the four original watershed groups plus the managers of two other watershed groups, Elk River Watershed Improvement Association and Shoal Creek Watershed Improvement Association.

Two of the project components are data gap analysis and implementation. Data has been collected over the years but it has not been analyzed. A contractor, Trent Stober from Midwest Environmental Consultants Water Resources, has been hired to work on the data gap analysis. Once the data has been analyzed, it will be housed at Missouri State University, Environmental and Water Resources Institute, under the direction of Dr. Robert Pavlowsky. Senator Talent set aside two years to develop the Institute. They will put the data into a manageable form, which they can then maintain and add to. Dr. Jack Jones, UMC, will make lake data available; Limno-Tech will work on any modeling as needed. Implementation is in the conceptual stage.

Watershed representatives met and decided that one-third of the funding would be spent on the Springfield-Branson Regional On-Site Wastewater Project (Watershed Committee of the Ozarks and Table Rock Lake Water Quality Initiative, Inc.) to work on septic systems to focus on *E. coli* contamination of springs and streams; one-third will go to two groups (James River Basin Partnership and Upper White River Basin Foundation) for a project called Innovative Conservation Design for Stormwater Management in the Ozarks looking at low-impact development and working with communities on ordinances that are counterproductive to the environment; and, the remaining one-third will go to the western flowing watersheds including Spring River and Elk River. The two groups, Shoal Creek Watershed Improvement Group and the Elk River Watershed Improvement Association, are run by volunteers. They decided to use a portion to hire a watershed coordinator. They will be looking at watershed plans to build some consensus for their area. The Shoal Creek and Elk River groups have asked to have a portion set aside for the Lower Shoal and remainder of the Spring River area for when they get representation.

Betty said most of the Southwest Missouri Water Quality Project is to be continued since they aren't that far along. Mostly agency staff are on the Technical Committee to review projects, like DNR, NRCS, USGS, EPA. Betty said she tried to find staff with technical expertise.

Agency Activities

Bob Hentges reminded the group that this is his last meeting. He introduced his boss, Gerald Feller. Gerald said they are searching for a replacement. It isn't an easy task. Becky thanked Bob for his involvement.

Priscilla Stotts said they are gearing up for their winter workshops.

Mark Osborn announced the Nutrient Criteria stakeholder meeting to be held on Nov. 22 at DNR Conference Center.

Bob Steiert reported that the Little Blue River Watershed Coalition was recognized at Bridging the Gap. They received an Environmental Excellence Award for helping on the Blue River Relief cleanup for 15 years. They have also participated on several ordinance workgroups.

Steve Nagel mentioned that the Low-Impact Development (LID) workshop has been very successful over the last five years and attended by engineers, consultants, and homebuilders. They have been putting together a Water Symposium. They plan to have a two-day LID workshop as part of the Earth Day Symposium in 2006. They are waiting to receive 604(b) funding for planning on the Meramec Watershed.

Dave Wilson said that Kansas City had about 100 people attend the LID workshop. He said there is a disconnect between local ordinances and regulations and implementation of new technologies. They are looking at putting together a mobile workshop that would meet with county planners and local builders to discuss barriers and how to move forward to change regulations. He said MSD is looking at their regulations to allow for LID as an alternative for managing storm water.

John Johnson attended a Bonne Femme meeting. He said the meeting was to give citizens an opportunity to discuss and get familiar with the assessment analysis completed in the watershed. They are working on a land use plan and a watershed management plan. John said it was a very good meeting with several citizens in attendance. Mark Osborn also attended.

The next meeting is Nov. 30 at the Tiger Hotel, Columbia, at 7:00 p.m., which will be a panel debate discussion to focus on recommendations from the assessment.

Trent Stober mentioned they are working on an LID project in Columbia. The street and sidewalk ordinances and pedways fall right in with LID, which has proved challenging. Becky suggested Terry Frueh maybe could do a presentation for the WQCC after the November 30 meeting.

John then mentioned other LID projects funded with section 319 grants that are going on around the state. There should be some good models soon.

Gary Krizanich said that USGS and Ozarks Environmental & Water Resources Institute finalized language for a MOU to foster cooperation and collaboration on environmental issues in the southwest part of Missouri. Tentative signing is scheduled for December 16 at the Corps of Governor's meeting.

Trent Stober asked the status of the 303(d) list. Becky said there is nothing definitive yet.

Donna Menown mentioned that the DNR web addresses will be changing since the division name was changed.

Becky Shannon announced that the December WQCC meeting is cancelled. She also mentioned that the water permit fees meeting originally scheduled for Nov. 17 has been changed to Nov. 29 at 1:30 – 5:00 at the DNR Conference Center.

There are meetings going on around the state this week discussing water quality standards dealing with disinfection and how they will effect wastewater treatment plants and how to comply.