

Meeting Minutes Steering Committee Meeting

November 18, 2014 3:00-4:30

3:00 Call to Order and Introduction (Dr. Rick Scott)

- Introductions were made around the room; Clorissa Prince came for the first time!

3:06 EPA Meeting (Dr. Rick Scott)

- Went to Dallas TX ó reception was very good and some people think this project is a good model
- What we did - talked about Wetland Mitigation Plan, TAC, developing public outreach, renewing EPA Grant (which now happens every two years)
- Bill commented EPA had their wetland chief there, other head people, and Richard. We brought our owní Jim Nairy, Rick Scott, Chuck Campbell, Greg Philips, and Bill Richardson
- Jim commented ó the meeting went better than we could have hoped, they were completely enthralled, they said they had never seen project with as much heart
- Jim continued ó Looking for a person to hire for City of Maumelle for the White Oak Bayou ó person should have wetland experience, grant writing, and be GIS capable, city would pay 20% and the rest by the grant; the cityø goal is to have a map that will outline what type of wetland is where and what type of impact construction would have

3:18 Ongoing Plan Development: Wetland Mitigation Plan (Bill)

- Idea is so wetlands with higher quality are protected, easiest way is a bank. With a bank, someone who owns land can get credit. ANRC has authority to establish a bank. As soon as we get that approved, we can go to landowners and compensate them for an easement and protect wetlands or outright purchase of property..
- The question is where do we start protecting from? A draft prospectus has been sent to Arkansas Natural Resource Commission; after their review, ANRC sends it to USACE, USCAE looks at it, send out to the public for review, comments come back , then USACE issues permit
- Rick Scott Question - timeline for plan? Bill responded - probably 6 months to a year

3:25 Ongoing Plan Development: General Permit (Bill)

- The USACE general permit will make the permit process easier for projects with smaller impacts or projects impacting lesser important wetland. Permit timeline should be greatly reduced.
- We need all these òtoolsö in place that will let us move forward

3:30 Future Involvement: White Oak Bayou Volunteer Group (Bill)

- We have gone to Expo/Arbor Day/other events to engage the public. We have had great responses. This group will be formed from those people. We were going to have a non-profit but that can get enormously complicated. They can be great tools, but in the end they are run by

its board. Future board members could have agendas not in accordance with the original goal. It's a risk.

- Thus, need a volunteer group and the City of Maumelle's WOB coordinator.
- Many of these volunteers cannot meet during the day, so meetings will be held in the evening. We need to get on the phone and get these people engaged.

3:35 Future Involvement: Water Trail (Emily)

- We are putting together a water trail in the Bayou. I called Game & Fish (Kirsten Bartlow) to see how to proceed. There are requirements to meet to make an official water trail and Game & Fish can provide assistance.
- Kirsten said that Burns Park has a grant and is creating a White Oak Bayou Water Trail. She gave me different people to contact to start the process.
- Went out in the field and mapped possible sections in the white oak bayou. At the end of Carnahan Road, the city of Maumelle owns to the south and the Pulaski County Special School District owns to the north. This area could provide public access (one of the requirements for a water trail). This is one possible entrance. Look at map for further entrance/options and areas where we explored
- Meeting with Bert Turner tomorrow, AR Master Naturalist and leading Burns Park Water Trail, to help move forward with plans and ask questions
- Hopefully, by next spring we can have an organized water trail trip.

3:44 Future Involvement: Hiking Trail Expansion (Bill)

- Public access at the end of Carnahan rd. maybe can plan a Maumelle Wetland Park. Jim Nairy said, this would be great if schools could get to it
- Look at Hiking Trail Map. Blue line = existing trail Red line = proposed trail
- Middle school asked for a board walk. This would be a good opportunity for volunteer group.
- Questions from Rick: Could the current EPA grant money be used for the trail? Bill Responded: No, because the EPA grant is only supposed to be used for Wetland Program Development. Other grant programs can fund trails.

3:50 Future Involvement: Cleanup day at Middle School (Emily)

- Contacted Candy Riggan about helping with the trail behind middle school.
- Candy said they will select a day and let us know (probable beginning of Dec). They have four trees down in path and will need chainsaws.
- Candy went on to say that last year the kids had no idea what a wetland was and now it was their biggest interest! They are doing many different projects such as water sampling, giving presentation about animals depending on wetlands for habitat and survival, etc

3:55 Future Involvement: Signs for Hiking and Water Trail (Bill)

- This will be part of public outreach
- An example of signs like on the King Fisher Trail at Pinnacle State Park
- Rick Questions: What type of material for sign? Some type of metal with laser etching ó need to research other possibilities out there; where would signs be placed? Informational signs along hiking trail but the water trail will need navigational signs

4:00 Future Involvement: Website Training (Emily)

- UALR, Kelly Green, set up WOB website. Scott managed site but now he is leaving. I was trained last week to update, upload, or remove items from website.
- This could be taken over by volunteer group or the future hire at City of Maumelle

4:05 Future Involvement: New Work Plan Revisions (Bill)

- Mitigation bank requires quite a bit of documentation of current land
- Several people interested in hearing what we can do for them. Now we need to get out in field and evaluate their wetlands.
- Wetland Mitigation Plan Draft will be complete in the next 6 months

4:12 More Discussions

- GBMc & Associates is buying out Wetlands Consultant Inc. Bill Richardson and his wife are looking to retire soon. White Oak Bayou EPA Grant that is with the City of Maumelle and contracted to Wetland Consultants Inc. (Bill) will turn over to GBMc & Associates after the first of the year. Bill Richardson will still be working with GBMc.
- Strategic Meeting on December 9th at the Holiday Inn in Maumelle

4:15 Set Next Meeting Date

- First of the year 2015. Contact people through email