

Meeting Minutes for Steering Committee Meeting

September 9, 2015 3:00-4:30

3:05 Call to Order and Introduction (Dr. Rick Scott)

- Introduction were made around the room

3:10 Status of Project (Greg Phillips)

- Float Trip
 - First annual float trip occurred on 5-23-15, around 20 people came to both the 9 and 12 o'clock trips, showed pictures
- Presentation at AWRC Conference
 - Arkansas Water Resources Center Conference, AWRC, located at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, is in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the National Institute for Water Resources (NIWR), has helped local, state and federal agencies learn to manage Arkansas' water resources for more than 30 years.
 - AWRC hosts a yearly conference. This is a platform where agencies/universities give presentations about their current projects.
 - Presentation about White Oak Bayou Management in an Urbanizing Watershed, also talked about current storm water treatment (such as detention) already in place in Maumelle
- Wetland Priority Mapping
 - Have two draft wetland priority maps, that place wetlands in High, Low, or Medium Priority
 - Used different classifications system for each map such as: HGM Classification, Geographic location, reproducibility, contiguity, diversity, etc.
 - Technical Advisory Committee is currently reviewing and going through maps right now
 - Question from Dr. Scott, "How long lasting will these maps be? I understand that wetlands change over time..." Part of the General Permit will be the classification system of the wetland priority map. Hopefully, a person with technical knowledge of wetland will be able to use those guidelines/classification system to further prioritize wetlands that will be found, modified, etc..
 - Question from Eric Holloway, "Are there any methods in place to get you guys the information when other consultants or firms that delineate wetlands and find those wetland boundaries? Discussed that maybe Corps could help with this aspect
- General Permit
 - Continue to make progress towards creation of a General Permit in WOB
 - Simplify permitting in eligible wetlands and will help to cut down on permitting time.
 - Mitigation credit requirements have been discussed in the past as using a 7:1 ratio for WOB, now USACE is leaning towards using the Charleston Method. This is a good thing because it will allow us to be on the same playing fields as other areas that the Little

Rock District covers. Also, will be easier for watersheds outside of WOB Watershed to buy wetland credits from within the WOB Watershed

- Mitigation Bank
 - Development of a Mitigation Bank or In Lieu Fee Program teaming with the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission.
 - Many landowners already interested in participating with their wetlands
 - A type of mitigation bank that has been discussed is an umbrella bank - start bank with wetland that form the umbrella structure then can add new wetlands under the umbrella's funds are raised through bank credit sales
 - With the mitigation bank, the wetlands areas that will be part of bank will be protected.
 - Whichever method Arkansas Natural Resources Commission chooses, it will be used as a protection tool
- UCA project/data collection underway
 - Currently have a student collecting data in the WOB. She is focusing her interest at the confluence of main tributaries doing flow gauging, water quality/biological, and HGM assessments
- Mission Statement
 - Important to remember that this SCM helps to steer and give public opinion on the WMP that will influence the environmental, economic, and social values of interested and affected groups in the WOB watershed.

4:00 Feedback on Wetland Management Draft (Greg Phillips)

- Question from Dr. Scott, "What kind of feedback do you want?" Feedback on if there might be something in the outline that you guys feel we are missing, left out.
- Suggestion was put forth that maybe once the WMP Draft is completed and ready for public viewing, then SCM could have an advanced review opportunity.
- Before next meeting, email out WMP Draft and give people time to review and comment.
- At next meeting, could discuss SCM comments and questions

4:20 Raffle (Emily Edwards)

- Two pocket naturalist guides were given out to Dr. Scott and David White