

## Meeting Minutes for Steering Committee Meeting

April 1, 2015 3:00-4:30

### 3:10 Call to Order and Introduction (Dr. Rick Scott)

- Introductions were made around the room

### 3:18 Wetland Management Plan Internal Draft and Table of Contents (Bill Richardson)

- Outline or table of contents (TOC) was put together by Scott Owens. It has been developed and fine-tuned. Some sections will not have specifics at this time. For example, some wetland management plans have specific wetland ordinances but none are proposed for WOB at this time.
- Working on general permit specific to WOB that will shorten the processing time for permits for most projects that have limited impacts.
- Trying to put together a mitigation bank, the banker enhances/restores wetland areas then sells credits. The funds made from credit sales would go to purchase more wetlands. Maumelle currently owns 640 acres of wetlands
- 3:35 Rick Scott question - Is there anything you want to put out there? Does anyone have questions about TOC?
- Funkhouser raised question about why the flooding concern was not in the goals and objectives section. He goes on to say the Marche area, where he lives, flooding is getting worse every year because of Maumelle filling in areas of wetland. More houses and Marche rd. are flooded more every year. Bill answers – his personal observation is that beavers are the biggest problems than the filling of the wetlands that are compensated by mitigation. Eric Holloway - said that he has noticed some box culverts blocked by debris that are overflowing in Marche. These boxes are supposed to help with the flooding however they were designed many years ago and may be undersized. Should someone talk to AHTD planning department about maybe updating the boxes? Marion Scott - jumped in saying that a good thing about this project is the mapping of wetlands of Maumelle. That way we will have a record of what wetlands we have now and overtime will be able to see the impact. Greg Phillips (of GBM<sup>c</sup>) – another point is that in the last five years AR has had an unusually high number of high intensity rainfall events.
- 3:52 Rick Scott question – is there any way we could address the flooding problem with the management plan? Bill- we would want to map beaver dams along Bayou to see where they are... Greg – flood management is beyond the scope of this project. This is a wetland management plan. That is not to say wetlands do not have some functions that help prevent flooding, they do, but that is not our main concern for this plan. Our main concern is protecting the priority wetlands while considering development in Maumelle.

### 4:00 Volunteer Group Activities (Rick Scott)

- Some Volunteer Group activities are linked with the Maumelle Middle school. 8 or 9 volunteers met last night, Dave Schroeder met with Maumelle High School and realized that kids have

excitement about trail building but lack the guidance. They had plans on paper for the trail but had not actually been to the site and scoped the land.

- Discussed coordination issues with the Maumelle Middle School. The desire and energy is out ahead of where coordination efforts are, when the WOB position in the City of Maumelle has been filled this will help with the coordination. Marion question – When will the position be filled? Jim Narey answered- We need money in order to hire person, there is money for a while in the current grant but we still have not been granted the next grant that will fund position for the following years. The EPA now awards money every two years.
- Rick Scott – another coordination issue with the High School is the conflict with the principal. Principal may not see the value and potential in teaching students about wetlands. Consultant can help with this coordination. Brad Phillips – Does Maumelle have a 4H program? This program could help with the principal. 4H has programs that gets kids outdoors...Rick – I think also launching the middle school trail will help. Bill contributed – We provided the middle school with cameras, water test kits, deer feeders, and maps. We could provide the High School with equipment as well. Jim Narey commented- let's go talk to principal. Bill, Marion, and Rick agreed to plan a meeting.

#### 4:25 Website Updates (Emily Edwards)

- The website has been updated. The Steering Committee Meeting Minutes, Cypress Knee Newsletter, Contact Info, Pictures, article in MauMag in News and Events are all posted...Rick Scott- holds up MauMag and shows the article about the White Oak Bayou that Marion Scott wrote (Way to go!). There are some gaps in the website (meeting minutes 2012 and 2013) that need to be filled. GBM<sup>c</sup> (Emily) will try to fill in those gaps. Once website is fully updated we can send link out to the public. Marion – we could send link to MCA website, Maumag, send with Chamber email, Maumelle's electronic newsletter. With this announcement we can schedule a walk through some of the wetlands. Someone needs to write a couple paragraphs for the MCA. Emily- I can do that.

#### 4:35 Adjourn (Rick Scott)