

White Oak Bayou Steering Committee

Minutes for October 25th, 2010

Call to order

- Chairman Rick Scott started the meeting
- Notification on the grant application to EPA has not yet been received. Other agencies have not yet heard either so it appears the announcements are delayed this year as compared to last year.
- A new Steering Committee member was in attendance. Charles Cullen with the city of North Little Rock will be replacing Ed Chapman who will be retiring.

UCA Practicum update

- Several UCA students were present to discuss projects being conducted within the watershed as part of their Environmental Practicum course.

Oral History update

Dr. Phil Frana gave an update on the on the oral history project. Joe Gubanski has shown him around the Marche area and helped him track down resident interviews from 25 years ago. Mayor Watson commented on the Pryor Center for oral and visual history that University of Arkansas is working on.

Arbor Day Fair reminder

A discussion was held with Sara commenting on materials that would be made available such as newsletters, WOB surveys, etc. A wetland tour will be scheduled for that afternoon.

Maumelle website discussion

Sara gave a reminder of the updated website that now has the White Oak Bayou information on its own page and is easier to find from the Planning and Zoning page. A request was made to include a short bio for each Steering Committee member.

Society of Wetland Scientists meeting

An update was given on the chapter meeting for SWS in Oxford, MS which Scott and Sara attended. A poster was prepared for the meeting and available at the SC meeting for members to view. A brief description of the meeting was given, and it was noted that next year's SWS chapter meeting is slated to be held in Little Rock.

First Public Forum

Ideas for formatting the forum were presented. It was suggested that the first ½ hour consist of an informational presentation of the project followed by an open house format for the remainder of the forum.

Much discussion was given to the White Oak Bayou survey format, including:

- How to present the map for collecting spatial data in an online format
- Administering to a small number of people initially to test the survey
- Adding more geographic features/roads to the map to make it easier for participants to note where they live
- Using a grid system to add in locations on the map

- Having the SC take the survey as a first run
- Presenting to the Lions Club and allowing them the opportunity to take the survey
- Methods of getting the survey online (Chairman Scott and Dr. Frana of UCA are working on this and will collaborate with the city of Maumelle and UALR who provides technical support to the city)
- Barbara Miller mentioned the potential option of typing in a zip code to find a location as is done with the "find your watershed tool" for the Arkansas Watershed Information System.
- A possible tie in to the Maumelle - All About Town facebook page (not managed by the city)

It was initially the goal to have the first public forum this year. However, based on the delay in notification for the EPA grant and conflict of schedules, it was decided to shoot for the first part of next year for the first forum.

UCA Environmental Practicum presentations

The UCA students will be presenting their findings on December 13th or 15th, e-mail confirmation will be sent out when the final date, time, and location are known.

Next Meeting

The next Steering Committee meeting will be on December 6th at 3:00 in the Maumelle Water Management Training Facility.

Meeting Adjourned