

White Oak Bayou Steering Committee

Minutes for December 6th, 2010

Call to order

- Chairman Rick Scott started the meeting
- David Dekay, a new Steering Committee member, was in attendance

Grant application update

Jim Narey, Planning Director for the City of Maumelle, that he had received an award letter from EPA Region 6 stating that funding would continue for the project in the amount of \$277,955.00. A copy of the award letter was distributed to members of the SC present at the meeting. The requested timeline for the grant will be two years and will be to draft the Wetland Management Plan document.

A technical staff from EPA Region 6 have referred to the project as the most progressive in the region. A meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2011 to meet with EPA upper management in Dallas to discuss the project. By request, Jim explained how the financial structure of the grant works with respect to fund distribution.

UCA Practicum / final presentations

- The student group conducting herpetological work discussed their project and it was noted that the final presentations of the student groups will be given on Wednesday December 15th at 8:00am.

Arbor Day Fair update

A brief recap was given and it was noted that although the turnout was rather small, discussions were held with several people regarding the project. This lead to one new recruit to the Technical Advisory Committee from the Arkansas Forestry Commission. Also some interesting notes on surface water levels in the upper part of the bayou were discussed with a local resident. Five wetland surveys were completed by attendees of the event. Unfortunately the wetland tour was postponed due to limited interest by attendees.

Online survey update

The survey is now online and seven people had taken it at last check. It was noted that the survey cannot be taken more than once due to recognition of the IP address. This is good in the sense that it limits the ability of one person to weight the survey. However, it would be good to incorporate an error message box stating such. All responses will be dumped into a database and data will be available for export as an Microsoft® Excel file. A link will be posted on the city's website. Discussions were held on getting individuals or groups to take the survey. Suggestions included the Arkansas Watershed Advisory Group, Maumelle Citizens Association, adding a line to the Mayor of Maumelle's comments that periodically go out with city bills, and possibly adding it to North Little Rock and Pulaski County's websites.

The timeline for taking the survey was discussed. Chairman Scott suggested forming a subset of the Steering Committee to work on the online survey. David Dekay volunteered to be part of the sub-committee which will include Chairman Scott, Dr. Frana, and Sara Owen.

Marche Oral History update

Dr. Phil Frana gave an update on the on the oral history project. Joe Gubanski has assisted Phil with setting up interviews with himself and three other men in the community and they are hoping to also interview some women. They have collected old newspapers, photographs, tapes, etc. documenting history of the area. Phil will be transcribing the tapes to CD and archiving at UCA. Mr. Gubanski had also located some tapes from 1978 which included audio of his parents. Dr. Frana stated that he will be able to improve the audio of the older formats by transcribing them to new storage media.

It was suggested that some public outreach may aid in getting other individuals interested in providing input. Dr. Frana noted that an entry on the project would be added to the Little Rock Renaissance Wiki at: http://honors.uca.edu/wiki/index.php/Main_Page

SC Member input on Wetland Management Plan components

Sara Owen presented the importance in the coming year for SC members to speak up and be heard about what they felt would be important components to be addressed by the WMP. An initial brainstorming list was created by SC members in attendance. The list will be reviewed and an e-mail sent out requesting everyone to provide input prior to the next SC meeting.

Recap of 2010

A list of accomplishments to date was read to the SC. The list will be e-mailed to the SC along with the minutes.

Next Meeting

The next Steering Committee meeting will be on February 7th at 3:00. This will likely be at the Maumelle Water Management Training Facility.

Meeting Adjourned