

White Oak Bayou Steering Committee

Minutes for May 17, 2010

Call to order

- Chairman Rick Scott started the meeting
- New members in attendance at the meeting were Mr. and Mrs. Earl Jackson who own property within the watershed

Recap of project timeline

- Scott Owen discussed the current, next, and following years goals

Current year:

- assemble TAC and conduct HGM assessments
- refine GIS and wetland boundaries, incorporate HGM, create maps
- assemble Steering Committee, formulate goals/objectives, develop methods for public involvement and education

Next year:

- additional assessment work
- review findings of TAC
- categorize wetlands
- identify management tools
- continue public education

Following year/years:

- write management plan
- continue education/outreach
- implementation of regulations

Rick Scott asked about the potential of a land trust option and some discussion was held regarding the Ozark Regional Land Trust.

Barbara Miller mentioned Sarah DeVries with DEQ being the watershed coordinator and may be a good contact for developing a watershed council.

The meeting moved to discussing the objectives list for the project that had been e-mailed to the Steering Committee. The list included the addition of comments made by committee members since the last meeting.

Objectives item #1: Describe and advertise to the general public the purpose of the project

Chairman Scott discussed the need for good output to the public so that they understood the nature of the project prior to collecting input them.

Rick Scott discussed the appeal of the natural surroundings of Maumelle and the importance of public awareness so that affected property owners won't be caught unaware during implementation of the Wetland Management Plan.

Discussion of ideas for output to the general public:

- article in the Maumelle Monitor/NLR Times, AR Democrat Gazette, and/or MauMag magazine (one option discussed was to involve a journalism student)
- a brief note in the City of Maumelle's quarterly mailing providing a link to White Oak Bayou information on the city's website
- setting up a Facebook page
- informational kiosk
- a meeting with the Maumelle's Citizen Association to discuss the project
- local news stations
- church bulletin inserts
- Lions Club pancake breakfast

Discussion of ideas for reaching kids:

- Jim Narey gave a synopsis on how he saw the project proceeding and commented that one of the best ways to reach adults would be through educational activities for their children

Ideas from the committee included:

- summer reading program at libraries
- DEQ programs

Before discussion of input from the public it was decided to run through the other proposed objectives for the project. A quick run through of the other objectives was conducted to see if there were additional comments, changes, etc. No major changes were made to the additional objectives.

Prior to moving on to Objective item #2, it was agreed to go through the remaining list of objectives to verify that the committee had no further questions of clarification or comments regarding those objectives. Scott Owen noted that he had inadvertently left one of the later objectives and that it would be added to the list and re-submitted via e-mail.

Objective item #3: Determine other important environmental issues affecting the watershed

- currently being addressed by the TAC and will include additional "windshield" and field surveys of the watershed to note any issues of concern
- input from the public may play a role as well

Objective item #4: Identify, classify, assess, and map wetlands

- currently being addressed by the HGM work being conducted by the TAC, an HGM data collection training day is scheduled for May 24, 2010

Objective item #5: Rank wetlands based on social, economic, and ecological importance

- this will be addressed later on in the project (next year)

Objective item #6: Build educational curricula and materials for the general public

- this refers to the implementation phase of the project and will occur after completion of the management plan

Objective #7: Develop guidelines for use of wetlands

-this was inadvertently left off of the list e-mailed to the Steering Committee and takes into account items addressed under Objective #5 and then considers usage options such as trails, education, development, etc.

Objective #8: Develop regulatory legislation, ordinances, and other management tools

-these are the tools that will be used to implement Objective #7

Objectives item #2: Gain feedback from interested parties and the general public about the mission of the project

Discussion of ideas for input from the general public:

- some type of survey
- comment cards
- the idea of reaching not only those that are directly affected but also finding effective ways to reach members of the public that may not be directly affected

Some discussion was held regarding a historical and cultural survey of the watershed.

- Chairman Scott asked if there would be interest by the committee in pursuing an oral history of the watershed. This led to discussion regarding a historical and cultural survey of the area.
- Bill Richardson commented that this would be a good idea and could be tied in to some of the HGM work as well
- Rick Scott stated he has a couple of books on history of the area
- Chairman Scott asked if anyone knew if any oral interviews had been conducted
- Joseph Gubanski mentioned a survey that had been at his church in the past but was not sure if the records were still available. However, they may be located at a church in Fort Smith
- Chairman Scott discussed a "wiki" (informational website that can be edited by members of an interested group) approach to preserve information such as old photographs, documents, etc.
- Barbara Miller mentioned early commercial fisherman being good sources of information
- Joseph Gubanski and Robert Holloway mentioned an early lumber company as well

Following discussion of the project objectives, several tasks were laid out for the committee:

- 1) Chairman Scott will look into having an oral history conducted
- 2) Marion Scott will talk to the editor of MauMag about an article submission
- 3) Contact the editor of the Maumelle Monitor / North Little Rock Times about an article submission
- 4) Rosemary Rodibaugh will look into setting up a meeting with the Maumelle Citizen's Association
- 5) Scott and Sara Owen will follow up to see if the meeting room is available for the **next proposed Steering Committee meeting on June 14th at 3:00.**

Meeting Adjourned