

White Oak Bayou Steering Committee

Minutes for July 20th, 2010

Call to order

- Chairman Rick Scott started the meeting
- Dr. Phil Frana, who is will be heading up the oral history project, was introduced.
- other new attendees were John Turner and Debby Davis with ANRC

6 month project update and timeline

Status of the work components for the current grant and the timeline for the next two years was discussed. Also discussed was the recently submitted grant application and that Maumelle should hear on whether EPA will continue funding for the project by the end of August 2010.

Allyn Fuell - UCA graduate student research

Allyn was unable to attend, but will be penciled in for a future meeting.

UCA student survey

Sara Owen opened up discussion of a UCA student survey that would be part of an environmental practicum class for UCA undergraduates that will focus on the White Oak Bayou watershed. In addition to some students gathering biological data, there will also be a group of 3 to 4 students conducting surveys to gauge public knowledge about wetlands. Discussions regarding surveys included:

- Comparing results with people that live near and away from the bayou
- Methods of distribution in addition to students (e.g. city mailings, newspaper stuffer, sending flyers home with students, drop off locations, interactive web survey)
- Determining how information will be used ahead of time to aid in formulating questions
- How do property owners know if they have wetlands?
- A checklist approach was discussed

An e-mail to work on structuring the purpose will be sent out to the committee and those results will be forwarded to the students.

One other issue of note that came up was how to address private ownership of land with wetlands. This will be an important topic as we move through the process.

Status of 5 Steering Committee goals for 2010

- 1) Mission Statement (completed)
- 2) public outreach to gather input (some information distribution completed)

Other ideas were discussed:

- Presentations followed by field trips
- Landscape fair or environmental/wetland fair with booths
- Arbor Day fair
- Team up with other agency events
- Reach out to specific groups (e.g. Maumelle Tree Board, Arbor Day Foundation)
- Create a page on Maumelle's website just for White Oak Bayou project

There was also discussion of the potential for a web-based forum on the City's website, but this may be prohibitive due to limited manpower and cost. Chairman Scott discussed the possibility of having something available at UCA.

There was also discussion of better distribution for the Cypress Knee newsletter. It would be good to make it available on the North Little Rock and Pulaski County websites. It might also be good to contact the Chamber of Commerce to see if they could provide information on where to view the newsletter with their mailings.

3) develop educational goals - (not completed)

Tie in with oral history project and other outreach programs and agency programs (e.g. Project Wet and Wild). There was discussion of the Marche community carnival to be held in September and that this could be a good starting point for the oral history project and also to talk to residents about wetlands.

4) identify other user groups or participants (not completed)

Discussion on creating regional land trust, mitigation bank, etc.

5) Secure additional funding (grant application submitted)

EPA Wetland Development Grant proposal was submitted and should hear back by the end of August.

Environmental Law Institute National Wetlands Newsletter

Scott Owen read the text regarding the project that was published in the newsletter.

Questions from the Steering Committee needing clarification

Future meetings will discuss wetland delineation/permitting. Scott will send out an e-mail to request any other topics needing clarification.

Logo Contest

Logo #10 was chosen as the winner. Sara will work on ideas to tweak the design and have the committee look at it. She will follow up with the middle school art teacher and the student to polish it up for us.

Next Meeting

The next proposed Steering Committee meeting will be on September 13th at 3:00.

Meeting Adjourned