

Minutes / Meeting Summary

Date: 10-20-15

Time: 1:30 pm

Location: Shelbina, MO

American Legion Hall

Type: Our Missouri Waters, North Fork Salt River Watershed Initial Public Meeting

The meeting was opened at approximately 1:35 pm.

Attendees totaled 55.

Robin Simpson, Executive Director of the Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments, provided the welcome and opening remarks. Robin explained that this was a collaborative effort between the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments and the Northeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission. Bryan Nichols from the office of Congressman Sam Graves was recognized.

Alan Winders, Planner with the Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments, explained that this effort was not an effort to introduce or promote additional regulations. Further, that the Healthy Watershed Planning effort was about collaboration, cooperation and partnership.

All in attendance were asked to stand, give their name and their organization.

Three index cards were distributed to each person in attendance with instruction to write down any word, phrase or sentence that comes to mind when they think of the North Fork Salt River Watershed. The cards were collected at the end of the meeting.

Mary Culler, Environmental Specialist, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, made a presentation covering basic information about the North Fork Salt River Watershed. Additionally, Mary explained the elements to be included in the Healthy Watershed Plan and stressed the need for input and partnerships.

Bob Broz, State Water Quality Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, presented information about watersheds in general, and the planning process.

Alan Winders opened the floor for comments and questions, specifically asking if attendees were willing to share what they had written on the index cards. Several comments followed and are highlighted here.

- There was the question of what water quality data has been collected in the watershed. Mary Culler responded that there has been quite a bit of data collected, and that the Army Corps of Engineers probably has the longest data set for Mark Twain Lake. Mary said that many of the projects have sampling for a few years for a certain stream or type of project (such as pesticide sampling for several years, or the Conservation Department sampling fish tissue), but the data set does not have a lot of long term data over time.
- For the CCWWC, chemicals and nutrients along with their impacts, create a great deal of cost in treatment. Additionally, sediment and turbidity are an issue. The water for treatment comes from a moving channel, not a stagnant lake.
- Has there been a general increase or decrease in atrazine seen in treatment? Have the practices which have changed, benefitted the atrazine levels?
- Price of corn will have an impact.
- Is grant money available for sampling and can the data be used against us?
 - Funding might be available and the funding source would have influence on how the data is used.
- There must be a balance between water treatment needs and agricultural production needs. There are costs on both sides.

- A tour of the CCWWC facility would be appreciated. A meeting could be held there for the Watershed advisory committee.
- Monitoring needs to be a part of any grant to see the impacts of the efforts.
- Grass buffers are important and there are conservation incentives which should be publicized, which will help drinking water costs and farmers as well.
- Incentives must be provided so farmers can work with us.
- When a city's watershed for its lake was converted from grass to crop, it made a big difference on water quality downstream.
- What are the sediment issues with regard to the life of the lake? Previous estimates are inaccurate.
- How does our watershed compare to urban watersheds as it relates to costs of water treatment?
- Army Corp could do a presentation regarding sedimentation in the lake at an advisory committee meeting.

Alan Winders and Mary Culler distributed a survey and request it be completed.

Alan explained that a watershed committee would be formed and that if attendees were interested, they should indicate such on the survey. Additionally, it was pointed out that there likely be 4 or 5 more meetings and the next one was likely November 17th with the time and place to be determined.

Jennifer Hoggatt, State Coordinator for the Our Missouri Waters Program, explained briefly the importance of feedback during this process and to enable the program to work for the people of the watershed.

Mary explained that there were several documents available for people to take with them including the State of Our Waters brochure for the North Fork Salt River Watershed, a map of the watershed, two fliers about the journey of drinking water and the watershed.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15 pm.