

Minutes/Meeting Summary

Date: February 21, 2017

Time: 1:30 pm

Location: Madison Community Center – Madison, MO.

Type: Our Missouri Waters, South Fork Salt River Watershed Initial Planning Meeting

The meeting was opened at approximately 1:30 pm.

Attendees totaled 16

Cindy Hultz, Executive Director of the Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments provided the welcome and opening remarks. Cindy explained that this is a collaborative effort between the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments.

Dustin Wasson, Community Planner with the Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments presented a power point explaining what this effort is and what it is not. Dustin stated this effort is not about new or current regulation. Dustin gave an introduction to the Our Missouri Waters program and the Salt River South Fork Watershed. He further explained that a committee of 16 volunteers is needed to help develop the strategy for the watershed.

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Dustin explained that attendee participation would be vital later in the meeting. Attendees were provided an index card and asked to write down a word, phrase or sentence that comes to mind when they think of the South Fork Salt River Watershed.

Mary Culler, Environmental Specialist with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, presented basic information regarding the South Fork Salt River Watershed. Additionally, Mary explained the elements to be included in the Healthy Watershed Strategy and stressed the need for input and partnerships.

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

Dustin asked that attendees fill out their index cards and to answer the questions on each poster by placing a dot next to the answer they thought best answered the question. An explanation was provided for each poster question and the answers were shared. Below is a list of the questions and the answers received.

How do you view the rivers, streams, and lakes in your community?

- a.) A place to recreate **4**
- b.) An asset to our community **6**
- c.) Places to avoid
- d.) A cause of problems for the area **1**

The quality of water in rivers, streams and lakes in your area is?

- a.) Staying the same **6**
- b.) Getting better **4**
- c.) Getting worse
- d.) Don't know/no opinion **1**

Which of these do you think are causing the most water quality problems in the watershed?

- a.) Trash and litter
- b.) Grass clippings and leaves
- c.) Household hazardous waste
- d.) Automotive fluids
- e.) Street & roadway chemicals
- f.) Animal waste (wildlife, pet or livestock)
- g.) Sediment from erosion **11**
- h.) Fertilizers and pesticides

Which of these do you think is the largest problem in this watershed?

- a.) Erosion **10**
- b.) Poor water quality from waste, nutrients or chemicals **1**
- c.) Flooding damage to property/street flooding

Several comments followed the posters and reading of the index cards and are highlighted here.

- With new land coming into production, erosion control is a top priority.
- Stream bank erosion.
- Keeping Mark Twain Lake a viable source for drinking water.
- Farmers need to use more cover crops to help stop erosion of fields.

Attendees shared their index cards with the group and a discussion took place regarding the overall health of the watershed.

Dustin explained that a watershed committee would be formed and if attendees were interested, they should indicate such on the survey. Additionally, it was pointed out that there would be five additional meetings over the next several months, with the next meeting tentatively scheduled for March 28th with a location to be announced.

Jennifer Hoggatt, State Coordinator for the Our Missouri Waters Program briefly explained the importance of feedback during the creation of the Healthy Watershed Strategy for the South Fork Salt River Watershed.

Dustin and Mary distributed surveys to the attendees. Attendees were asked to fill out the survey and indicate if they would be willing to serve on the committee.

Mary explained that there were several documents available for people to take with them including the State of Our Waters brochure for the South Fork Salt River watershed and a map of the watershed.

Dustin thanked those in attendance and reminded them a second initial meeting would be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at the Audrain County Courthouse.

The meeting adjourned at approximately, 3:00 pm