

Lake Conway Watershed Stakeholder Meeting
Faulkner County Natural Resource Center
January 28, 2014

Members Attending:

Dr. Marty Matlock, University of
Arkansas
Eric Cummings, University of Arkansas
Jeff Huber, University of Arkansas
James, McCarty, University of Arkansas
Stephen Luoni,
Raven Lawson, ADEQ
Richard Magee, Metroplan
Judy Watts, Metroplan
Nagel Champlin
Donna Champlin
Randy Easley
Smitty Burgess
Peggy Vernon
Barbara Hansbraugh
Cissy Thornton
T. Thornton
Pete Davidson
Rep. Douglas House
Gram House
Allan Mueller
Sally Entrekin

Craig Swenson
Nichol Swenson
Genieve Long
Bill Beall
Mike Cagle
Megan Brown
Robert L. Hill
Jimmy Rogers
Greg Dell
K.C. Larson
Arnold Hameister
Matt Schroeder
Alyssa Martinez
Robert Melton
Carolyn Melton
Tom Eans
Lloyd Shirley
Nancy Shirley
Ronnach Day
David Vondran
Jack Johnson

Meeting started at 6:03pm

Introductions from UA & Metroplan team

Opening from Dr. Marty Matlock, University of Arkansas, about uniqueness of watershed and importance of the watershed plan because it gives authority to seek federal funding to address concerns for this watershed.

Introductions from attendees

Dr. Matlock talks about previous meetings, and states this is a formal meeting where decisions will be made. The decision making process will be consensus at best and at worst a majority vote. Every voice will be heard and the best decisions are made. The plan will be submitted to Arkansas Natural Resources Commission and then to EPA. Then projects can be funded. Projects will not be discussed tonight, just the watershed plan.

James McCarty, University of Arkansas, covers stakeholder engagement review. First meeting was on September 26, 2013 and the meeting covered project overview and timeline, introduction to 9-element plan, LID presentation. The second meeting was on November 7, 2013 and covered 9-element plan progress, overview of modeling, and initial governance and structure. The 9-element plan is the umbrella for modeling and demonstration sites. UA is contracted to do 3 LID demonstration sites. One is at the fairgrounds and the other is at UCA campus. The demonstration sites slow the water during rainfall events to provide excessive stream flows that cause a range of water quality issues, the primary being sedimentation.

Group takes a break to place dots on the map showing where they live on the watershed.

Dr. Matlock announces that Feb. 5th will be a watershed meeting in Morrilton.

Raven Lawson, ADEQ, presents information on watershed advocacy groups. Importance of water, average Arkansans uses 57 gallons of water per day. Watershed planning goal is to protect our water ways. Then there was a Lake Conway and Point Remove watershed explanation. The state of Arkansas have put majority of watersheds in 8-digit HUC (hydrologic unit code) Lake Conway watershed is a "non-classic" type. Lake Conway is approximately 1100 square miles.

<http://aarms.cast.uark.edu> has a map of 10-digit HUC.

Watersheds cross county and city boundaries; decisions made in one watershed can affect what happens in other watersheds. Parts of 7 counties are included in the Lake Conway - Point Remove watershed. Cities include Russellville, Dardanelle, Pottsville, Atkins, Morrilton, Conway, and Maumelle.

Stakeholders are anyone within a watershed who could be affected by water quality impairments or by activities in the watershed. Anyone who lives, works, or plays in this area. Stakeholders matter because they have unique social, economic and environmental circumstances of their community.

ANRC has defined Lake Conway – Point Remove as one of their 10 priority watersheds for 2011-2016. Land use, water quality, population growth affect a watershed's priority level. ANRC wants to give funding to Lake Conway- Point Remove Watershed.

We need it to identify pollution sources and potential pollution sources to carry out solutions. We cannot receive funding without a watershed plan. We need active participation from stakeholders. The next step is form a group, a watershed group is the most effective way for stakeholders to become involved

and to make a difference in the management. Examples are given of what other watershed groups do like education.

The first steps of watershed groups, a clearly defined vision, mission, list of objectives, and stakeholder buy-in. ADEQ can help through the process.

Eric Cummings, University of Arkansas, presents the 9-element plan. Elected officials/staff are called upon from the audience. Representative House is the state representative for Maumelle, Pickles Gap, and Jacksonville area. Pete Davidson is on the staff for Congressman Tim Griffin of 2nd Congressional District at Federal level.

Eric Cummings asks for input on the 9-Element plan. This is a nonpoint source pollution plan like runoff, agriculture related, etc.

Elements are:

- A: Id. Causes and Sources of Pollution
- B: Estimate Load Reductions
- C: Describe management Measures and Critical Areas
- D: Technical and Financial Assistance needed
- E: Education and Information
- F: Project Schedule
- G: Milestones
- H: Indicators
- I: Monitoring

White Oak Creek is the only non-point source impaired stream in the watershed without a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study completed. The sediment source that is impairing the stream is listed as unknown.

What are some other areas of concern that need investigation? (Following list is response from attendees)

- Sedimentation of Lake Conway
- Impacts of oil and gas, row crop and animal agriculture, urban NPS impacts
- Sedimentation North of Gold Creek
 - both arms are contributors
- Erosion from forest burning activities
- Northern part of Mayflower floods into cove and inlet
- Raw sewage off of Jackson Ave.
- Failing septic systems
- Faulkner Co. put more homes on water treatment facility and not all homes were converted
- Vegetation on east side of the lake (invasive Alligator weed)
- Lake Conway water quality issues

- Rapid development like Walmart
 - looks and ordinances to address BMP for urban construction
- How do we protect waterways from streets and runoff from urban surfaces

Any load reductions needed?

Critical areas? White Oak Creek and Little Creek

- Sunnyside Creek, Center Ridge, Cypress Creek
 - Potential for sedimentation from oil/gas development

Education

- Let folks know projects are local and input is needed such as meeting with citizens from Atkins (Rep. House)

Next steps: form identity for group, place for materials

Next meeting scheduled for 2/25/14 6 pm at the US Army Reserve Training Facility.