

Lake Conway Watershed Study Meeting Notes

U.S. Army Reserve Training Facility

September 26, 2013

Members Attending:

Dr. Marty Matlock, University of Arkansas

Jeffrey Huber, University of Arkansas

James McCarty, University of Arkansas

Richard Magee, Metroplan

Judy Watts, Metroplan

Matt Horton, AGFC

Matt Schroeder, AGFC

Bill Beall

Shelia McGhee, OEM

Trey Lieblong, Conway Corp

Scott Grummer, City of Conway

Reba Cargile, LCHOA

Judge Allen Dodson, Faulkner County

Raven Lawson, AEDQ

The meeting was called to order by Richard Magee, Metroplan. After LCCAC was awarded a grant to conduct a study on the Lake Conway Watershed, consultants from the University of Arkansas were selected to lead the process for the long-term and longevity of Lake Conway.

Dr. Matlock gave an overview of the project. The project objectives are to conduct a water quality standards data review of Lake Conway, develop an EPA 9-element watershed management plan for the Lake Conway HUC-8 watershed, develop scenarios to test best management practices for the watershed, and construct three demonstration projects to show the benefits of LID.

Dr. Matlock explained that land-use greatly impacts the runoff into Lake Conway. Lake Conway has a mixture of land use types that are high risk for increasing runoff and sedimentation of the Lake. Rapid growth of the city corresponds to increased impervious area which leads to higher peak stormwater run-off. The predominance of agriculture in the watershed has also contributed to increased sediment loading to the lake.

A 9-element plan is the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) way to protect watersheds. Dr. Matlock explained that the watershed should have citizen governance. Regulation 2 dictates water quality standards. The Clean Water Act states that water bodies must meet their designated use or they should be classified as impaired. The 9-elements of the EPA watershed management plan are as follows:

1. ID causes and sources
2. Determine load reduction needs
3. Management measures to achieve reductions
4. Implementation schedule
5. Milestones
6. Measurement criteria
7. Monitoring
8. Information and education
9. Technical and financial assistance needed

The stakeholder group, in order to be successful must reform and restructure, looking back towards the foundation that was laid by the original Lake Conway advocacy group as well as determining a way forward with new goals and objectives. The first part of this effort will be through providing structure to their organization, adding new members and special interest groups. Then, they will need to determine what their goals and objectives are for the watershed.

The timeline for the grant as well as the University of Arkansas commitment to participate in stakeholder dialogue is as follows:

- Committed to host two more meetings before the end of 2013
- In 2014, the advocacy group will determine its meeting rate, with the University of Arkansas participating when able
- Complete the 9-Element plan, scenario modeling, and demonstration projects by July 2015

Mr. Jeff Huber then led a presentation on LID with examples of two green demonstration parking lots the team has designed. One example noted was the Faulkner County Fair parking lot. Mr. Huber noted the storm water issues and loose asphalt were occurring on the parking lot. Mr. Huber said LID solutions create plant-based infrastructure where the landscape delivers ecosystem services as well as, redundancy, and decentralized solutions for stormwater control and treatment. Plants have the ability to absorb and clean stormwater as well as mitigate erosion through their root systems. Mr. Huber also noted that the right plant, in the right place will create more value both ecological and aesthetic than any pipe—parks, not pipes.

Another example that was presented was the University of Central Arkansas parking lot that is currently under construction near residential halls. An edible garden is being planted.

Questions from attendees asked: how do we educate developers? Are there solutions for capturing sediment with rural areas?