

Bonne Femme Watershed Project, Technical Advisory Team Meeting – February 23, 2018

In attendance: Lyn Woolford, Lynne Hooper, Nicki Fuemmeler, Amy Meier, Cathy Richter, Tom Ratermann, Bill Florea, Roxie Campbell, Ryan Lueckenhoff, Mike Powell

We opened the meeting with activity updates from team members. Lyn Woolford was up first. He has been focused on the sewer plant upgrade for the City of Ashland. 9 bids were received – the lowest was \$6.5 million and the highest was \$8.2 million. The City had anticipated that the bids would be for less than \$6 million so they had to take another look at the features of the plant. The existing plant had been in exceedance for ammonia, and the City wants to get the new plant online as soon as possible to protect Fowler Creek where the effluent is discharged. Ashland officials have been working on the sewer plant issue since 2012. The lowest responsible bidder's bid was accepted, a requirement under the terms of the State Revolving Fund funding, and the work can begin in April or May after review by the Clean Water Commission. It will probably take 14 months to get the new treatment plant online. MDNR awarded Ashland a \$500,000 grant in addition to the SRF funds, so with that, less \$238,000 in items that the City identified as not essential for the plant to begin operations, there should be sufficient funds for the project. The old lagoon will be kept as a detention basin for overflow or runoff in high precipitation events. Additional inputs to the existing sewer system are expected from the Potterfield development near the airport. Ashland is not expecting much additional input now – there should not be any businesses there that use a lot of water. Details about the final scope of development on that property are not yet available. The Baptist Home is being constructed between Ashland and the airport, and it is expected that there will be some buildings occupied in that complex by the end of 2018. Home building development is continuing to increase in Ashland as well. As new residential developments come in, additional infrastructure is being considered to accommodate new traffic patterns.

Bob Lerch is working on his presentation for the Land Management Techniques Workshop that was rescheduled until March 10<sup>th</sup>. He is going to compare data from the old dataset (2003-2007) with data from the new dataset (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2016 through 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2017 / 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2018) for his presentation. Overall there do not seem to have been many significant changes in water quality parameters. As we get more data collected we should see a greater variety of flow conditions that are not represented yet – flows were higher during the 2003-2007 data collection as weather conditions were wetter than what we have seen thus far in the new data. Bob's technicians will start collecting cross-section data again soon – the Turkey Creek gauging station has been at the manufacturer for repairs.

Roxie Campbell was up next. She is wondering whether salt from the roadways is impacting the streams in the park. Bob said that conductivity readings are probably the best and easiest way to measure increased road salts in the stream. Roxie also questioned what impact the salt would have on freshwater aquatic life. A brief discussion about local road salt composition and usage followed. Roxie said that Missouri State Parks are putting emphasis on stewardship, particularly invasive plant management. She conducted an invasive plant management training session in

January for naturalists around the state park system. Every state park is now expected to do an invasive plant management plan. Roxie is trying to gear up to do some burns in Rock Bridge Memorial State Park – burns are weather dependent, and weather has not been very cooperative of late.

Tom Ratermann talked about activities at the Boone County Regional Sewer District. The sewer district commissioned an engineer to write sub-surface dispersal regulations for wastewater. Tom believes that the Board of Trustees for the sewer district should be ready to adopt the regulations soon. One of the board members wanted another month to review the regulations at the last meeting. Clear Creek Estates still does not have a final sewer connection plan. It still looks as though the residential neighborhood will be serviced through a connection to the City of Columbia, although they will be Boone County Regional Sewer District customers. The City and the developer, and the sewer district and the developer, still need to work out agreements for the provision of the sewer services.

Mike Powell said that Greenbelt is still working on the land swap between the Missouri Department of Conservation and a landowner adjacent to Three Creeks Conservation Area. The property that the landowner is giving to MDC has a lot of nice walnut trees on it, so there is a discrepancy in timber values on the properties. Also, the spending acquisition for MDC to purchase properties is currently hung up in the Missouri legislature. Hopefully the situation will be resolved soon.

Ryan Lueckenhoff gave updates on some upcoming workshops. The Youth Pollinator event has been postponed until March 3<sup>rd</sup> because of the weather conditions. The burn workshop will still be on March 7<sup>th</sup>, and the pond management workshop is still scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup>.

The next topic for discussion was science in the watershed. Bob said that he has not yet seen the results from the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter nutrient sampling in the watershed. Lynne Hooper noted that Bass Creek and Hunter's Cave had relatively high *E. coli* readings in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2018. These data deviate from the old (2003-2007) and the more recent patterns. We will need to collect more data to get a better handle on whether this is a new trend. A brief discussion of these data and possible reasons for the change followed. Roxie said that she heard complaints about stream erosion in the Fox Hollow Branch as a result of work done by a utility company to create a path for a power line. Another brief discussion followed.

Lynne said that the Microbial Source Tracking data collection should start in March. Technicians from Bob's lab are learning how to filter the samples so that we can save shipping costs (will not have to send bottles of water to the lab). Lynne mentioned that there is a lot of algal growth in Little Bonne Femme Creek at Woodie Proctor Road – it seems early in the season for this type of growth to be happening.

Education and outreach events for the year are starting up soon. The water quality monitoring blitz in Rock Bridge Memorial State Park is scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup>, and the Rock Bridge Renew cleanup event is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup>. The Land Management Techniques Workshop was rescheduled to March 10<sup>th</sup> due to inclement weather conditions on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Lynne is

working to recruit additional speakers for the landowner panel as two of the originally scheduled panelists are not available on the rescheduled date.

Next up for discussion was the progress on the Chapter 319 subgrant proposal. The holdup has been selection / approval / design of a site for a best management practice demonstration project. Lynne and Nicki Fuemmeler have been working on getting information ready for the bioretention / detention basin site that the County owns on Meyer Industrial Drive. Nicki showed the team a map of the selected site and gave updated details on the progress thus far.

Lynne said that the new [cavewatershed.org](http://cavewatershed.org) website is almost ready to go live. She tried to show the team a demonstration of the new website but was unable to do so due to internet complications. A brief discussion of the features of, and possible additions to the website followed.

Lynne brought up the possibility of doing a conservation day at either Three Creeks Conservation Area or Rock Bridge Memorial State Park this year. Ryan suggested that we would need to schedule that for next fall as the schools need a long lead time to work this type of activity into the school year. Roxie suggested that the conservation day activities could happen at the school rather than bussing students in.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 13, 2018.