

Minutes of the Bonne Femme Watershed Project, Technical Advisory Team meeting,
March 3, 2017

Team members in attendance: Tom Wellman, Amy Meier, Lynne Hooper, Tom Ratermann, Nicki Fuemmeler, Roxie Campbell, Mike Powell, Cathy Richter

We opened the meeting with activity updates from team members. Roxie started off by mentioning that there were damages funds available from MDNR that were to be used for stream-related projects in Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. Possible projects are currently being explored. She would like to see dams or retention basins near Highway 63 so that if there is a spill on the highway it could be stopped and cleaned up before it gets to the swallet hole in Bonne Femme Creek (and thereby into the Devils Icebox Cave system). She is also interested in offering cost-share for local residents to pump out their septic tanks (potentially reducing *E. coli* inputs into the streams). Mike talked about structures that were built in Northwest Ohio to capture oil and prevent it from entering Lake Erie – seasonally the basins were planted in native wetland species. Roxie mentioned that two buried pipelines travel through the park – one for gas and one for natural gas. Crews will be working along the stream bank of Little Bonne Femme Creek to fix issues with one of the pipelines. Missouri State Parks are 100 years old this year. Roxie has been working on preparing documents for a time capsule that is part of the centennial celebration. She included some water quality data and pink planarian data.

Amy talked about a clean-up that she participated in a couple of weeks ago in a neighborhood off Route K. There is a wet weather stream behind some of the residences that empties into an unnamed tributary of Little Bonne Femme Creek and there is a lot of trash there. Six people spent an hour and picked up a pickup truck load full of trash. Roxie mentioned that some of the residents in the Pierpont area have filled in their sinkholes – she has noticed two other properties lately in the sinkhole plain where people were having large quantities of fill delivered. It is legal in Missouri to put clean fill into sinkholes, but Roxie would like to see more public education about how sinkholes function and where the water goes.

Mike said that Greenbelt had applied for some grant funds to do some habitat improvements near the mouth of Bonne Femme Creek but that they won't hear back about the outcome of the grant process until May or June.

Tom Wellman said that the City has been working on maintenance of BMPs along South Forum Blvd. between Southampton and Old Plank Road. They have been mowing to encourage the native plants and did some cleanup of BMPs. Stream stabilization near one of the BMPs is planned, and regrading is needed in a wetland to allow more water to enter. Tom said that he had heard that someone got in trouble with MDNR in the watershed and was going to have to do some sort of mitigation project. A brief discussion followed about benefits v. drawbacks of reforesting a riparian corridor that is currently being mowed – if mowing stops, invasive species could take over and whoever undertakes the riparian restoration project would need to be aware of this possibility. The City has done a lot of work at Gans Creek Recreation Area – the upper fields are now ballfields that are being watered from Phillips Lake, providing more capacity in the lake for storage and treatment of stormwater. Old stormwater treatment cells along the lake have been damaged by construction in the new development near Highway 63. Another potential

project is removal of sediment from those retention cells and then replanting them in natives. There was some sort of an agreement with the developers, but the City is still largely responsible for maintenance of the BMPs. Roxie brought up that when the Parkside development off of Route K was starting up, there was talk of having RBMSP staff talk to the residents about native plants and other relevant topics. One of the homeowners contacted the park and they will be setting up these educational sessions. A brief conversation followed about willingness of landowners / homeowners' associations to be involved and talk about environmental issues. Homeowners associations might be good contacts in the watershed for outreach and education projects. Individuals to contact on behalf of the associations could be tracked down either through the Recorder's Office (if neighborhood covenants are recorded) or the Secretary of State (if the homeowners' association is a corporation with officers). Developers may oversee homeowners' associations until a certain number of lots are sold.

We are expecting the POCIS results in "early spring" – Lynne will follow up at the end of March if there is no word on the results.

Lynne gave the science subcommittee update. Bob Lerch is continuing to collect data and we are hopeful that the data collection can continue in the future.

The outreach and education subcommittee met before Christmas and set dates for events / activities at RBMSP for the coming year. The next Rock Bridge Renew cleanup event is scheduled for April 8th from 8:30 a.m. until Noon – this date corresponds with the Clean Up Columbia events. The next water quality monitoring blitz is scheduled for April 15th from 8:30 a.m. until Noon. Participants for both events will meet at the Devils Icebox Parking Lot. Lynne will be offering Spring Brook Trail hikes on April 28th and May 5th from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. – also meet at Devils Icebox Parking Lot. The Water Festival is scheduled for July 15th from 9:00 a.m. until Noon and will be held in the Devils Icebox Parking Lot. The fall biomonitoring event will occur on October 14th with the Rock Bridge Renew event to following on October 28th. Boone County Stormwater will have a booth at the Earth Day Festival in downtown Columbia on April 23rd.

There has not yet been a meeting of the strategic plan subcommittee. The purpose of this subcommittee is to work on reformatting the Bonne Femme Watershed Management Plan into a 9-point plan that could be used in grant applications from MDNR and / or EPA. We do not plan to change the content but rather just the format of the plan.

Lynne announced a plan to start up a project in Three Creeks Conservation Area as we have been doing several activities at RBMSP. There will be a Conservation Day at Three Creeks on April 21st. This will be an afternoon event. A.J. Campbell at MDC (new manager of Three Creeks) is on board and will be involved with showcasing forestry at the event. Darby Niswonger from MDC will also be available to provide instruction on fish. The event will be an extended ecology hike where forestry, geology, hydrology and fish will be discussed. The County will recruit 25 high school students from Harrisburg and / or Hallsville and plans to provide transportation for the students to and from the event. Theresa Thomas (Boone County Stormwater Educator) will be contacting the FFA clubs at the schools and making the arrangements for transportation, billing the event as a STEM related ecological field trip. We are hopeful that this can be an

annual or semi-annual event involving different schools from around the County. This will be an educational event and not a service project. We are planning to go into Three Creeks from the south entrance and see Hunter's Cave and the confluence of Bass and Turkey Creeks.

Tom Ratermann mentioned that some of the high schools have service requirements for different programs. This was a great lead in to the next topic which was potential service projects in the watershed. A discussion followed about possibly starting up a project to add / replace storm drain markers in the watershed. There is some concern about which type of drain markers should be used so that the markers themselves do not end up being litter in the creeks – or whether we should use stencils. Lynne will research the possibilities further. This would be a great project to get school kids / neighborhood associations involved in.

Lynne next mentioned the possibility of doing an invasive species removal service project in Three Creeks Conservation Area. It would be great to get a small crew together that could work on small-scale projects in Three Creeks or RBMSP. Lynne scouted an area suggested for a project in Three Creeks and found bush honeysuckle and multiflora rose. A discussion followed on best methods for treating the two invasive species with herbicide. Lynne and Mike had met to discuss getting grant funds to purchase some invasive species removal equipment for the County that could be used by the service project crew. The Boone Electric Coop Foundation might be a good place to get grant funds for this purpose. Any grants that MDC might offer could not be used to purchase equipment. Roxie mentioned that Friends of Rock Bridge had a few tools and a little herbicide that could maybe be used by a small group around Rock Bridge and possibly Three Creeks. Children need to be at least 16 years old to use herbicide per the federal standard.

Lynne added that she also asked MDC staff to keep an eye out for any larger projects that could be done in the watershed – stream bank restoration, for example. MDC has the equipment needed to do cedar tree revetments for stream bank restoration if appropriate funds are available. Roxie added that sinkhole dye-tracing would be another great project on the landscape in the GBFW. Lynne suggested that Stream Teams might be able to fund a dye-tracing project.

The next meeting will be held on April 14, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. until Noon, location to be determined.