

Minutes of the Bonne Femme Watershed Project, Technical Advisory Team meeting,  
July 14, 2017

Team members in attendance: Amy Meier, Lynne Hooper, John Rustige, Lyn Woolford, John George, Nicki Fuemmeler, Roxie Campbell, Mike Powell, Steven Sapp

The meeting opened with activity updates from team members. John George reported that the forestry team planted sunflowers in fields at Three Creeks CA. The planting will promote dove hunting. Greenbelt Land Trust, Missouri Department of Conservation and a private landowner are working on an agreement to swap a three-acre parcel to re-route a trail in Three Creeks. The trade will prevent trail-users from trespassing on private property and provide a buffer for the private landowner. Greenbelt Land Trust will be facilitating the creation of a conservation easement on the parcel transferred to the private landowner so there cannot be development on the property.

Roxie advised that a crew has been working on invasive plant control within Rock Bridge Memorial State Park and helping with interpretive programs. A brief discussion followed about the different types of invasive species located within the park boundaries. Roxie also mentioned that she is a member of the Invasive Species Task Force and there has been a recent focus on raising public awareness about callery pear. The Task Force hopes to provide local legislators with a tour of sites overgrown with pear trees soon. Rock Bridge Memorial State Park is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year – there will be a special event on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Eclipse events are planned at the park and along the Katy Trail on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Steven advised that he is also fighting invasive species on his property in the watershed. Due to the precipitation, the Sapps have had a good hay season.

Mike was up next and talked a bit more about the project with MDC at Three Creeks CA. The parcel swap will allow for land improvements to reduce the amount of sediment travelling into Bonne Femme Creek. Greenbelt is planning a timber stand improvement at their Big Sky property near the mouth of Bonne Femme Creek.

John Rustige reported that Missouri Department of Natural Resources is concerned about wastewater treatment plants being overloaded due to the influx of people visiting for the solar eclipse. The Department has done some outreach to plant operators to advise them to prepare for the event.

Next up Lyn Woolford talked about what has been going on in the Ashland area. The City has arranged for extra restroom facilities to be available for the eclipse, although no-one knows how many people are expected in Ashland. The new wastewater treatment plant project is moving forward and the City hopes to use state revolving fund monies for the process to save money over the life of the loan. There is pipe in the ground from the lagoon area all the way up to Route

H – the City worked out a way to avoid the bat habitat issues along the sewer corridor. The Baptist Home plans to break ground next month with an eye toward having at least a few residents at their location in the spring. Lyn mentioned that the City has considered extending the sewer system north to KOMU to increase the number of customers. The timeline for construction of the plant calls for completion in June of 2019. The discharge from the plant will continue to go to Fowler Creek. The City monitors the stream for variations in parameters such as biological oxygen demand. Recently a company came in and removed quite a bit of sludge from the lagoon system to allow for sufficient capacity until the new plant is ready. Ashland is continuing to grow and added 105 residences last year and city government expects to meet or exceed that number this year. Potterfield is getting ready to construct two buildings on the property adjacent to Columbia Regional Airport – one will be a 55,000-square foot warehouse-type building and the other will be 22,000 square feet and may be divided into suites. Consolidated Water and Boone Electric will service the other utilities at the property. Another property located at the southwest corner of Highway 63 and Route H has been annexed into the City of Ashland – the intentions for development of this property are currently unknown. A couple of new businesses have come to town that are contributing to sales tax revenue. The City of Ashland is exploring a cost-share program with MoDOT to finance a roundabout at Henry Clay and Broadway. If this strategy is not feasible, the City may consider having a traffic light at the intersection instead.

Lynne followed Lyn with the Boone County and Science Subcommittee updates. Two of the gauging stations in the watershed are up and running, and the third one will be operational soon. These stations provide stage and temperature information. Some stormwater samples were recently collected at three of Bob Lerch's ten monitoring sites. The analyses include testing for some heavy metals. Results from these samples are expected soon. The POCIS results are still not available but also expected soon. Once the POCIS results come in, the County will be proceeding with a microbial source tracking study to try to identify the animal source of *E. coli* in streams in the watershed. MDNR has placed Little Bonne Femme Creek on the preliminary 2018 303(d) list of impaired water for dissolved oxygen. The Department has agreed to pull in the 2017 data for the sampling site and hopefully this will boost the D.O. numbers enough to prevent the listing. From an analysis of the MDNR data, it looks like something was going on in the stream in 2014 but that this has been remedied. The Boone County Stormwater Stream Team has been continuing to monitor the Devil's Icebox Stream Branch in Rock Bridge Memorial State Park monthly. The County Stream Team is now monitoring for orthophosphate, ammonia and chloride in addition to the regular chemical sampling. Lynne believes that the flow pattern on Turkey Creek at Tom Bass Road has changed. The water has been more turbid and the stream has moved in the channel due to additional gravel deposition. Bob Lerch continues to collect water samples quarterly that Lynne analyzes for *E. coli*. After having analyzed samples for several months, we may be starting to see patterns of *E. coli* levels connected with rainfall in some of the streams. Microbial source tracking can be used to confirm the hypotheses. It appears that Gans Creek, Little Bonne Femme Creek and the Devil's Icebox Spring Branch are

influenced by some factor(s) in addition to rainfall. The *E. coli* levels in the remaining streams appear to have a more direct tie to precipitation and runoff from the landscape.

Roxie brought up an interesting article that she has from 1955. Gans Creek was named incorrectly on some maps from that time. Older maps show that the stream was named Little Bonne Femme and the highway department incorrectly named the stream Gans Creek after a bridge named Gans Bridge. The name stuck!

Mike gave an update on the Strategic Plan Subcommittee. He mentioned that identification of the source(s) of the *E. coli* contamination is important for development of the nine-point plan and pursuing Chapter 319 or other grant funds. The logical first step for the subcommittee is going to be working through the body of documents generated by the Bonne Femme Watershed planning process which concluded in 2007.

The Water Festival on July 15<sup>th</sup> is the next Outreach and Education event. The event will be held at the Devil's Icebox parking lot at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. Roxie has advertised the event and expects a larger turnout this year. Roxie also mentioned that Connor's Cave tours are available through the summer months every Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m.

Lynne talked for a few minutes about updating the Bonne Femme Watershed Project logo and potential products that could be created using a new logo. The County will be having t-shirts printed this year for the Technical Advisory Team members. Roxie wondered whether t-shirts with the logo could be printed and sold through the Park or Friends of Rock Bridge.

The next meeting will be held on August 25, 2017.