

Minutes of the Bonne Femme Watershed Program, Technical Advisory Team meeting on December 1, 2017.

In attendance: Amy Meier, Nicki Fuemmeler, Roxie Campbell, Ann Koenig, John George, Cathy Richter, Tom Wellman, Jason Thomas, Rebecca O'Hearn, Theresa Thomas, Lynne Hooper.

The meeting opened with activity updates from team members. Amy Meier indicated that Stream Team activity in the Greater Bonne Femme Watershed (GBFW) would be limited to reports coming in from Stream Team #4794, Boone County Stormwater – there are not currently other reporting teams working in the watershed.

Roxie Campbell was up next to report on activities in Rock Bridge Memorial State Park (RBMSP). In the last couple of months there were trips into the Devil's Icebox Cave to do some training for fire fighters and some water quality monitoring work. The Park's 50th Anniversary celebration was well-attended by approximately 700 people. Roxie is gearing up for burns in the park and still working on invasive plant control. A meeting is planned next week to talk to Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) personnel about water quality issues in the park.

Ann Koenig talked about the Missouri Invasive Plant Task Force (MoIP) that both she and Roxie are involved with. Ann represents community forestry. A tour is planned in the spring to highlight callery pear invasion and she is working with urban agriculture regulators to explore putting callery pear on the state noxious weeds list. This may involve a ban on the sale of the trees and / or a fine if the trees are planted. Roxie represents Rock Bridge Memorial State Park on MoIP.

John George indicated that his time has been consumed by deer activities and will be until mid-March. Cathy Richter is to check into how many gallons per day are released by the USGS / CERC facility into Clear Creek – this question came up because the water released from CERC constitutes the majority of the stream flow in Clear Creek. With the upcoming 9-element plan work, it will become more important to document flow in the streams of the GBFW.

Tom said that the City of Columbia had done a stream stabilization project along the Forum Blvd. extension last week. The stream was cutting toward a water quality cell that had been installed near Old Plank Road. The project was a linear peak stone toe – the City hopes to install some willows as well.

Jason Thomas advised that runway construction at the airport had been completed and that the runway is now open. A special seeding product was used on the slopes to speed up the emergence of grass / erosion control. The next big project at the airport will occur in 2019 with the realignment of Route H to allow for more runway expansion.

Rebecca O'Hearn from the Missouri Department of Conservation was in attendance. She is a research scientist with a focus on water pollution biology. Becca is interested in Bonne Femme and Gans Creeks due to enforcement issues / pollution problems there. She wants to explore

collaborating with the BFWP to monitor water quality in the watershed. Becca hopes that two new professors at the University will also be interested in collaborating on the project – a meeting has been scheduled to discuss this possibility.

Roxie then mentioned that 150 acres to the northeast of RBMSP that are going to be developed. There will be 45 new homes built on 2.5 – 5.0 acre lots. A brief discussion followed of possible options for sewer installation in the new development. Ann brought up potential differences in City and County ordinances with respect to tree removal on new developments. Nicki indicated that a certain percentage of the trees will need to be preserved as a tree preservation area. The developer could also keep trees to count as runoff reduction credit in addition to other stormwater controls.

Lynne, Amy and Roxie are scheduled to meet on December 14th to set dates for next year's outreach and education events.

The next topic was the Land Management Techniques Workshop scheduled for February 10th. Theresa Thomas gave the update. Boone County has contracted with Bradford Farms for their conference space, and we are planning on running the workshop from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. A list of landowners in the watershed was generated by the Boone County Assessor's Office and the stormwater team has gone through that list to generate contacts for the workshop. Invitations will be sent to landowners who own 6 or more acres of land in the watershed. If there is enough interest, we can always do a second workshop later in the year. A flyer will also be generated for posting in various locations in the watershed. We are hoping for 125 attendees. A discussion of various details of the workshop agenda and logistics followed.

Boone County Resource Management is putting together a proposal for a Chapter 319 subgrant from MDNR for funds that will be used to prepare a 9-element plan in the GBFW. If we are able to develop a 9-element plan that is acceptable to MDNR and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), we will be able to keep the 303(d) listed streams in the GBFW out of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) status. Lynne and Nicki had visited with MDNR staff several months ago and were given a list of items to complete to prevent the issuance of TMDLs. One of the items was to draft a letter agreeing to partner with the City of Columbia on their integrated management plan which the county will do once the plan is completed. The most significant requirement from a time investment perspective will be development of a 9-element plan that complies with new EPA requirements. Lynne, Nicki, and Bill Florea met with several MDNR personnel more recently to discuss what the requirements for a subgrant proposal would be. The subgrant proposal will need to identify how we intend to work with the 9 elements, in addition to providing other information about the watershed. The County will be working closely with Bob Lerch to develop the science portion of the proposal. A discussion of details of the 9-element plan followed. The discussion included an update on the Microbial Source Tracking work that the County will be doing – the contract with the provider has been approved by the County Commission, and stream sample collection will begin in the spring of 2018. The deadline for submission of the subgrant proposal to MDNR is January 10th to coincide with MDNR's publication of the TMDL priority list. Implications of the issuance of TMDLs were discussed as well.

Lynne mentioned that she hopes to be able to do another round of aluminum sampling in the watershed – this would require a rain event (one inch or more) before the end of the year which is not likely. It would be really helpful if the University professors were interested in continuing with the aluminum research.

A meeting is planned next week between park personnel, and MDNR staff (in parks and water protection) about water quality issues in the park, in particular long-term trends in bacteria levels in streams flowing through RBMSP.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 12, 2018.