

Springfield – Greene County, Mo Integrated Plan for the Environment



Task Force Meeting Notes May 27, 2014

Attendees

Task Force members present were:

Dan Hoy	Zach Miller	Bob McCartney
Ken McClure	Michelle Garand	Kara Tvedt
Joe Pitts	Jared Rasmussen	Debra Dorshost
Clay Dodson	Fred Palmerton	Hollie Elliott
Jason Hainline	Brad Erwin	Charlyce Ruth
Charley Burwick	King Coltrin	Matt Pierson
Janet Hicks	Bridget Dierks	Loring Bullard
Jim Peterson	Doug Neidigh	Jennifer Wilson

Absent with prior notice: Natasha Longpine, Luke Westerman, and Terry Whaley

Absent: Skip Jansen, Janet Dankert

Technical Committee members present: Brian Adams (City Environmental Services), Tim Davis (Greene County Resource Management), Jessica Peebles (City Environmental Services), Todd Wagner (City Public Works), Kevin Barnes (Greene County Resource Management), Dave Fraley (City Utilities), Daniel Hedrick (City Utilities), Todd Brewer (City Utilities), Errin Kemper (City Environmental Services), Jan Millington (City Law), Carrie Lamb (City Environmental Services), Steve Meyer (City Environmental Services), and Barbara Lucks (City Environmental Services)

Additional Springfield/Greene County staff present included: Ashley Fears (City Environmental Services), Dana Dulles (City Environmental Services), Kimberly White (City Environmental Services), Marissa Hertz (City Public Information Office), and Tim Smith (Greene County)

Missouri DNR or EPA staff present: Cynthia Brookshire (MDNR- Water Resources)

Others present: Sheila Shockey (Shockey Consulting), Jeff Henson (Black & Veatch), Mike Pessina, Harold Bengsch, Sally Hargis, and Gary Pendergrass (Geo Engineers)

Environmental Priorities Task Force Meeting #1

Tim Smith, County Administrator, made opening remarks and welcomed the group. Introductions were made by the task force co-chairs, members and attendees.

Mr. Smith stated that the Federal environmental regulations add up to \$1.6 billion in potential costs for our community. Tim explained that we are not a community who contests regulations for a clean environment but does see the cost as an issue to address. Sometimes, costs do not result in improvements on the ground.

The goal with the integrated planning process is to find a better way to meet the regulatory regulations. The City, County, and City Utilities (CU) met with DNR about finding a better way. EPA's Integrated Planning framework provides a process for addressing wastewater and stormwater. Tim explained that the County, City, and CU are proposing to also include other environmental regulations including air quality, solid waste, and drinking water. Affordability for our community is an important factor in this process. Estimates show that these regulations could potentially add up to 20% of median household income.

Errin Kemper, Assistant Director of Environmental Services, gave a presentation about our local Integrated Planning efforts. Practices in past decades led to environmental pollution, leading to federal legislation in the 1970's to address air quality, water quality, and disposal of solid and hazardous waste. Practices have greatly improved under these regulations over the past 40 years. These requirements to protect the environment cost money and come out of the same taxpayer pockets. Errin stated that local governments and CU are addressing environmental regulations separately from one another for the most part. This group wants to be the first community in the country to respond to EPA's Integrated Planning Framework. Therefore, the City of Springfield, Greene County, and City Utilities formed the Integrated Planning (IP) Technical Team. Errin explained that a 4-phased approach is proposed by the IP Technical Team.

Phase 1: Assessment Phase

- Seeks to answer the question: Where are we now?
- The IP Technical Team is collecting and summarizing environmental data.

Mr. Kemper showed a hypothetical example of how staff working in different areas of environmental protection can work together to solve environmental problems through sharing data and knowledge.

Phase 2: Vision Phase

- Where do we want to be?
- In this phase the community will define what success looks like.

Mr. Kemper presented the principles that will be used to define success.

Phase 3: Tactical

- How do we get there?
- The IP Technical Team will decide how to spend the community's limited funds to achieve the most bang for the buck, based on the community's environmental priorities.
 - o The Citizen Task Force will select the priorities.

Mr. Kemper said that sources of pollution will also be prioritized. There are a number of different pollutants that affect our ability to achieve our environmental goals. Each of those pollutants has multiple sources.

Tools used in Phase 3 include the multiple-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) and Sustainable Return on Investment (SROI) tool.

- MCDA will be used to objectively analyze priorities, pollutants, and sources to answer the question, “If you could eliminate one source, which one would it be?”
- SROI will be used to capture the “triple bottom line.” An example is planting a tree. SROI captures all the costs and benefits and monetizes them so the city/county can compare planting a tree with other potential solutions.

The next step is affordability. The IP Technical Team would like to take a closer look at what is affordable. The traditional approach is not exceeding 2% of median household income which is used for assessing wastewater regulations, without considering the cost to households for other environmental regulations. At the end of Phase 3, the IP Technical Team would like to be able to answer the question, “If you only have \$1 to spend, what is the most effective solution that could be implemented to address the most pressing problem?”

Phase 4: Adaptive Management

- “How will we measure progress?”

Mr. Kemper presented an overview of air, land, and water issues. A summary of each is provided below-

Air

Protecting air quality is important for protecting human health, our local environment and economy, and the global environment. Air pollution is caused by natural sources such as wildfires as well as human sources including automobiles and industry. There are stationary and mobile sources. The six common air pollutants are ground-level ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, and lead. EPA’s air quality index tracks ground-level ozone and particle pollution to indicate levels of health concern so the public can plan their activities based on health risk.

Challenges to protecting air quality include lack of awareness of the problem, number, and diversity of sources, the weather-dependent nature of the problem, and increasingly stringent regulations. Mr. Kemper explained that air quality in the Ozarks has improved significantly over the years but regulations have gotten stricter as its affects have become more understood.

Land

Protecting our land is important because it is essential to agriculture, industry, and economy. We are trying to protect people, wildlife, property, natural resources, and air and water. Quality of land, air, and water are connected. Our land becomes polluted from the use and improper disposal of a variety of materials. Pollution also comes from legacy sources that fall under “Old ways of doing business”. Other sources of pollution are improper management of industrial and household waste, over-application of fertilizer and weed/insect control chemicals, illegal dumping, mismanaged disposal sites, sham recycling for products like e-waste, littering, poor land management that causes erosion, and improper sewage disposal.

The challenges to land protection include correctly identifying and finding the source, regulating sources, cost and legal issues of cleanup, lack of awareness about problems and solutions, and finding new,

acceptable places to dispose of waste, as well as our karst topography, which also presents a challenge because it allows pollutants to travel a long distance..

Water

Protecting water quality is important to our quality of life and economy in the Ozarks. We use it for many things including recreation, industrial water supply, and drinking water supply. Our public drinking water supply is 95% surface water and 5% groundwater, serving approximately 200,000 people. Approximately 30,000 are on private wells in Greene County. Springfield is on a major watershed divide between the James River to the south and Sac River to the north.

Water pollutants include bacteria and pathogens from animal and human waste, which impacts public health and aquatic life. Nutrients come from many sources and affect recreation and other uses. Toxins come from chemicals, air pollution, and sources such as leaking storage tanks. Toxins can impact human and animal/fish health and safety for consumption. Trash causes aesthetic issues, clogs pipes, and can impact aquatic life. Physical changes to streams include bank erosion, loss of trees, increased runoff. These changes affect habitat for fish, property loss, and increase sediment in the stream. Sediment is an issue for a number of reasons.

Water quality challenges include the complexity of the issue, complacency, population growth, increasing expectations from regulators as EPA increases its enforcement of the Clean Water Act.

Task Force Process

Sheila Shockey, of Shockey Consulting Services, facilitator for the Citizen Task Force, presented information on the task force process and members' roles and responsibilities. The task force charge includes:

- Develop an environmental vision statement for the community.
- Develop specific goals relevant to each environmental resource.
- Develop policy statements around the existing guiding principles of the Integrated Plan.
- Define community environmental priorities.
- Define method for allocating scarce resources to support those priorities.
- Develop criteria to be used by staff as they prioritize the most significant solutions to be implemented.

Sheila explained that the Citizen Task Force will also be conducting a citizen survey to gather information on environmental priorities for the community. The task force's work will align with previous work under the City's citizen-driven Field Guide 2030 Strategic Plan and other previous task forces on stormwater and wastewater. Sheila discussed the dates and topics for the next meetings through July 15. The task force will have a summer break and resume in September and complete their work in November. She provided effective participation tips for the task force members. Task force members are encouraged to keep in mind what's best for the community in addition to personal priorities and values.

Sheila presented potential questions that are being considered for the random sample citizen survey, including, but not limited to:

- What pollutants are important to address first?
- Do we protect the environment in current condition? Or, do we improve the environment and make it better?
- Do we address what is easiest or what is most important in the long-run?

- Where does environmental protection rank among a list of community issues?
- Which resources are the most important to protect?
- Where do you think the problem is coming from?
- Who should pay for environmental quality?

Sheila discussed regional water quality survey results in 2008 and 2014 by Ozarks Water Watch.

Sheila asked the task force for input on survey questions. Suggestions from task force members included:

- “Do you consider water quality in area lakes, streams, and rivers to be a barometer for overall environmental health?”
- Resource specific questions on drinking water, recreation, aquatic life.
- Who is responsible for environmental protection?
- What actions do you take to protect the environment? To protect water protection?
- Question to indicate if they consider the natural environment separate from the built environment.
- How do they monetize the value of air, water, and land quality?

Sheila indicated a draft of potential survey questions will be sent to the task force for input. A member of the Task Force asked if the survey could also be sent to areas upstream

Closing remarks were made by co-chairs Fred Palmerton and Day Hoy.