Springfield – Greene County, Mo

Integrated Plan for the Environment

Task Force Meeting Notes
June 3, 2014

Attendees

Task Force members present were:

Dan Hoy
Bridget Dierks
Bob McCartey
Terry Whaley
Kara Tvedt
Debra Dorshost
Emily Denniston
Miles Ross (sat in for Charlyce Ruth)
Matt Pierson
Brad Erwin
Fred Palmerton
Skip Jansen
Joe Pitts
Jason Hainline
Janet Hicks
Jim Peterson
Zach Miller
Michelle Garand
Jared Rasmussen
John Twitty

Absent with prior notice: Loring Bullard, Ken McClure, King Coltrin, Doug Neidigh, Natasha Longpine, Luke Westerman, Clay Dodson, and Charley Burwick
Absent: Janet Dankert, Jennifer Wilson

Technical committee members present: Todd Wagner (City Public Works), Jessica Peebles (City Environmental Services), Daniel Hedrick (City Utilities), Tim Davis (Greene County Resource Management), Jan Millington (City Law), Dave Fraley (City Utilities), Randy Lyman (City Environmental Services), Todd Brewer (City Utilities), Barbara Lucks (City Environmental Services), and Errin Kemper (City Environmental Services)

Additional Springfield/Greene County staff present included: Tim Smith (Greene County), Ashley Fears (City Environmental Services), and Kimberly White (City Environmental Services)

Visitors present: Darrell Washam (Hiland Dairy), Mike Pessina, Eric Dove, Thomas Gounley (Springfield News-Leader), Sheila Shockey (Shockey Consulting), and Kimberly White's son

Environmental Priorities Task Force Meeting #2

Fred Palmerton welcomed the Task Force to the second meeting. Introductions were done by attendees.

Tim Davis, from Greene County, gave a brief recap of the first meeting and announced that the task force agenda today includes a discussion on how the community uses our water resources and provided input into water resource priorities.

Mr. Davis explained that Springfield was founded because of the quality of groundwater. He showed a slide of the private drinking water wells drilled since the 1980's and explained that approximately 95,000 people in Greene County get their water from groundwater.
There are two aquifers in the area

- Upper aquifer: is polluted because surface water flows into the aquifer, carrying pollutants.
- Lower aquifer: is not confined, as previously thought. Pollution is reaching this groundwater source. The connection between surface water and groundwater is better understood

He then showed a map of the springs in Greene County. Surface water and groundwater are connected by the sinkholes and springs.

Todd Brewer, from City Utilities, spoke about the public drinking water supply in the community. Fellows and McDaniel Lakes are two sources of drinking water and owned by City Utilities. City Utilities has placed protection measures around these two lakes so stormwater doesn't carry pollution into the lakes. Fulbright Springs is also a drinking water supply source.

Bacteria enter the springs from land and surface water activities. City Utilities utilizes a few drinking water supply wells, which the utility owns. Dr. Brewer explained that City Utilities is predominately a surface water system, meaning that most of the drinking water comes from surface water sources. Some of the source water and surface water protection efforts had on Fellows and McDaniel Lakes are important for other areas. This information will help us understand more about what can be done to clean up water quality in other highly valued resources. James River, above Lake Springfield, is the major source of drinking water. There have been efforts to improve water quality in the James River watershed to protect the drinking water supply- including addressing historical taste and odor issues. The Springfield area has pretty good water quality because we are at the top of the plateau. He showed a map of the watershed draining to the drinking water supply intakes. He also showed a pie chart of sources of drinking water supply. There was a question about how much water is pumped from Stockton Lake- answer: about 15 million gallons per day are pumped up to this water intake.

Todd Wagner, from the City of Springfield, provided information about surface water quality and resources. He described why it is important to understand we live in a watershed and our water resources are all connected. The karst geology makes the surface and water connections more complicated. An example is that a spring in one watershed can be fed by a watershed that is adjacent to it.

Mr. Wagner then explained that Division Street is the divide between the Sac River Watershed and James River Watershed. He showed a map illustrating our rivers flowing to regional lakes outside of Greene County. Our activities affect water quality downstream into these important recreation assets and drinking water supply.

Mr. Wagner described the classified waters and the ones that are currently regulated by MDNR. There is a significant increase of new streams that will be regulated in the future. He showed another map depicting the James River Basin, and described the land use in the watershed and emphasized the urbanized area at the top of the watershed. Activities like phosphorus removal at the treatment plant have helped reduce the nutrients in rivers receiving discharges from the wastewater treatment plant. He showed a map depicting the Sac River Basin and said the river has a regulated TMDL.

Then he explained the beneficial uses of streams. Beneficial uses are assigned by MDNR- they have limited resources and implement regulations across the entire state. Therefore, the beneficial uses may not reflect how we, as a community, use our water resources. Uses are set by GIS map and the 1:100k data set.

Task Force Discussion:

There was a discussion about what the members would need to know to help make a decision on setting priorities. Some questions brought up include:

- previous citizen surveys that could be used and assumed to be like our community
    - National Geographic, in the 1990s, that included peoples' priorities
- things that could be affecting the bacteria trends
    - concentrated grazing, failing septic systems, lawn fertilizer, impervious surface, etc
- be mindful of people downstream
- A few members noted that to get this type of environmental benefit, people are going to have to give up something they are doing or pay
    - some people don't think they have a duty to do their share
    - people need to recognize it is an investment/ has a cost associated with it
    - need to educate people
    - hard to know what the populace is willing to do
- want to view results from self-select survey answers vs. random sample survey results