

# Springfield – Greene County, Mo Integrated Plan for the Environment

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## Task Force Meeting Notes September 16, 2014

### Attendees

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Task Force members present were:

Dan Hoy	Bridget Dierks	Emily Denniston
Fred Palmerton	Natasha Longpine	Miles Ross
Ken McClure	Luke Westerman	Zach Miller
Skip Jansen	Kara Tvedt	Michelle Garand
King Coltrin	Charley Burwick	Matt Pierson
Bob McCartney	Debra Dorshost	
Jason Hainline	Janet Hicks	

Technical Committee members present were: Jessica Peebles (City Environmental Services), Brian Adams (City Environmental Services), Kevin Barnes (Greene County Resource Management), Barbara Lucks (City Environmental Services), Jan Millington (City Law), Steve Meyer (City Environmental Services), and Tim Davis (City Utilities)

Springfield /Greene County staff present included: Kimberly White (City Environmental Services) and Melissa Haase (City Public Information Office)

Others present were: Mike Pessina, Gary Pendergrass, Sheila Shockey (Shockey Consulting), and Milton Dickensheet

## Environmental Priorities Task Force Meeting #7

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Fred Palmerton introduced the speakers for tonight's meeting.

Errin Kemper, Assistant Director Environmental Services, gave a presentation on the Integrated Plan and updated the Environmental Priorities Task Force about progress made and how they fit into the process. The City of Springfield issued a request for qualifications and received several responses. The City will now ask for a formal proposal from the qualified firms and interview those firms to select someone for the technical portion.

Mr. Kemper explained that HDR is putting together a Sustainable Return on Investment tool and they have a pilot underway to test it out. Preliminary results will be available next month at the Environmental Priorities Task Force. Financial capability affects the solutions selected and how much the community can afford. The staff has given 30 presentations in the last year to various groups about the Integrated Plan. He said we are gaining momentum nationally and locally. Steve Meyer, Director Environmental Services, has testified before Congress about the Integrated Plan and we received some local and national press, as well.

### Air Quality

Barbara Lucks, City of Springfield Sustainability Officer, gave a presentation about Air Quality explaining why it is important to our community. She described the sources of pollution and how they impact our community. Daniel Hedrick, Environmental Compliance Manager from City Utilities, gave a presentation on the efforts that City Utilities have undertaken to improve air quality regionally. Both speakers discussed how the priorities of the Environmental Priorities Task Force will impact the future of the Ozark Clean Air Alliance, City of Springfield, and City Utilities.

Ms. Lucks explained what the Ozark Clean Air Alliance is doing to protect air quality and what the city is doing and how that impacts the trends in air quality. The main focus is on education to create awareness and voluntary measures to improve air quality. The city also is responsible for enforcement.

Mr. Hedrick gave an overview of the infrastructure investments electrical rate payers have made over the years and the positive impacts these investments have made on air quality. Building Unit 2 coal fired power plant has helped reduce pollutants and keep the region in attainment. They focused on protecting human health when making this decision to build unit 2.

Compliance as the regulations tighten will be more expensive for each dollar of capital infrastructure investment. There was a question about the technologies implemented by City Utilities. He explained how they work.

A task force member asked how the 4.8 pollutant level relates to other coal fired power plants. Mr. Hedrick replied that many of the other coal fired power plants around the country are using the same technologies to get these levels. Ms. Lucks that point source investments have been made and now the focus of education is on nonpoint sources which are at the individual level.

Next, Mr. Hedrick discussed non-attainment and that non-attainment would have a negative impact on business opportunity in our region. The region doesn't want to go into non-attainment because it will hurt the area economically- as it will be difficult to recruit businesses with high quality jobs. Ms. Lucks explained that there is no regulation prohibiting wood burning stoves but they are asking citizens to voluntarily comply.

#### Discussion with the Task Force Members

Sheila Shockey, Shockey Consulting Services, worked with the task force members on the goal statement and priorities for air quality. She explained that at a previous meeting, we discussed and voted on Air Quality Goals. You put money in different jars and voted with your pennies.

Air Quality goals are:

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| • Protect human health – highest priority.                          | \$700 |
| • Protect and improve food sources.                                 | \$355 |
| • Reduce air impacts to water and land.                             | \$87  |
| • Protect outdoors for enjoyment of citizens                        | \$51  |
| • Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.                                  | \$40  |
| • Protect air visibility.   | \$12  |
| • Reduce degradation of building materials due to poor air quality. | \$11  |
| • Maintain attainment of air quality standards.                     |       |

Implementation Priorities:

- Work on an airshed basis when taking actions to protect air quality.
- Invest in pollution prevention by enhancing environmental public education and outreach programs to garner citizen involvement in protecting the environment.

Sheila asked the Task Force if they would like to add to the list or edit the air quality goals and implementation priorities.

Comments by Task Force Members

- One member wanted to elaborate on air visibility: it can be hindered by smog or dust in the air
- Another member acknowledged that all these goals are about human health and to think about which of these are more supportive of protecting human health
- Also, one said to be concerned about how air quality can support economic development and how poor air quality can hinder business and business expansion
- One asked that something be drafted in the recommendations that reflect the importance of regulatory compliance to the economy. The Task Force agreed that the statement should be something about meeting air quality standards and creating an environment that attracts and retains business.
- Lastly a member said that air quality standards are set based on health concerns. They recommended the document say "the air quality standards are created to 'meet' the human health concerns."

The Task Force agreed that the top two priorities are so much more important than the others that we need to reflect that in the document. These priorities are:

- 1) Human health is the highest priority in terms of environmental protection
- 2) Invest resources to protect human health and the local environment, as the local investments will improve the environment regionally and globally.

The Task Force asked that these two statements have a target or be more outcome oriented.

- Sheila said they would come back with a more detailed statement about goals and priorities for air quality at the next meeting.

### **Long-Term Control Plan Update**

Mr. Kemper gave a presentation on the City of Springfield's Overflow Control Program. Regulatory compliance is driven by a Consent Judgment with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Communities across the country are dealing with this issue as aging sanitary sewer systems need upgrading to achieve water quality goals and compliance standards. The Task Force is charged with assisting the Springfield in setting water quality goals and priorities. These initial priorities were used during regulatory negotiations of the draft Long-Term Control Plan. They helped target where sanitary sewer overflow reduction work would be most beneficial to protect human health and the environment.

#### Comments by Task Forces Members

- Congratulations to the City on the excellent job they did negotiating this agreement with the regulatory agencies.
- One asked how the Springfield Overflow Control Program different than the agencies with bigger consent decree amounts?
  - o Answer: Some Missouri cities are locked in with a committed level of service- leading to high wastewater bills (some rates will quadruple in 14 years)
- Put a slide in to compare to rate increases for the other communities.
- Lastly, a member noted that the community really needs to consider the high number of low income individuals and how sewer rates going up will affect them. There is a limitation to what citizens can afford to spend so priorities are important and limits should be established. We have a lot of folks living in poverty and the percent has doubled over the last few years. We need to spend our dollars wisely.

### **Environmental Priorities Task Force Recommendations**

Sheila reviewed the draft Task Force recommendations developed by the Task Force members from previous meetings and asked for comments and discussion. They are summarized below.

#### **Community Environmental Goals:**

- Protect and improve the environment to attract and retain business.
- Protect and improve ecosystem health.
- Protect and improve human health.
- Protect and improve the environment for citizens and tourists to enjoy.
- Protect and improve food sources.

**Community Protection Priorities:**

- Invest resources to protect human health and the local environment. These investments locally will also improve the environment regionally and globally.
- Focus our resources on activities that result in the most benefit to the environment and our citizens.

**Implementation Priorities:**

- Work on a watershed/airshed basis when taking actions to protect environmental resources.
- Engage the public in pollution prevention.
- Understand the sources of pollution and invest in emerging best practices to solve pollution problems effectively.
- Align resources with investments that achieve multiple benefits.

The goals and priorities specific to water quality were also discussed by the Task Force and are summarized below.

**Water Quality Goal:**

- Protect our watersheds so that people can use them for drinking water supply, fishing, swimming, boating & wading.

**Water Quality Priorities:**

1. Protect drinking water sources such as McDaniel Lake, Fellows Lake, and Upper James River. Safe drinking water is the most important water resource priority.
2. Support aquatic life in waterways where people fish and consume fish they catch such as Wilson's Creek, Lower James River, Sac River, Little Sac River, and McDaniel Lake. Protecting certain waterways to support fishing is the second most important water resource priority.
3. Protect water from pollution in Lower James River, Upper James River, Sac River, and Little Sac River in areas where people swim. Protecting certain areas so people can swim and float is the third most important water resource priority.
4. Protect waterways used for irrigation and that support livestock and wildlife. This is the fourth most important water resource priority.
5. Protect Lower James, Wilson's Creek, and Little Sac so people can wade and boat in these waterways. This is the fifth most important water resource priority.
6. Improve the aesthetics of Wilson's Creek. This is the sixth most important water resource priority.

The table below illustrates how the Task Force members would distribute the community's dollars used to protect water quality.

	General Results	Upper James	Lower James	Wilson's Creek	Sac River	Little Sac	McDaniel Lake
<b>Safe Drinking Water</b>	\$35.32	36	13	5	18	17	39
<b>Aquatic Life</b>	\$18.59	21	25	26	25	25	16
<b>Swimming</b>	\$12.69	10	14	8	11	10	6
<b>Irrigation, Livestock &amp; Wildlife</b>	\$11.44	11	15	15	17	17	6
<b>Fish Consumption</b>	\$9.57	9	12	5	12	13	14
<b>Wading &amp; Boating</b>	\$6.23	8	13	13	10	11	10
<b>Aesthetics</b>	\$6.16	3	9	28	6	7	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Mr. Kemper said the more we put in our own words the 'why' the more valuable the priority is to our planning work. The Task Force has done this throughout the process.

Discussion with the Task Force Members

Members noted that not a lot of people fish in Wilson's Creek, but they know that what's in there flows downhill. That is why it received priority votes. Wilson's Creek is a little peculiar as to aesthetics- it's not highly visible. Wilson's Creek is also important to the trail system. Some said they voted for the Wilson's Creek watershed - not so much what's going into Wilson's Creek, but rather the whole watershed. If it looks good and it's healthy, the fish will be there and be healthy for consumption. It affects everyone up and down stream.

Closing Comments. At the next meeting a map with some descriptions in it as to why the Task Force decided the way they did will be provided.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:45 p.m.