

Springfield – Greene County, Mo Integrated Plan for the Environment



Environmental Priorities Task Force Meeting Notes November 6, 2014

Attendees

Task Force members present were:

Dan Hoy	Emily Denniston	Loring Bullard
Ken McClure	Miles Ross	Skip Jansen
King Coltrin	Matt Pierson	Natasha Longpine
Kara Tvedt	Jason Hainline	Charley Burwick
Debra Dorshost	Fred Palmerton	Janet Hicks
Bridget Dierks	Jared Rasmussen	Bob McCarty

Absent: Doug Neidigh, Terry Whaley, Janet Dankert, Brad Erwin, Jennifer Wilson, Joe Pitts, Luke Westerman, Clay Dodson, Jim Peterson, Zach Miller, and Michelle Garand

Technical Committee members present: Todd Wagner (City Public Works), Dave Fraley (City Utilities), Barbara Lucks (City Environmental Services), Todd Brewer (City Utilities), Errin Kemper (City Environmental Services), Jan Millington (City Law), Jessica Peebles (City Environmental Services), Carrie Lamb (City Environmental Services), Erick Roberts (City Environmental Services), Brian Adams (City Environmental Services), Olivia Hough (City Planning), and Kevin Barnes (Greene County Resource Management)

Additional Springfield/Greene County staff present: Kimberly White (City Environmental Services), Melissa Haase (City Public Information Office), Tim Smith (City), Kelsey Williams (City Environmental Services), and Kellie Herman (City Environmental Services)

Missouri DNR or EPA staff present: Cindy Davies (MDNR)

Others present included: Sheila Shockey (Shockey Consulting), Erin Dougherty (Shockey Consulting), and Eric Dove

Dan Hoy, Co-Chair, introduced the speaker for tonight's meeting.

Olivia Hough, Brownfields coordinator for the City of Springfield, gave a presentation about land. There are various sources of pollution to our land such as: the improper disposal of chemicals, petroleum products, fertilizer, trash, heavy metals, sewage, and other unknown sources. Many of these instances are due to a lack of information, the need for public outreach, and education to build capacity on this issue.

Staff from the City of Springfield, Greene County, and City Utilities presented to the Committee how their recommendations help guide the decision-making process. Ms. Hough explained what the Brownfields Program does to protect not only land, but people, air, and water quality. The Brownfields Program currently operates within the city limits and targets the downtown area – where industrial areas are traditionally located. However, due to inquiries outside of the city limits, the Brownfields Program is looking to address sites outside of the city limits. This could lead to an expanded partnership program between Springfield, Greene County, and City Utilities to form a coalition to approach the problem on a regional scale.

Ms. Hough demonstrated that the region's Karst geology increases the susceptibility of groundwater contamination in Springfield. The region's water supply is interconnected. Groundwater often interacts with surface water through Springfield's numerous springs. Many people living in rural areas get their drinking water supply through private drinking water wells, which are prone to contamination. Ms. Hough talked about legacy sources and how prior to the 1970s, sources such as industrial waste, gas stations, asbestos, lead paint, old mining sites, and old dump sites were not regulated because their harm was unknown.

Kevin Barnes, Greene County Environmental, and Todd Wagner, City Public Works, presented their concern for illegal dumping and allocating resources for monitoring. Many citizens dump trash in ravines and sinkholes, which can contaminate the drinking water supply, but Springfield does not have resources to effectively enforce this issue. Two ideas brought up include intensifying the focus on the Upper James to help protect drinking water supply or the start monitoring legacy sites that are historically contaminated, but do not pose any serious health threat.

Errin Kemper, Assistant Director Environmental Services, brings it back to the big picture of integrated planning and using resources more effectively. In developing the plan, we need to prioritize which types of solutions are best for Springfield. Additionally, the City has to look at cost-benefit analyses of environmental solutions and make decisions based on community priorities. How does our community feel about the issues? What are their preferences? Where should we invest?

Sheila Shockey, Shockey Consulting, worked with task force members on developing their vision statement, goal statements, policy statements, and identifying community priorities.

Vision:

What is the vision for the environment?

- Needs to be put in idealistic terms. Future-oriented. Vivid, mental picture. Inspirational. Easy to remember.
- Needs to be more environmentally-focused
- One word to represent vision statement

Task force members came up with the following words: Achievable, Healthy (2), Priority, Sustainable (2), Functioning, Robust, Efficient, Regenerative, Better, Protect. Tasked to bring ideas for the next meeting.

Goals:

What are the goals for the environment? What are we trying to achieve?

- Long-term, define what you intend to do.
- Targeted outcome example (By 2040, zero waste) -Lacking environmental baseline so we will have to get back to that later

Goal Statements:

- Protect and improve the environment and ecosystem health to protect human health.
- Protect our watersheds so that people can use them for drinking water supply, fishing, swimming, boating & wading.
- Protect air, water and land resources as they support quality food production.
- Protect the environment and meet regulations to attract/retain business and maintain our high quality of life.
- Sustain quality of the environment for future generations

Questions/Comments:

No clear statement for respect to future generation was mentioned and that should be added.

- Ideas are to add it to the bottom, in the vision statement, in the first bullet point

Someone mentioned to use the Field guide as a reference

Policies:

How should the community go about accomplishing the goals?

- Statements of intention and influence to guide future decision-making.

Policy Statements:

- Focus our resources on activities that result in the most benefit to the environment and our citizens. Making environmental protection investments locally will also improve the environment regionally and globally.
- Work together on a watershed/airshed basis when making plans and taking actions to protect environmental resources.
- Engage and educate the public in pollution prevention.
- Understand the sources of pollution and invest in best available technologies to solve pollution problems effectively.
- Align resources with investments that achieve multiple benefits. Air, water, and land resources are connected. Target investment to improve air, water, and land resources in priority places.

Questions/Comments:

Keep the first word of the statement as an action verb.

- Change the word “emerging” to “best available practices, tested, proven, best practices”
 - o Should we be looking at cutting-edge technologies or should we focus on proven technologies? Best available technologies vs. demonstrated best practices?
- Members agreed to delete "is the highest priority" from all statements.
- “Engage the public in pollution prevention”...should include ‘educate.’

Priorities:

What are they in terms of outcomes desired?

Where should start investing?

What resources are important to protect?

What locations?

Water Quality Priorities: Based on what members identified as important in prior meetings.

- Protect drinking water sources such as McDaniel Lake, Fellows Lake, and Upper James River.
- 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.
- Protect water from pollution in Lower James River, Upper James River, Sac River, and Little Sac River in areas where people swim.
- Protect waterways used for irrigation and that support livestock and wildlife.
- Protect Lower James, Wilson's Creek, and Little Sac so people can wade and boat in these waterways.
- Improve the aesthetics of Wilson's Creek. There is an important trail system in this watershed and it is positioned upstream of important recreational uses.

Questions/Comments

Use bullets not numbers. Remove Wilsons Creek as a high priority fishing stream- so remove it from second bullet. Add Fellows Lake to fishing area. List all drinking water sources like Fulbright Spring recharge area and Upper Little Sac They also discussed using the term ‘watershed’ by calling this ‘watershed quality priorities’.

Air Quality:

- Meeting air quality standards to protect human health.
- Protecting our food supply through air quality initiatives.
- It is important to maintain attainment of air quality standards creating an environment that attracts/retains businesses and supports the economy.
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is the fourth priority for air quality.
- Protecting air quality to maintain visibility and reduce the degradation of building materials.

Questions/Comments

We don't need to include priority number.

3rd point - should be maintaining attainment, to be consistent with wording.

Land Resources Priorities:

- Continue to monitor existing sites that are required by law with potential risk to human health & priority waterways.
- Invest in environmental clean-up of sites in priority locations:
- Clean up & protect sites that have the greatest risk of human exposure to pollutants. Human health is the highest priority.
- Clean up & protect sites upstream of our highest priority streams and groundwater.
- Clean up & protect sites with the highest economic re/development potential.
- Clean up & protect sites that provide the greatest aesthetic and/or community benefit.

No questions/comments

Overall community priorities:

Our ability to swim in a stream or lake

Our ability to wade or boat in a stream or lake

Drinking Water Supply

Protection of Aquatic Life

Safe Consumption of Fish

Water for Irrigation, Livestock & Wildlife

Air Quality issues that impact our Food Supply

Health Related Air Quality Issues

Aesthetic Related Air Quality Issues

Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Our ability to achieve Air Quality Standards to attract and retain businesses

Forced Choice Exercise:

Task force members were administered a psychological test to determine which priorities were most important to them.

Priorities in Order (Survey Results):

- Protecting our drinking water supply
- Reducing health related air quality issues
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Protecting fish and other aquatic life
- Clean water from streams and lakes for crop irrigation, livestock and wildlife watering
- Addressing air quality impacts on food supply
- Streams or lakes that are clean enough to swim in
- Maintaining Air Quality Standards to attract and retain businesses
- Ensuring fish are safe to eat
- Preserving or restoring the aesthetic beauty of our lakes and streams
- Streams and lakes that are clean enough to boat and wade in

Mr. Kemper discussed with task force members -- Who should fund environmental issues?

- Is it the people who benefit from the activity
- Is it the people who benefit from the resource?
- Does that vary by land, water, air?

Fred Palmerton made closing remarks. Meeting was adjourned shortly after 7 p.m.
