

SALT FORK RIVER WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

A sub-committee of the Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District
2110 Park Court, Suite C
Champaign, IL 61821 (217) 352-3536 ext. 3

Minutes from the Implementation Committee Meeting of September 4, 2008 – 3:00 PM NRCS State Office

Present:

Ansel Anderson – Issac Walton League	Jim Hoyt – Grand Prairie Friends
Rachel Andrus – UIUC	Kent Krukewitt – D. D. Commissioner
Tim Bachman – Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District	John McMahon – Salt Fork River Partners
Brad Bennett – City of Urbana	Corey Mitchell - UIUC
Tom Berns – Berns – Clancy, Assoc.	Jim Royer – Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District
Eleanor Blackmon – City of Champaign/CCSWCD Board	Bruce Stickers – CCSWCD Staff
Clark Bullard – Prairie Rivers Network	Dennis Wandell – Salt Fork River Partners
Mark David – UIUC	Renee Weitekamp – CCSWCD Staff
Lloyd Esry – UIUC	Ryan Williams – CCSWCD Staff
Fabian Fernandez - UIUC	Al Wolfe – Salt Fork River Partners

Eleanor Blackmon called the Subcommittee Chair meeting to order shortly after 3:00 PM.

No changes to the minutes were requested.

Eleanor asked the committee chairs present if they had any success, goals or challenges to share.

Tom Berns Presented work from the Channel Dynamics group that collected information from surveyors' notes taken during the 1821 surveys of the Upper Salt Fork and Saline Branch area. The information collected focused on the measured width of creeks encountered at section lines during those surveys. Tom also included a copy of the Instructions given to the surveyors during those early land surveys. Tom distributed copies of this work to attendees of the meeting and a copy will be placed on file at the CCSWCD office.

Ansel summarized the draft recommendation from the Channel Stewardship Committee and copies were distributed to attendees. Clark Bullard asked if any analysis of the effectiveness of previous log jam removal work was done when drafting the recommendation. Ansel responded that no post-project analysis of log jam removals was done by the committee, and reiterated that the committee recommends to only assist owners in the removal of log jams, and that the committee does not recommend an official survey be done to look for potential log jams.

Tom Berns thanked the Channel Stewardship Subcommittee for their work and commended them for their effort.

At the next Salt Fork meeting the Subcommittee Chairs will provide comments on the Channel Stewardship draft recommendation and evaluate whether to accept the recommendation from the subcommittee.

Eleanor adjourned the Subcommittee Chair meeting at 3:43 and called the regular Salt Fork Implementation Committee to order.

Ryan noted that minutes for the 6/5/08 meeting had not been brought to the meeting. These minutes will be available for review at the next Salt Fork Meeting.

Since many members were present during the discussion of the Channel Stewardship Recommendations, this item was not repeated. Ansel asked if there were any other questions about the recommendation. Clark asked for clarification of an 'outlet tax'. Ansel responded that previous work done by the committee had shown them that communities would not be in favor of any type of tax that might be collected from upstream communities by downstream communities, and the subcommittee recommends that any formal agreements with communities not appear to be an outlet tax.

Tom Berns noted that drainage districts actually apply an assessment, not a tax. Tom also described some of the details of the Law of Natural Drainage of Illinois and noted how 'reasonableness' is a part of that law. He noted that this means one landowner cannot discharge an unreasonable amount of water onto another's land; thus providing to protect downstream landowners from being unreasonably impacted by drainage waters.

Tim Bachman noted that water quality monitoring started in April 2008 and that they had collected 11 sets of data and were sampling at 6 sites now.

Tim mentioned that the USGS may be able to provide staff gauge materials but the group may need help installing them. Tim and Mark David noted that they are working on making the data collected accessible on the internet. Corey Mitchell described some of the Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen data collected at the station on the Salt Fork north of St. Joe. Corey noted that, recently, D.O. had been low overnight and very high in the daytime.

Members of the Water Quality Subcommittee discussed the need for flow monitoring and that the USGS Streamgauge on the Salt Fork north of St. Joe was again in jeopardy of being discontinued due to lack of funding. Tim said he plans to discuss the Streamgaging with Paul Terrio of the USGS. Ryan agreed to check with Dan Olson about the Champaign County Forest Preserve District's previous support of this streamgauge.

Ryan and Bruce described the work done by the USGS on the Salt Fork. Some funds from the watershed planning grant were used to have cross section surveys done along the Salt Fork, North of St. Joe.

The USGS report will be made available on the CCSWCD website.

Jim Hoyt mentioned that the U of I Extension's Master Naturalist Program has been working cooperatively with the Champaign County Forest Preserve District and that a Trails Stewardship group has been formed. Some of these trails are in close proximity to the Salt Fork and Saline and may be a good source of information on the River.

Al Wolfe asked if there was a location to download information from the Salt Fork Meetings.

Recent Salt Fork Meeting minutes are now posted on the CCSWCD.com website. These minutes will also include any handouts from the meeting when they are available in digital format.

A list of Historical documents collected by the Channel Dynamics subcommittee is also kept at the CCSWCD office and should also be available on the website soon.

Eleanor asked those in attendance if the past year's meeting schedule was appropriate and that she and Ryan would work on a similar schedule for next year's meetings.

Eleanor adjourned the meeting and the attendees broke into groups with the rest of their sub-committee for independent discussion.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 6th, 2008 at 3:00 pm at the NRCS State Office. Subcommittee chairs are asked to meet at 3pm to discuss the Channel Stewardship Subcommittee's recommendations. A subcommittee meeting will follow at 3:30pm.

Meetings for 2009 are tentatively scheduled on the following dates:

February 5 th	3:30pm Subcommittee meeting
April 2 nd	3:00pm Chairs meeting and 3:30pm Subcommittee meeting
June 4 th	3:30pm Subcommittee meeting
September 3 rd	3:30pm Subcommittee meeting
November 5th	3:00pm Chairs meeting and 3:30pm Subcommittee meeting