

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 3, 2009 – 3:30 PM Champaign County Farm Bureau Auditorium

Present:

Tim Bachman – Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District	Mallory Dolan – UIUC
Brad Bennett – City of Urbana	James - UIUC
Tom Berns – Berns, Clancy and Associates	Grey McIsaac - UIUC
Jim Hoyt – Grand Prairie Friends	Al Wolfe – Salt Fork River Partners
Fabian Fernandez – U of I	Lloye Esry – Drainage District Commissioner
Paul Terrio - USGS	Eleanor Blackmon – City of Champaign and CCSWCD
Steve Green - Greenview	Bruce Stickers – CCSWCD Staff
Mark David – UIUC	Renee Weitekamp – CCSWCD Staff

Eleanor Blackmon called the sub-committee meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

No agenda changes were requested.

The meeting minutes from April 2, 2009 were accepted as submitted.

The revised Table 14 was presented showing the changes made at the April meeting. After some discussion, the group decided to separate the Water Quality and Nutrient Management so there would be a clear division of responsibility for the two sub-committees. In the future, the group will decide which sub-committee will be in charge of the following two goals: 1. Develop objectives and strategies to increase aquatic life in Boneyard, Saline, and Spoon, and 2. Fund 50% of conservation acres through water quality trading. The revised Table 14 is attached.

Tim Bachman with the Water Quality Monitoring Sub-committee gave an update on the funding and intergovernmental agreement for two gaging stations known as the St. Joseph and Philips Tract stations. The Champaign Urbana Sanitary District (UCSD), the City of Champaign, the City of Urbana, the Champaign County SWCD (CCSWCD), and the USGS have committed funds to pay for the gaging stations for the federal FY09 (10/1/08-9/30/09) and federal FY10 (10/1/09-9/30/10). Whereas the FY10 cost is for the full year, the FY09 expense is for a partial year. The agencies involved are working on a joint funding agreement. At this time, the City of Champaign has committed to \$4,000 for each of the two years, the City of Urbana at \$1,000, the CCSWCD at \$500, with USGS matching nearly half and the UCSD paying a large portion each year. The USCD portion is over the amount they originally agreed to; therefore, the group will actively continue to find additional funding agencies. Through the USDA CSREES National Integrated Water Quality Program, Mark David will be able to contribute \$1,000 for FY10. The CCSWCD will be in charge of invoicing the agencies involved and paying the USGS each year.

Recently the University of Illinois was awarded \$663,000 for a grant through the USDA CSREES National Integrated Water Quality Program. Mark David introduced a few of the U of I staff and students who will be involved in the project and provided a project summary. This was a highly competitive grant and Mr. David thanked the many organizations who supplied letters of support. This three-year grant project will focus on Agriculture and nitrate reduction and tile modifications. Sociology is a large part of the grant, as surveys will be done to help determine the attitudes of farms and what helps influence them. After the first year, the grant will also focus on a modeling project to help determine how the drainage water management

practices can be scaled up to a large watershed. Water quality monitoring, especially at the Spoon River Station, will also be increased for the project.

The Nutrient Management Sub-committee is working on a brochure for proper home fertilizer application guidance and information. Basic information has been put in pamphlet form to form a very rough outline, and the group will continue to work out the details. The CCSWCD was recently awarded a USDA Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) for the work a volunteer group is doing with the nutrient placement of agricultural fertilizers when using strip-till. Illini FS and Fabian Fernandez, U of I, are also involved in this project. The CCSWCD has also applied for an IEPA 319 grant to continue efforts to promote and use strip-tillage.

During information sharing, Tom Berns announced that a sanitary sewer directly discharging into a stream had been identified and will be fixed this week.

The next meeting was scheduled for November 5, 2009 with the chairmen of the sub-committees meeting at 3:00 pm and the sub-committees meeting at 3:30 pm at a location to be announced.

Eleanor Blackmon adjourned the meeting at 4:25 pm, and the attendees broke off into groups with the rest of their sub-committee for independent discussion.