

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 April 4, 2013 – 3:30 PM
Champaign Public Library, Robinson pavilion Room C, 200 W. Green St., Champaign, IL 61820

Present:

Mark David – University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Al Wolfe – Salt Fork River Partners

Ansel Anderson – Isaak Walton League

Eleanor Blackmon – City of Champaign / CCSWCD Director

Jessica Riney – University of Illinois / IDNR

Lloyde Esry – Drainage District

Jim Hoyt – Grand Prairie Friends

Tim Bachman – Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District

Rick Manner – Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District

Lowell Gentry – University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Tom Berns – Berns, Clancy & Associates

Jonathon Manuel – CCSWCD Staff

Derek Liebert – Urbana Park District

Eleanor Blackmon called the committee meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

A agenda change was requested:

Under Water Quality Monitoring a B was added for Project Cronus.

Minutes from February 7th, 2013 were approved to be placed on file.

Homer Lake / Educator / Habitat Sub-committee:

- A. Jonathon reported that the St. Joseph Educational Center parking area was getting the entrance poured Friday. Stark was grading and forming up the drive entrance today.
- B. Jonathon reported that the Pheasants Forever IL Farm Bill Biologist, Brandon Beltz held a work shop in Royal this spring to talk about ways farmers could set up wildlife habitat. The meeting was well attended.

The Nutrient Management sub-committee gave an update on:

- A. The “Salt Fork Point/Non-Point Nutrient Assessment Project Grant” will be having a partners meeting on April 9th. The meeting is to get the project started, and includes a visit to the Spoon River watershed, the focus of the project. The USGS is installing a new gage on the Spoon River outlet, a mile above the gage St. Joseph gage. The committee also talked about the difficulties of getting enough landowner participation to make a measureable difference in nitrate concentrations and loads with this large of a watershed. Several ideas were talked about, such as trying to look at one small watershed in the area first. However, there is no monitoring data available for any subwatersheds of the Spoon River. Discussion focused on getting broad participation to install conservation practices (the main practice is cover crops) and finding additional tiles to monitor. Constructive conversations took place on all of the topics.

Water Quality Monitoring Sub-committee:

- A. Rick Manner provided the attached information to the committee that UCSD had been contacted by Sunrise Coal about possibly buying effluent. The UCSD is only gaining information at this time on the issue. The committee had some discussion.
- B. Rick Manner provided the attached information on the Cronus plant possibility as well. The committee had some discussion.

Channel Dynamics and Wildlife Habitat Sub-committee:

- A. Jessica Riney with U of I and IDNR gave a short presentation about using settlement funds to improve habitat for fish on both the Saline Branch of the Salt Fork and Cooper Slough on the Kaskaskia .

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Attached is a copy of the information that was handed out. Jessica said they are always looking for partners on projects both monetary and in kind services. Feel free to contact her if you or anyone you know would be willing to help.

- B. Jonathon reported that the Champaign County Fair is very interested in locating a rain garden on their property where there is drainage into Crystal Lake Park. They would like to see a design and cost estimate before they will move forward on permission for the project. They also thought it might be a good place to have yearly workshops about rain gardens.

Information Sharing:

Fabian Fernandez has accepted a faculty position in the Department of Soil, Water, and Climate at the University of Minnesota and will be leaving us in the next several months.

Courtney Flint has accepted a faculty position at Utah State and will also be leaving us in the next several months.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm