

Hinkson Creek
Collaborative Adaptive Management
Stakeholder Committee
Meeting April 2, 2015

Attending: Shawn Grindstaff, EPA Facilitator, Jeanine Pagan, Jim Loveless, Joe Engeln, Commissioner Karen Miller, Paul Land, Ben Londeree, Jay Turner, Hank Ottinger, Councilwoman Barbara Hoppe, Gary Ward, Diane Oerly, Paul Mehrle.

Absent: Nathan Odle, Frank Gordon, and Jonathan Sessions.

Staff and Guests: Erin Keys, City of Columbia; Ted Heisler, University of Missouri; Ken Midkiff, Sierra Club; Bill Florea, Boone County; Steve Hunt, City of Columbia; Theresa Thomas, Boone County; Todd Houts, University of MO.

The meeting was opened by Shawn with welcome and Introductions.

A Ben Londeree/Paul Mehrle motion to approve the Minutes of February 3, 2015 passed unanimously

It was announced that on April 14th at Les Bourgeois Winery, Jason Hubbart will present "A Watershed Case Study: Hinkson Creek to the Gulf."

Special Presentation on City of Columbia Bond Issue by Erin Keys.

Proposition 2 asks the voters to decide whether or not the City should adopt some necessary upgrades to the storm water infrastructure and increase the rates. Erin Keys presented the case for approving the upcoming bond issue.

Collaborative Adaptive Management Deliberations.

Discussion centered on the mission statement that allows us to get off the list and the metric that will be used to meet the goal line.

Joe Engeln said the scientists have noted that some of those recent sampling is actually a little bit better than the historical (pre-2006) data. There are four individual tests that make up the index to reach the number by which impairment is determined. Such determination occurs on a two-year cycle at which time the EPA can rule. If the agency approves then the Hinkson would no longer be listed for unknown pollutants. With that proof it would only be listed in that place for bacteria unless we also get the bacteria down.

Shawn noted that the CAM process was at its three-year anniversary, reminding the group that the first twelve months were taken up chiefly by education, and the next 24 months for undertaking recommended actions. He suggested that the committee needs to improve on

communicating all successes big and small, and that many such improvements occur outside the purview of the Stakeholders group.

He noted that at the next meeting we will finalize the required annual report to submit to EPA. He added that Karl Brooks has taken a position in Washington D.C., and that his replacement is Mark Hague, Acting Regional Administrator for Region 7.

Ben Londeree raised the issue of putting fill material in floodways, asking if any city or county Public Works employees accord any attention to the practice. He said that the Clean Water Act (CWA) prohibits putting any fill material in floodways since it acts as a dam that can exacerbate flooding. The CWA allows putting material in the flood plain, the area outside the banks. Ben wants the committee to investigate the city's policy as it relates to floodways and flood plains, taking into consideration the effects of filling on downstream areas. He says the agencies say (EPA or the Corps under the CWA) if it causes the water downstream to go up a foot in the flood plain then that is not good. What concerns him are those projects which individually don't cause any trouble but collectively, they do. Thus, adding more and more developments can create serious issues downstream. It was pointed out that if the committee is going to address Ben's concern, it must evaluate whether or not it relates directly to the Hinkson watershed. It was suggested that a representative from the city/county could address this concern at our next meeting.

The issue of bacteria in the Hinkson was briefly touched on, and a plan to address that issue will be forthcoming.

It was mentioned that when the committee reviews the annual report, there may be something that would warrant a tour to see how it is working.

One last thing Shawn reminded everyone that Barbara had been representing the City Council, and this will be her last official meeting. The group thanked Barbara for her participation and contributions.

The next meeting will be in June.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.