

Arkansas Forests and Drinking Water  
Steering Committee  
Meeting Notes from August 15, 2017  
1:30 – 3:30 PM  
National Forest Service Office  
Russellville, AR

Call in Number: [888-844-9904](tel:888-844-9904) and the participant code is 9568575#.

**Vision:**

Healthy managed forests and clean drinking water.

**Mission:**

The mission of the Forest and Drinking Water Steering Committee is to facilitate conservation and better management of forested watersheds within Arkansas to protect sources of public water supply through improved understanding and communication between the forest and water sectors.

**Goals:**

- I. To improve communication between the forest and water sectors,
  - II. To increase cooperation between the forest and water sectors
  - III. To facilitate development of local projects/programs
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- I. Approval of Minutes from 5 22 17: Apparently minutes were not submitted. Bob will send with minutes from 8 15 17.
  - II. Monitoring and Evaluation (Discovery Farm etc.): Dr. Mike Daniels from the U of A Cooperative Extension Service was present at the meeting to discuss the possibility of adding forestry to the Extension Services Discovery Farm Program. The Discovery Farm program has been put together as a tool for evaluating the effectiveness of best management practices (BMPs) and as an outreach tool for different aspects of agriculture. Funding for the program comes from a variety of sources and grants. Funding needs include instrumentation for water quality sample collection, sample collection and analysis, personnel to collect samples, technical and financial assistance for the cooperating landowner, assistance from a researcher out of one of the state's universities, annual reporting and hosting of field days and demonstrations.

Some funding is available for edge of field monitoring through the Mississippi River Basin Initiative (USDA) practice 201 and 202. This requires the private landowner to apply. But

agency or university can support. The American Forest Foundation also may have some grant money available.

Discussion followed on use of the discovery farms and objective for a forestry farm. We want to be able to look at specific practices, especially roads and skid trails, and the impact of practices such as a prescribed burn on carbon and indirectly on disinfection by products.

Central Arkansas Water is going to proceed with a similar program. They have two autosamplers available. To be a discovery farm, it appears the program needs to be on private property however. This needs to be further investigated.

Joe Fox offered services of area forestry staff to collect samples and deliver to laboratory. Mike Daniels stated that they can help with training those folks on protocol and QA/QC.

We agreed by consensus that the AR Forest and Drinking Water Steering Committee supports the development of a discovery forest program with CES. We will continue to work on making it happen.

### III. TELE Workshop Feb 1 and 2, 2018

Bob informed the committee of our selection as a host for the Yale School of Forestry's TELE workshop. TELE stands for Techniques for Effective Landowner Engagement. The workshop is scheduled Feb 1 and 2 at the Lake Point Conference Center at Arkansas Tech University. There are three focus areas, NW Arkansas, Central Arkansas and the HEIRS program. Joe Fox provided some background on the HEIRS program.

### IV. Social Media/Website

We now have a facebook page: Arkansas Forest and Drinking Water Collaborative.

Max Braswell will organize a meeting to determine how to best provide a web site for the Collaborative. At issue is that someone needs to be the owner.

### V. Update on Statewide Forum Planning

Bob provided an update on plans for the November 7/8 Forum at DeGray.

### VI. Open Discussion/Next Steps

Potential venues for outreach articles were discussed. Ideas include the Journal of American Forestry (Don Bragg from USFS in Hot Springs is the most current editor), AFA and AACD newsletters, Arkansas Urban Forestry Council. Randy Easley, John Pennington and Bob Morgan recently submitted an article on forestry and drinking water to the Journal of the SW Section of American Water Works Association. After that article is published we will try to expand reach into other journals so long as we can do so without breaking copyright rules.

Meeting adjourned approximately 3:30 PM.