

Arkansas Forests and Drinking Water  
Steering Committee  
Draft Minutes, May 22, 2017  
2:00 – 4:00 PM  
National Forest Service Office  
Russellville, AR

Submitted by Bob Morgan

Members Present: Bob Morgan, Ben Gilley, Darcia Routh, David Quattlebaum, Raven Lawson, John Pennington, Melissa Welch, Max Braswell, Joe Fox, George Rheinhardt, Scott Meek, Doug Akin, James McCarty, Rick Monk, Brad Hufhines, Erin Scott, Ed Swaim

My apologies to Dr. Jami Nettles for not providing the call-in number on the agenda.

- I. Approval of Minutes from Jan. 20, 2017: Approved as written.
- II. Review and Approve Vision and Mission Statements: Approved as amended. John Pennington moved for approval, Joe Fox seconded.

Vision Statement: 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.

- III. Review and Approve Draft Strategic Plan: Joe Fox moved to adopt with revisions, Brad Hufhines seconded. The strategic plan was approved as amended.

Changes from the draft strategic plan:

- 1) On the goal, "Increase cooperation between forests and water sectors, we will add an objective to collect data on forestry BMPs and water quality. Along with that there is an action item to develop a data collection proposal. A revised copy of the strategic plan will be submitted to the steering committee.

The review of the strategic plan spurred considerable discussion on how to implement the action items:

Outreach via conference presentations:

- 1) David mentioned the ARWA conference Sept 11 and 12 in Hot Springs. I should contact Fatina Scott at AWRA to express interests.
- 2) George Rheinhardt mentioned potential to use NRCS' rainfall simulator in presentations.

- 3) Ed Swaim raised possibility of presenting at the Ar. Association of Conservation District area and state meetings.
- 4) Joe Fox and George Rheinhardt both mentioned possibility of getting Sherrel Johnson from the Union County Conservation District to speak at conferences or workshops on groundwater management.
- 5) Darcia Routh mentioned that we need to get Evan Teague from the Farm Bureau involved in the whole forests and water process.

Increase Cooperation Between Forest and Water Sectors:

- 1) Joe Fox brought up need to collect data on value of forest BMPs and water quality. This led to our addition of the objective mentioned above to the strategic plan. It was mentioned that Jami Nettles from Weyerhaeuser or Erik Schelling might be helpful in developing a proposal. John Pennington said that the Beaver Watershed Alliance has a proposal in for forestry practices in Sequoyah Woods (Fayetteville) that might be a good opportunity to collect data. James McCarty also mentioned that the forested property at Beaver Water District might be available. Erin Scott from Arkansas Water Research Center will be keeping an eye on requests for proposals and will keep the group informed when opportunities arise.

IV. Initial Statewide Forum Planning

- 1) We discussed the plans prepared by the Forum Planning Committee for the Statewide Forum.
  - a. DeGray Conference Center and the proposed date of November 7,8 were approved. We discussed the fact that November 7 was election day, but decided that was not a show stopper.
  - b. George Rheinhardt brought up possibility of providing a forestry tour on Ross Foundation property near Arkadelphia. We asked George to work with Arnold Hameister and Hal Leicity on the tour. Note: on Thursday after the meeting, Arnold and Scott Meek contacted me about possibly working with about working with Brad Dryer of the Molpus Woodlands Group regarding a tour on property that they manage in the area. It sounds like a good opportunity and there is some history of doing tours on the property.
  - c. Attendees: There was discussion regarding the attendees. Need to keep this group high level was mentioned and agreed on. Also agreed was the need for the forests industry to have a big presence, especially with the emphasis on SC/SW Arkansas. We also need to bring in NRCS and Conservation District representatives as well as potentially trained watershed stewards from the Cooperative Extension program.
  - d. Registration: In 2015 we did not charge a registration fee. The cost was all covered by sponsor ships. There was also some money available for scholarships. We may want to consider that again to help with travel for some.
  - e. Sponsorship: Raven Lawson will seek sponsorship for a break or similar element from Central Arkansas Water. Erin Scott will seek sponsorship of the Arkansas Water Resources Center, possibly a break. Discussion of providing an opportunity for a few students to attend was discussed.

- f. Timeline: We will put out a save the date in mid-late August. We need to work on the list of attendees prior to that time.
- V. Other Projects
- a. South Central Arkansas: Discussion was included with the statewide forum.
  - b. Social Media: Bob has set up a LinkedIn Group, Arkansas Forests and Water. He will be sending out invitations to join. We will appoint a few managers. Members are asked to help by reposting.
  - c. TELE Workshop: Doug Akin and Bob Morgan submitted a proposal to the Yale School of Forestry for a TELE Workshop in Arkansas. TELE is Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively. The workshop is about developing effective messaging for outreach.
  - d. Demonstration Projects
  - e. Presentations:
    - i. Bob Morgan – Middle Chattahoochee Forum, Columbus GA May 18. Scheduled for the Southern Group of State Foresters on June 6.
    - ii. Darcia Routh – Discussed the Forests and Water group at the Arkansas Water Works/Water Environment Association State Meeting, May.
- VI. Open Discussion/Next Steps
- a. Next meeting: Mid/late August
  - b. To Dos:
    - i. Doodle Poll for August meeting – Before end of May – Bob M. will do.
    - ii. Compile forum attendee list – At next Planning Committee meeting. Bob M. is to provide lists from previous forums.
    - iii. Contact DeGray State Park Conference Center and reserve facility (done as of May 23)
    - iv. Develop proposal for water quality data collection.