

**AR Forestry and Drinking Water Steering Committee**  
**January 26, 2018**  
**Ozark National Forest Headquarters, Russellville, AR**

**Draft Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 10:05AM

**Attendees**

Clay Knighton, David Quattlbaum, Edward Swaim, Max Braswell, Arnold Hameister Scott Meek, Ben Gilley, Rick Monk, Rob Parkes, George Rheinhardt, Darcia Routh, Brad Hufhines, Mike Daniels, Richard Norwood, Tyler Couch, Bob Morgan, Doug Akin

Motion to approve minutes from 5/22/17 and 8/15/17 by: Arnold Hameister seconded by: George Rheinhardt. Motion carries

David Quattlbaum talked about Symposium on February 15, 2018 and invited everyone

**Discussion of Action Items from the Statewide Forum on Water and Drinking Water**

- Piney Bay and Spadra Creek – John Lester, Chairman of Ozark Water and Light expressed interest in a watershed alliance at the November Forum. ADH says that Ozark has water quality problems in Piney Bay. Bob Morgan and John Pennington met with Mr. Lester and discussed how to start a watershed group and write a SWP plan. Pertinent to the area:
  - Deltic Timber and Green Bay have some timber land in the area
  - Darcia Routh suggested a river valley watershed protection position to be hired by multiple utilities
  - Mike Daniels suggested ANRC funding a position like Darcia suggested
  - Conduct a watershed stewardship meeting in that area (UAEX) – Darcia will email stewardship material to this group
    - From this meeting build an alliance to fund the watershed protection position
  - Ask Tony Ramick about funding a more forestry specific and technical follow up to the stewardship material (BMP modules)
    - Forestry Commission is onboard for partnering on this effort.
    - Ed Swaim will ask Tony to about his interest.
- Regional forum suggested by the NW Arkansas Group was tabled for now.
- Website
  - The SE Partnership will be able to host an Arkansas Forests and Drinking Water site if we want.
    - In August, we set an action item for Bob and Max Braswell to meet to discuss AFA hosting of the site. AFA has a new communications manager so it might be a little bit until they are able to develop website. However, Bob and Max will get together to move forward on website development

- Media (the need to expand our message is agreed upon, but vehicle and cost is debatable)
  - AETN – documentary
  - BWD is interested in however the committee thought that a one or two minute commercial might reach a wider audience
  - Darcia suggested talking on news programs
  - George suggested YouTube videos
  - Max asks what our goal and audience of the video
  - Some feel that personal contact (local meetings) is better than spending money on videos
  - Clay Knighton volunteered to help develop and promote short videos
- Hot Springs
  - Marty Ledbetter and Bob Morgan are working to develop demonstrations. We are waiting on Hot Springs at this point.
- Brewer Lake
  - Brewer Lake is the water supply for Conway Corp. It also has significant forest activity in the watershed. Green Bay Packaging in particular are active in the watershed.
  - The Central Arkansas focus group indicated interest in developing a watershed alliance while they were at the Forum
  - Scott Meek is working with Jeff Perry, also from Green Bay Packaging to recruit Conway Corp to work with the group. They are making progress.
  - No needed help as of now but might need help reaching out to private landowners in the future
- Outreach:
  - Bob and Doug will provide training for new directors at the Arkansas Association of Conservation District meeting Feb 13 and 14.
  - Bob is presenting at the Arkansas Water Works and Water Environment Association in May.
  - Domtar – recommended by the SE focus group at the form. Apparently, they haven't met in several years. So this may not be an option.
    - George Rheinhardt says that Society of American Foresters area groups are drying up and might not be the best option. But, state meetings might still be good option for presenting our message. George will check with the Ouachita Society and the Arkansas Chapter of the Ouachita Society of the SAF regarding a presentation. Bob is willing to present
  - Conservation Districts are great audience for presentations
  - Bob will write an article for the ADH newsletter offering training and presentation

### **TELE Workshop**

TELE is Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively, a program developed by the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. The TELE team from Yale is conducting a workshop in Russellville Feb. 1 and 2. Three groups associated are attending the workshop representing Beaver Watershed Alliance, Central

Arkansas Water and The Forest Commissions HEIRS program. The workshop will help the groups learn how to use the TELE tools to develop outreach targeting specific audiences and issues. Research shows that this type of outreach achieves more positive results than a less targeted message.

### **Discovery Farm – Forestry**

Mike Daniels provided a white paper on the Discovery Farm program and how it might be used for collecting data on forestry BMPs and as an outreach tool. The Discovery program is effective because it utilizes peer to peer outreach. That is the landowner becomes the trainer.

The Extension Service is willing to lend support and expertise to the Discovery Forest. However, we still need to find a good source of funding to get started. Mike is going to develop the white paper further to get specifics. We can use that tools to approach potential funders.

Discussion on what the forest should focus on followed. Questions are: watershed scale or bmp scale monitoring, how long we need to monitor, what practices are of interest.

It was suggested that Extension add a water utility spot on the Discovery Farm Technical Advisory Committee. Bob suggested Monty Leadbetter from Hot Springs. Brad Hufhines is going to get with Alan Fortenberry to find who he would recommend from the Arkansas Association of Water and Waste Water Managers. Other suggestions included Conway Corporation and possibly even a large and a small utility.

As the Discovery Forest proceeds, it needs to be committee driven and UAEX will provide technical expertise and guidance but forestry interests need to be out front and visible.

**Status of the Current Grant, “Arkansas Forests and Drinking Water Partnership – Developing and Enhancing Watershed Collaboration and Protection Emphasizing Non-Traditional Approaches and Markets”**

- Balance of 97K in grant
- The grant currently expires Sept. 30. We will likely request a no-cost extension of about 6 months.
- We are ok regarding completion of deliverables.

**Next Meeting:** 8/23/18 at the Ozark National Forest Headquarters in Russellville starting 10am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM

Minutes prepared by Brad Hufhines and Bob Morgan