

Watershed Oversight Committee Meeting minutes:

3/12/13 Meeting called to order at 10:11 am by Jackie Kraft at Davis Lodge, Lake Bloomington

Attendees:

Mike Steffa, Jackie Kraft, Rick Twait, Angelo Caparella, MaryJo Adams, Rick Nolan, Trent Tolliver, Michael Brown, Mike Garthaus, Krista Kirkland, Brian Lambert, Julie Weber, Janet Beach Davis, Ashley Maybanks (TNC)

Demonstration site at Lake Evergreen: 600 feet of shoreline completed at Lake Evergreen. Rock is waiting for the weather to cooperate. On the interpretive trail, Master Naturalists will help with the plantings, and the overlook and bridge are yet to be constructed. Brochures will be printed for promotion and for an educational guide. The area will then be seeded with a waterway mix to cover any open ground left by construction. The grass seeded will be similar to what landowners will have planted to show what the area will look like if they enroll in the wetlands project.

Friends of Everbloom: At the last meeting the group has broken into committees: watershed and erosion, dock repair/construction, and vegetation.

-Angelo suggested that there may need to do some forest restoration work to control invasive trees and restore woodland ephemerals. There is a retired forester in the group who may be very interested in doing a woodlands management plan to help rescue declining spring ephemerals.

-MaryJo suggested a use survey for the lake to see what areas are utilized most by visitors. There is a class at ISU that may be able to complete a use survey as a class project. Michael Brown will be contacting the instructor about doing a survey, and Angelo can contact the bird community to have them complete a survey once it is ready.

-Rick is looking into getting a recycling roll off located at the water plant at Lake Bloomington. McLean County Sportsman Club have made two fishing line receptacles for used fishing line to keep it out of the water.

-MaryJo will investigate grant opportunities for planting and training. Friends of Reservoirs may have a fish habitat grant available.

Watershed plan: We need to review the watershed plan to see what has been completed and where we need to go from here. The Evergreen Plan will be reviewed at the next meeting, followed by Bloomington. Several areas of concern in the plans have been addressed.

-Rick suggested that there could be a one day symposium for the public about what has been going on in the watersheds. There has been such a large amount of public support with the growing Everbloom group that this may be the time to inform the public. The timeline for this would be late fall, after harvest, and could include workshops and demonstrations.

-There could be an informational booth at the Sustainability and Wellness Fair in April at IWU.

Other business:

Angelo: The Pheasant Creek area in Normal, By Cardinal Court- SEAC at ISU has gotten grant money to do a restoration plan and high quality restoration of this area that was once an Environmental Lab area in the 1970's. The Town of Normal will be restoring much of the creek area nearby.

Rick Nolan: The Greenways Committee will be developing a quarterly newsletter to share information about greenways developments of concern to McLean County residents.

Next Meeting: May 7th at 10:00. At SWCD office.