

Spring Creek Coalition
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
August 11, 2016

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Spring Creek Coalition (“SCC”) was held on Thursday, August 11th at the Schusterman Library in Tulsa. The following board members were present: Beth Rooney, Donna and Charles Drury, Jennifer Owens, Cheryl Cheadle, Casey Ferguson, George Kamp and Molly Grigsby. Also present were guests SCC members David Martinez, Science Advisor, Martin Rooney, Becky Bell, Ken Lusk, and David and Christine Grigsby and special guests Brandon Brown, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Dr. Darrell Townsend, Grand River Dam Authority, and Jay Pruett, The Nature Conservancy. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Approval of June Board Minutes: Approved after motion and second.

Treasurer’s Report: Beth reported a balance of \$4,562 as of as of 08/01/16.

Meeting Day for 2017: The board agreed to keep Thursdays as our meeting day.

Presentation by ODWC guests: Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) guest Brandon Brown spoke about the recent work and insights of a film production crew from the United Kingdom called Freshwaters Illustrated. The crew filmed on Spring, Snake and other Ozark streams the week of July 25th. They were obtaining underwater footage of stonerollers, brownish minnows that scrape algae from rocks, and small mouth bass for a documentary on the work of Mary Powers, an Oklahoman who studied the interdependence of these two fish. Members of the film crew were amazed by the water clarity and abundance and variety of fish we have. Brandon also made a key point that while we have this incredible resource now, we cannot take it for granted. Once it is gone, there is no going back. He cited an example of a Missouri stream that has lost its unique fish just during the past few decades. Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) guest Dr. Darrell Townsend, Assistant General Manager for GRDA Ecosystems and Lake Management, gave an overview of the work GRDA is doing. He talked about the added law enforcement they have been able to provide to the Illinois River now that the Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission has been transferred to GRDA. This frees director Ed Fite, now with GRDA, to address environmental issues. Among other things, GRDA is also partnering with an NSU lab in the Natural Resources area to address water quality and is working with DEQ to model poultry litter distribution.

Goal #1, Build a Coalition:

- a. **Special lead-by-example clean-up event:** The board agreed to hold a clean-up, organized by Jennifer, at King’s Curve on Saturday September 3rd.

- b. Fall Clean up: The annual fall clean-up will be held on Saturday November 5th at King's Curve. Note: we may move this clean-up to Cooper's Bridge.
- c. Community outing: cliff hike: Beth is organizing a cliff hike for the community to be held on Saturday October 15th.
- d. Fall Newsletter: The board discussed the upcoming newsletter (due by August 30th). Beth and Jennifer will respond to poll items. The newsletter will mention the board's position against the right to farm bill, the cliff hike, fall clean up, and meet your neighbors (the Spencers). It will also include a summary of the August board meeting.
- e. More landowners on mailing list: The Drurys provided a plat map of Mayes County. Jennifer will purchase one from Cherokee County when they get their new maps in. The board discussed partnering with GRDA to get the names of those on the mailing list and a map of the population. The board also discussed the possibility of using an app called ihunt, which can provide a map of different people's properties and addresses.
- f. Calendars pictures due: The board gave feedback on this year's potential calendar pictures. If anyone has pictures they would like considered, please send to Beth by August 30.

Goal #2: Science, GIS Mapping Project with TCC: David Martinez reported that TCC students will begin mapping Spring Creek this fall as part of their project.

Goal #3, Education:

- a. Work with local schools: The board intends to return to local schools this fall. Cheryl suggested that the board contact Jerry Flemming to organize educational outreach to elementary schools.
- b. Contact conservation districts: Jennifer called each of the three Spring Creek County Conservation districts and let them know that SCC members might contact them for help. She found that Mayes and Delaware counties were well staffed but that Cherokee County has been reduced to one person due to attrition and budget cuts. Cheryl is going to further contact the Cherokee County person to find out what is happening.

Goal #7: Trash: Report on Cave Springs Trash Barrel: Jennifer reported that the Cave Springs trash barrel is in good shape with special thanks to Jessica Spencer's attention when Jennifer was on vacation. Beth mentioned the possibility of hiring someone to deal with the trash in 2017.

Other: Water quality testing for chicken farms on Snake Creek: Charles, Martin, and Beth hiked to the confluence of Spring Creek and Snake Creek and verified that past chemical tests included water that runs by the chicken farms on Snake Creek.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m. Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 8th at 6:15 p.m. at the Schusterman Library.

Respectfully submitted by C. Ferguson, Secretary.