Hinkson Creek Watershed Project Stakeholder Committee

700 E Broadway (Felini Restaurant) Columbia, MO.

MINUTES 5:30 P.M. Tuesday, January 13th, 2009

Attendees: Tina Bernskoetter, Ken Midkiff, Jeff Barrow, Sherry Fischer, Stephanie Smith, Anne Peery, Todd Houts, Steve Hunt, John Schultz, Mike Schupp, Kevin Martz, Scott Hamilton, Bill Florea

Housekeeping-

The Hinkson Creek Watershed Restoration Project (HCWRP) provided dinner for the stakeholders at Felini Restaurant. The funds used for this (and much of the project) were provided by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, which ultimately came from EPA Region 7. HCWRP will provide food at all stakeholder meetings. The meeting began with stakeholder introductions.

Slideshow Introduction to Project

Scott Hamilton introduced the project via a PowerPoint slideshow. The mission of the group is to revise the watershed management plan to reflect local interests and values. The plan is the communities' response to the TMDL document being written by the DNR. The goals of the plan are: 1) To improve the water quality of the Hinkson so that all of the designated uses are supported, and it is taken off the 303(d) list. 2) reduce the "flashiness" of the streamflow.

The Hinkson is 26 miles long, and its watershed is roughly 88.5 miles, half of it being agricultural, the bottom half is developed. It begins near Hallsville, and flows southwest through the city, until discharging into Perche Creek near the Columbia treatment plant. The slideshow illustrated the areas where DNR has found Hinkson Creek to be polluted. The areas varied each year. In 2001, polluted areas were above I-70. In years 2002-2006, the areas above I-70 were fine, but downstream areas had pockets of elevated pollutants. Many different pollutants were found in the creek, but none that are solely responsible for the creek's "impaired" status. The take-home point of this was that the polluted areas of the creek vary from year to year, and that the creek water quality is not terrible, but needs improvement.

Given the unknown nature of the pollution, certain assumptions had to be made for drawing up the plan. 1) It is assumed that the source of problems for the Hinkson is from urbanized areas, since the water quality becomes impaired only after entering the developed areas. Upstream monitoring of the landfill and agricultural areas indicate that the water is up to standards. 2) Pollution enters the Hinkson through stormwater. Many studies show impervious surfaces have a negative impact upon urban streams, and the DNR study found 20% of the stormwater runoff was toxic. 3) The urbanized streamflow contributes to the degraded condition of the Hinkson. DNR is targeting the flow with their TMDL document.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) talk on TMDLs

Anne Peery, TMDL writer for DNR, talked about the Total Maximum Daily Load document that they are preparing for Hinkson Creek. DNR must complete the TMDL by the end of 2009. They are using examples from other stormwater flow TMDLs (such as Potash Creek) upon which to base their model. She also described the limited authority of the TMDL document. In application, however, the DNR can require Columbia, Boone County and the University of Missouri to address the TMDL through their Joint Stormwater Management Plan. Anne described various Best Management Practices (BMPs) that can be used to treat and slow stormwater run-off. This is in line with (2002) EPA guidance that recommends BMPs be used in place of numeric limits on stormwater permits.

Structure of Meetings

Bill Florea, planner for Boone County, handed out a "stakeholder meeting guidance" which suggested a format for conducting meetings, based on experience from the Bonne Femme Creek meetings. Scott will

act as secretary for the meetings. Next meeting the group will decide on co-chairs, or another format for the group.

We will meet at the Boone County Commission Chambers on Feb 3rd at 4:00-6:00, Shakespeare's pizza will be provided. The homework is to review the Introduction and Chapter 1 of the plan, and send e-mail comments to Scott prior to the next meeting.