

Hinkson Creek
Collaborative Adaptive Management
Stakeholder Committee
March 21, 2018

Attending: EPA Facilitator Monica Espinosa, Commissioner Fred Parry, Paul Mehrle, Ben Londeree, Jeanine Pagan, Tim Rielly, Councilman Karl Skala, Mark Farnan, Todd Houts, Tom Trabue, Diane Oerly

Absent: Jonathan Sessions, Nathan Odle, Jay Turner, Frank Gordon

Guests: Catherine Wooster-Brown, Katie D'Agostino, Ann Marie Gortmaker, Jon White, Erin Keys, John Glascock, Theresa Thomas, Nicki Fuemmeler, Lynne Hooper, Bill Florea

1. Welcome to Process participants and Introductions

Introduction of Stakeholders and guests

Karl Skala asked to add two items to the agenda: a rezoning request and a Sierra Club appointment. Fred Parry would like to add a New Business section and CAFOs to the agenda.

2. Approval of previous meeting minutes

A motion to approve the December minutes passed unanimously.

3. Missouri Department of Natural Resources Updates

Tim Rielly reported DNR is undergoing Red Tape Reduction. The Department is reviewing all rules currently in effect to determine their effectiveness, applicability, and ease of understanding. The goal is to eliminate 1/3 of existing rules. Nothing currently affects the CAM process.

Paul Mehrle asked for an update on the 2017 macroinvertebrate sampling results. Tim reported last year's sampling did not attain criteria and the numbers dropped a little bit. He hopes to have exact numbers at the next Stakeholder meeting. The City, County, and MU have decided not to sample for the next 1-3 years and instead do more research, so we know where to target our sampling.

Fred started a discussion about what actions the CAM process has done to try to get Hinkson Creek delisted. It was acknowledged that each entity is doing a little bit on their own, but what official Science Team recommendations have gone to the Action Team? Diane Oerly thinks the Stakeholder Committee is reactive and has not done anything proactive except data gathering and understanding. The Science Team has made some recommendations, but the Action Team doesn't have enough information to act on at this time. Tim stated there are a couple of things in the works.

4. Science Team Updates

Dave Michaelson and Barry Poulton agreed to write an RFP for a macroinvertebrate study. Dave and Barry are going to look through the data before writing the RFP to see if anything immediate jumps

out. Tim thought this would make a great graduate thesis. Bill Florea stated anyone with appropriate qualifications could apply for the RFP.

Dr. North, Dr. Argerich, and a hydrologist attended the last Science Team meeting and are interested in exploring possible projects on Hinkson Creek.

Lynne Hooper and Joe Engeln started the sediment mapping project last week. They realized the site selection process for the first phase were not placed well for sediment mapping and came up with a new protocol to select sites for analysis. They are waiting for Science Team approval at their next meeting. If approved, 30 sites along Hinkson Creek could be surveyed over time on an annual or biannual basis. Ben Londeree asked if any work would be done on any tributaries. Lynne said the sites would be selected on Hinkson, but some effort will be put into focusing near confluences to examine the influence of the inputs of tributaries. Lynne said possible outcomes were that we could learn where sediment is accumulating, how long it takes for sediment to move and determine what that could mean for the creek. Fred would like to see a demonstration board with a map of Hinkson Creek at future Stakeholder meetings that show the sampling sites. The County will provide this map.

5. Action Team Updates

Erin Keys gave an update on the Upper Hinkson Creek sewer project that has a stream stabilization component and said the City is prioritizing their aging/failing infrastructure.

The Action Team is interested in preparing a presentation that CAM members could present to interested groups about the CAM process for Hinkson Creek. If any of the represented organizations on the Stakeholder Committee are interested or know of another organization that would be interested, please contact Erin. Action Team members would also be willing to attend various interested group meetings and listen to views about CAM.

The Action Team is interested in putting on a free, full day workshop in September, geared towards property owners in the Upper Hinkson Watershed.

Nicki Fuemmeler brought up having another tour for CAM committee members. Monica directed the Stakeholders to think about where they wanted to go/who to invite and bring their ideas to the next Stakeholder meeting or contact Erin.

6. Riparian Subcommittee Updates

El Chaparral Update – work is complete. Some planting still needs to be done in the swale.

RCPP Update – Contrary to previous information provided by USDA, there are no funds available this year. Funds are dependent on a new farm bill. Until we know if the bill passes, we may consider other grant programs are available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Soil and Water Conservation District.

7. New Business

The Sierra Club have nominated Dee Dokkins to fill their seat on the Stakeholder Committee. Katie D'Agostino and Ann Marie Gortmaker presented about the rezoning request on Old 63 to change three lots zoned R-1 to Mixed Office. For CAM, the discussion focused on the amount of impervious surface that would be added if the rezoning request was approved. Karl wants the Stakeholders to think about how incremental issues affect the watershed.

Ben brought up the fact that the stormwater and stream buffer ordinances passed ten years ago and wanted to know if any assessments have been done to determine impact and effect. Erin said no formal review has been done on City stormwater/stream buffer ordinances, but some updates have been done on the stormwater regulations.

Fred is worried that Boone County does not have a health ordinance that would discourage Combined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) from being built in the county. According to statements made by a realtor at the Cooper County hearings, Aurora Dairy is looking for more land in the area. He wants to raise awareness in our group because the impacts CAFOs make on our waterways. Paul thinks we need stricter nutrient criteria regulations related to CAFOs. Diane and Karl want to make a recommendation for the County Commission to create a health ordinance. Tim mentioned there are no nutrient requirements for streams, only lakes. However, DNR is statutorily required to develop nutrient requirements for streams, so it's coming.

8. New Website Redesign

Stakeholders approved the request to redesign the CAM website. Diane would like to see a list of studies with links on the website. Fred wants Lynne to add her thesis. Todd wants the website to be mobile friendly. Karl would like to see a Facebook page, if possible.

9. Collaborative Adaptive Management Committee Discussion of Next Steps

Standardize agenda to have a map that will show relevant sites along the creek and New Business section. We will keep the Old 63 and CAFO update.

Monica will invite Danelle to present her chloride data/study on the River des Peres at our next meeting.

Fred suggested that a map of the Hinkson watershed should be brought to each meeting, others agreed.

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicki Fuemmeler
Edited by Ben Londeree