

Minutes
Sangamon River Alliance
Steering Committee
February 28, 2018, 6:00 pm
Macon County USDA Service Center Building
“Lincoln’s River; Our River”

An alliance of agencies, groups and organizations active in the Sangamon River Watershed

Attendance: Keith, Steve John, Scott Hewitt, Jennifer Satorius, Scott Hays, Carol Hays, Louis Yockey, David Horn, Decatur City Council

August 14, 2017 Steering Committee minutes unanimously approved

Event updates:

Scott Hewitt notes that Canoes and Candlelight was successful and well-attended

Lincoln’s Canoe Race is upcoming July 14

Scott Hays notes that the USRC Fall cleanup was also successful and well-attended.

Melody announces the Homestead Homecoming June 9th

Oct 16 Community Council Cleanup Month

September 15, Bike Race

Louis notes that the *Illinois Water Usage Stamp* is in effect until June. But not required after that, per Public Act 00-0469. Registration no longer needed. There was a price increase for motorized watercraft. Overall, this bill is revenue neutral (the state will not lose net revenue for having eliminated the WUS for paddlecraft).

Boat Access Area Development Grants: no update

David Horn discusses *State of the Fox River Report* and that legislators and the press really liked it. The report includes the following: What is it? Why is it important? What issues does it face?

What action steps can we take?

Scott notes a need and interest in creating a similar report for the Sangamon River.

David asks about data for the Sangamon River area; Carol mentions the ‘Critical Zone Observatory’ project is gathering extensive data on the Sangamon River. Also the EPA.

David mentions Cindy Skukrud - very active in the Fox River Watershed Group. They used 404 Water permits Stream mitigation money for various watershed projects such as Stream channel

restorations, Fish ladders, Impoundments, Dam removal and Conservation education and training

David asks what kind of mitigation projects or other broad based projects are active in the Sangamon Watershed?

Sangamon Watershed Celebration. There was agreement that while the event was successful, turnout was unfortunate. SRA is reconsidering overall format of the day.

Next Sangamon River Celebration will be Nov 3 or Nov 10. Steve notes a need to make a bigger pitch to SRA member agencies and organizations to boost turnout.