

Minutes
Sangamon River Alliance
Steering Committee
August 14, 2017, 5:30 pm
Macon County USDA Service Center Building

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

Attendance: Carol Hays, Keith Alexander, Steve John, Jim Reed, Kent Massie, Louis Yockey, Megan Baskerville, Scott Hewitt, Scott Hays, Melody Arnold

June 21 Steering Committee minutes reviewed and unanimously approved.

Important Announcements and events should be submitted to: treacytt@gmail.com

Megan shared information about her new role with The Nature Conservancy and in the Midwest Row Crop Collaborative.

Sangamon Watershed Celebration Planning: Date will be Saturday, Nov 4, Macon County Extension, Sequestration Building

Design: Concurrent sessions, dinner, speaker and/or entertainment.
Fee structure: \$20 day; \$25 evening w/dinner; \$35 full package

Displays, presentations and co-sponsors will include PRN, TNC, USRC, HLHWTA, Mike Wiant (displaying and/or speaking), Heart of the Sangamon, Lake Decatur (presentation on use and dredging), NRCS Transect Survey, AWI, NPS Intern about the Rock River.

The SWC Planning Committee (Steve, Scott and Melody) will follow up and finalize the list. All SRA groups are encouraged to sign up as sponsors (donors), presenters, and to spread the word to the members of our groups.

Expanded General meeting. Discussed Oct 12 as tentative date

- Potential theme of meeting: “One Watershed Unites Us All”
- Introductions to current SRA members; announce Sangamon Watershed Celebration
- TBD: Invitation process for public/agency/non-profit officials

New Salem Foundation announces \$8,000 donation for travelling exhibit on mill history. No further action needed by the SRA at this time.

Website:

Members are encouraged to make suggestions for content/change/updates
Website content needed for our three areas: recreation, conservation, education.
We will create a SRA Google drive to share documents.

New business:

SRA unanimously adopts “Lincoln’s River, Our River” as the Sangamon River “motto”

Three Subcommittees formed:

Recreation: S. Hays and Yockey

Will initially focus on developing online river access maps and signage

Conservation: Baskerville and C. Hays

Will initially focus on conservation education for people throughout the watershed.

Education: Hewitt and S. Hays

Will initially focus on signage for the Sangamon River – access points, river-oriented signage, watershed entrance signage.

S. Hays considered the group’s interest in water access law advocacy. It was decided that the SRA, acting as the SRA should NOT engage in this form of advocacy, given the inclusion of government/taxpayer funded agencies/municipalities/organizations. S. Hays may will look into this further and may consider forming a separate ‘advocacy coalition’ established solely for this purpose.

Melody explained the situation concerning logging on City of Decatur Property. The Decatur Audubon Society and the Macon County Community Environmental Council have taken a position in opposition to the logging. The area to be logged is 18 acres of hardwood forest near Lake Decatur from which 114 hardwood trees are to be harvested. The group again decided that on this issue the SRA, acting as the SRA should NOT engage in this form of advocacy, given the inclusion of government/taxpayer funded agencies/municipalities/organizations.

Next Meeting date TBD

Adjourn