

Minutes
Sangamon River Alliance
Steering Committee
Monday, June 18, 2018, 6:30 pm
Macon County USDA Service Center Building

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

Keith Alexander, Decatur Lake Management; Steve John, AWI; Kent Massie, Menard Trails and Greenways; Louis Yockey, IDNR, Michael Wyant, retired Illinois State Museum, Terri Treaci, retired Sierra Club; Deanna Glosser, LCF; Scott Hays, USRC and Champaign County Forest Preserve Board

Mission and Vision: Check-in: All re-acknowledged their support for continuing with the current Mission and Vision as stated on our website.

Deanna Glosser, ED, Land Conservation Foundation shares that LCF manages properties adjacent to the Sangamon River in Macon, Piatt, Dewitt. Their primary focus is Lodge Park (north of Monticello) to Allerton Park (south of Monticello).

February 28, 2018 Steering Committee minutes unanimously approved with edits

Monday, October 15, 2018. Upcoming Watertrail Conference in Kankakee. Scott Hays, Carol Hays and Louis Yockey are participating in the conference. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Steve shares that “Homestead Homecoming” had 16 kayaks and one canoe for a trip between Michaels Road and Lincoln’s Homestead.

Upcoming Lincoln’s Homestead events include: July 14, Mussels in the Sangamon River, August 25, Sept 7, Eagles on the River Oct 16&17 tree planting along Lincoln’s Heritage parkway.

August 9 Perennializing agriculture at the AWI.

There will be an August Cleanup between Irwin Bridge and New Salem.

Boat Access Area Development grants: Scott notes that Mahomet’s grant has been approved for funding to construct where IL 47 crosses the Sangamon south of Mahomet. Louis reports that the program remains closed for new applicants.

Steve notes a need for a good interactive map of the Sangamon River with access points and public areas. This could be used by anyone interested in visiting or floating the Sangamon River. Mike suggests that DNR has a GIS public lands database that shows public lands that could be used for this effort. It can also be used to calculate river miles. The group shares the USRC’s Google Map (Champaign County area) and the LHWTA’s PDF map (Springfield/Petersburg

area) that is on their website. Both are good examples of maps of the Sangamon River. Louis and Mike will share information we already have on available maps through DNR and GIS.

Kent shares an interest with David Horn (not present) in developing a “position report” on the Sangamon River aka “State of the Sangamon” report. This could target local representatives on county boards, village trustees or city councils. Kent will work on this effort. The report will focus on building awareness of the river and promoting recreation, education and conservation. It is basically a position paper for legislators about what the SRA is and what we do. Scott Hays will assist with report development.

Website: Terri points out an immediate need for content for our Conservation and Education sections on the web site (both still have ‘draft Latin’ content). Steve agreed to write Conservation content. We will follow up with the Conservation Committee: Carol Hays and Megan Baskerville (not present). Steve and Cassandra Wilcoxon (not present) will be invited to the Conservation Committee.

Kent will add to Education section.

Terri suggests that the website page has to be dynamic and interesting. She suggests adding a section for float descriptions of different float trips with ‘dynamic’ reviews. Also noted is that we need to make clear that on the Sangamon River everyone will “Float at your own risk”.

Terri and others also share an interest in setting up an SRA Facebook page to drive traffic to the web site and promote and share events and other news. Terri will set up the Facebook page and make SRA Steering Committee members “Administrators” on request. Scott Hays notes an interest in becoming an Administrator. Scott suggests “boosting” Facebook posts for maximum SRA impact, but all who are active FB users should “Like” and “Share” SRA Facebook posts.

We will not create a Google Drive, but will use the website as a depository for SRA information and reports, including meeting agendas and minutes. Terri will set up a page for this.

Also noted: We need to post and share on our website about canoe and kayak safety, including sharing information about paddle safety and training events. Kent shares that one person recently died on the Sangamon River in their area, although the circumstances are unclear. Also: We should share information about Canoe/Kayak instructional training opportunities in Central Illinois; and potentially add information about support from IPC for individuals to become certified instructors.

Kent notes a need to seek out more members and membership. Kent suggests crafting an “email letter” promoting the SRA for Steering Committee members to forward to their area cities, counties, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Park Districts and other elected officials. Also water utilities in Springfield, Decatur, Monticello, and Mahomet and volunteer organizations including the Sierra Club, Decatur River Runners, Central Illinois Paddlers Meetup or other meetup groups to ask them to participate in/ be a part of the SRA.

Scott Hays and Kent will work on this. This letter can say: Here’s the framework that’s started. We need to stress that groups don’t formally “join” the Alliance; there is no criteria for

“membership” and there are not membership fees. The letter should explain that we are attempting to be a clearinghouse for events, activities, news and other information regarding the entire stretch of the Sangamon River and the entire of its watershed and tributaries, including the land area that is part of the watershed. We should continue to update the list of current members and links to each member organization’s website (we do this currently). Terri will add the Land Conservation Foundation with a link provided by Deanna.

Old Business: 2018 Sangamon Watershed Celebration Planning update.

Steve notes that he is speaking with the new incoming Richland College President and they may play a bigger role for the event.

Steve will set up a meeting for SWC Planning Subcommittee.

Next Meeting date window for Doodle poll: Two months: Second week in August