

SALT FORK RIVER WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

A sub-committee of the Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District
2110 Park Court, Suite C
Champaign, IL 61821 (217) 352-3536 ext. 3

Minutes from the Implementation Committee Meeting of November 6, 2008 – 3 PM NRCS State Office

Present:

Ansel Anderson – Izaak Walton League	Jim Royer – UCSD
Tim Bachman – Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District	John McMahon – SFRP
Brad Bennett – City of Urbana	Brad Uken – Champaign County Farm Bureau
Tom Berns – Berns, Clancy and Associates	Paul Terrio – USGS
Eleanor Blackmon – City of Champaign/CCSWCD Board	Rachel Andrus – UIUC
Clark Bullard – Prairie Rivers Network	Mark David – UIUC
Jim Hoyt – Grand Prairie Friends	Bruce Stickers – CCSWCD Staff
Dennis Wandell – SFRP	Renee Weitekamp – CCSWCD Staff

Eleanor Blackmon called the meeting of sub-committee chairs to order 3:05 PM.

No agenda changes were requested

The Channel Stewardship Subcommittee Draft Recommendations for the Salt Fork Channel were discussed. Clark Bullard had several comments, which are listed below with Ansel Anderson's responses. It was decided to table the discussion until after a revised report is issued. A chair meeting will be added on February 5th.

Q. Was the referenced informal survey of landowners documented? What questions were asked?

A. The reference to the informal survey will be removed.

Q. Page 2 reference – must be approved by landowner.

A. Change must to should. Also remove public waters sentence.

Q. Page 2 – blockage truly in need of attention – who make this decision? What are the criteria? It is a private problem unless guidelines for public funding are defined.

A. Group is working on definition of blockage.

Q. 10% cost share guidance, and volunteer contribution for the project. Should this be pursued?

Also, Tom Berns expressed concern about the blockage next to the bridge in St. Joseph.

The sub-committee meeting was called to order at 3:56 PM.

No agenda changes were requested

Consideration of minutes was deferred due to lack of paper copies at the meeting. Minutes will be resent.

Table 14 discussion was deferred due to lack of paper copies at the meeting. It will be included in the next meeting's information.

Tim Bachman discussed possible gaging station funding. It is important to have water quantity data to use along with the water quality data to calculate pollutant loads. The USGS Salt Fork gage has lost its funding.

The committee would like to keep the gaging station on the Salt Fork operational and to add one on the Saline Branch. The UI and the Urbana & Champaign Sanitary District (UCSD) have a long term commitment to water quality monitoring for this project. The cost to keep the Salt Fork gage going for the next 12 months is approximately \$6,000. The UCSD is interested in providing financial support if others contribute monies.

The ideal situation would be to keep the Salt Fork gage operating and add an additional gage on the Saline Branch. The cost for two stations beyond the USGS matching funds would be \$12,250 per year. Looking for approximately 10 agencies to contribute funds. Discussion included the best way to raise the funds, which agencies would benefit. Benefited agencies include anyone with NPDES permits such as Champaign, Urbana, UI, UCSD, also Rantoul, IDNR, drainage districts. It was decided to develop a list of target entities and send a letter explaining the benefits and requesting funds.

A related question was asked about why Rantoul was not represented on the Salt Fork Committees. The answer was not known, but it was suggested that they could be included.

UI subcommittee members presented information on the UI quarterly testing of 62 Salt Fork sites. The intent is to test every 3 to 4 miles along the streams. Also the station near St. Joseph is taking continuous dissolved oxygen and temperature data every 15 minutes since April 2008. The UI data is available at <http://saltfork.nres.uiuc.edu>

The next meeting was scheduled for February 5th, 2009 at 3:00 pm at the NRCS State Office.

Eleanor adjourned the meeting and the attendees broke off into groups with the rest of their sub-committee for independent discussion.