

Four Rivers Basin Team Agenda
Purchase Area Development District
February 24, 2010
9:30 AM

Welcome Maggie Morgan, Watershed Coordinator

Introductions

Announcements

- Cumberland River Compact EPA Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Grant
- Four Rivers Basin EPA 319(h) project proposals submitted

Project Updates:

- Clarks River Watershed Based Plan – Final report from Strand sent to DOW, Project close out report sent to DOW
- Clarks River Watershed Based Plan BMP Implementation
- Cane Creek/Bayou de Chien Watershed Based Plan – Final report from Strand sent to DOW, Project close out report sent to DOW
- Precision Ag
- Pleasant Grove
- Obion Creek Stream Restoration Phase II

Discussion Topics:

- Watershed Prioritization

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Attendees Kevin Murphy, City of Calvert and Jackson Purchase RC&D Foundation
Robert Johnson, Jackson Purchase RC&D Foundation
Mart Claxton, NRCS
Stan Brunston, Jackson Purchase Ag Credit
Jane Benson, MSU MARC
Andy Radomski, USFWS – Ecological Services
Kent Ozment, USFWS – Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge
Michael Janes, Obion Creek Watershed
James Oakley, City of Murray
Derek Hart, Mayfield Creek and Clarks River Watersheds
Danny Hart, Mayfield Creek and Clarks River Watersheds
Dave Herndon, Hopkinsville Planning Commission/Stormwater Utility
Steve Hunt, Christian County and Agri-Chem
John Farthing, Jackson Purchase ACA
Michele York, Marshal County Conservation District
Ray Dailey, NewPage Corporation
Billy Smith, Jackson Purchase RC&D Foundation
Adam Scott, Purchase Area Development District
Marty Moses, Farmer
Laura Alex, Cumberland River Compact
Jeremy Bruer, Agri-Chem
Jennifer Burnett, KDOW Paducah Regional Office
Susie Fenwick, Bayou de Chien Watershed
John Shely, NRCS
Bobbie Whitford, Mayfield Grain
Ryan McCafferty, Calloway County Conservation District

Announcements

- *Cumberland River Compact (CRC) EPA Strategic Agriculture Initiative Grant*

Laura Alex gave a brief introduction to this project. This is a Strategic Agriculture Initiative Grant from EPA Region 4 to address reducing chemical use on farms. The two year project will develop a program for crop, land and water management on farms. The project will be focused in three watersheds, including Cheatham Lake and Old Hickory in

Tennessee, and the Red River in Tennessee and Kentucky. Program goals include: creating the Cumberland Basin Strategic Agriculture Initiative Committee (CBSAIC); transforming regional farming practices; and developing, implementing, and demonstrating a learning manual on sustainable farming management strategies with a focus on a whole systems. The CRC has started recruiting members for the CBSAIC and are looking for participants for the farm demonstration sites.

- *Four Rivers Basin EPA 319(h) project proposals submitted*

Maggie Morgan reported that four EPA 319(h) project proposals were submitted from the Four Rivers Basin, including:

- Bayou de Chien project of Western Kentucky – project is seeking funding for the water quality data collection portion of a watershed based plan in the headwaters of Bayou de Chien. Data collection would all be done by U of L Stream Institute.
- Collaborative Stakeholder Engagement in the Little River Watershed – submitted by the Cumberland River Compact. Funding would be used to develop a model for collaborative stakeholder engagement and form a collaborative group to address water quality and quantity challenges in the Lower Cumberland. The project would focus on Little River, using this area as the pilot area because there is already interest there.
- Livestock Stewardship BMP Training and Demonstration Project – submitted by UK to fund the development and demonstration of series of BMPs that address the impacts of livestock at the UK Princeton Farm. Will use on-farm demonstration sites, technical documents, powerpoint presentations, tutorial DVDs and field days as methods of demonstration.
- Four Rivers Basin Coordinator – submitted by the Jackson Purchase RC&D Foundation to fund the Four Rivers Basin Coordinator position for another three years.

Project Updates:

- *Clarks River Watershed Based Plan*

Maggie Morgan reported that the final Watershed Based Plan and the project close out report have both been submitted to the Kentucky Division of Water. Recent conversations indicated that the review process should be finished soon.

- *Clarks River Watershed Based Plan BMP Implementation*

Although BMP implementation can't begin until the Watershed Based Plan has been approved by the Kentucky Division of Water, a BMP Implementation Plan has been developed and submitted to the Kentucky Division of Conservation. The BMP Implementation Plan basically outlines the types of practices that will be funded with this

grant. Ryan McCafferty reported that he has had meetings with the Calloway County Health Department to discuss the septic system repair and replacement portion of the project. He has also had conversations with some interested participants, including Murray State University, local landowners, and the Lost But Loved Animal Rescue Group.

- *Cane Creek/Bayou de Chien Watershed Based Plan*

Maggie Morgan reported that the final Watershed Based Plan and the project close out report have both been submitted to the Kentucky Division of Water.

- *Precision Ag*

Robert Johnson reported that the final report for this project was submitted to the Kentucky Division of Conservation in December of 2009. Reductions were seen in nitrogen, phosphorus and lime application rates, with no decreases in crop yields.

- *Pleasant Grove Creek Watershed Based Plan*

Dr. Barras from Austin Peay State University was unable to attend.

- *Obion Creek Stream Restoration Phase II*

Robert Johnson reported that the 404 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers has been approved. The 401 water quality certification from the Kentucky Division of Water has been applied for and the public notice period ends the second week of March. Randy Douglas is ready to start construction at the end of March, assuming the 401 water quality certification is in place. The project will restore Obion Creek from Highway 307 to join the previously restored channel.

Discussion Topics:

- *Watershed Prioritization*

Shelly Morris from The Nature Conservancy couldn't be at the meeting, but wanted to remind everyone to keep in mind potential partners to work with in each watershed. TNC is active in Bayou de Chien, Obion Creek and Livingston Creek watersheds. The FRBT started the prioritization process with the watersheds suggested by Maggie Morgan for protection:

- *Blood River Watershed:* It was noted that this watershed has a lot of residential areas around the lake, with most residences on septic systems. There are areas protected around the lake by TVA. There are also wetland areas around Wildcat Creek along Highway 280. Ryan McCafferty noted that there are WRP contracts and wetland enhancement grants in this watershed. It was suggested that Maggie

Morgan contact TVA and Paul Rister about additional water quality data for this watershed, and possibly PVA or 911 about development in this watershed.

- *Elk Fork below Allensville:* No representatives with information about this watershed were at this meeting. It was noted that all residences have septic systems. Steve Hunt noted that he thought there had been educational programs with the local farmers about good farming practices. It was also noted that this is in a karst region. It was suggested that Maggie Morgan contact Todd County Conservation District about more recent information for this watershed.
- *West Fork Red River:* It was noted that this watershed has the potential to be heavily affected by urban sprawl, with lots of potential for development. This watershed has lots of residential areas associated with individuals working at Ft. Campbell. The area includes Oak Grove, which has an MS4 permit. Steve Hunt indicated that he thought farmers in this area would be receptive to projects.
- *Whippoorwill Creek:* It was noted that there are no major developments or residential areas in the watershed. There has been a lot of data collection in the watershed by Austin Peay State University. There are two special use waters due to the presence of the endangered little pearlywing mussel (*Pegias fibula*). Andy Radomski has since followed up this discussion with more information about this species, including:
 1. It's the only species in the genus *Pegias*
 2. Little is known about its life history; unknown fish host(s)
 3. Historical records from 24 stream reaches in AL, KY, TN, NC, and VA; West Fork of Red River is an historic site
 4. Found in small to medium tributaries of TN and Cumberland Rivers
 5. Inhabits small to medium, low turbidity, cool-water, high to moderate gradient streams in the Cumberland and TN River basins
 6. Overall threats were generic; loss of habitat from coal and oil development, reservoir construction, ..excessive siltation, pollution.
 7. The recovery objective has "the ultimate goal ...to restore viable populations ... to a significant portion of its historic range in the Cumberland and TN River systems.

source: (Select Recovery Plan title link for the pdf)

<http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=F00L>

- *West Fork Clarks River:* It was noted that there are quite a few residences with septic systems in this watershed. The only wastewater treatment plant in the watershed is around the Symsonia area in Graves County, and it serves approximately 200 customers. The Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge owns some land in the Blizzard Pond drainage. It was noted that the watershed is used heavily for agriculture, including livestock and row crop agriculture. It was suggested that Maggie Morgan gather more information about the special use water designations. From the perspective of the USFWS Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, they would like to see more of the watershed restored and

protected to provide conductivity of habitat for wildlife. From the perspective of USFWS Ecological Services Division, this is an important area for protection (with restoration of the watershed being a component of protection). The members of the FRBT felt that this watershed should be considered more for restoration, with protection being considered along the way, but the main focus being concentration on restoring the watershed first.

Maggie Morgan will gather the additional information requested about the watersheds. The basin team members went ahead with the ranking process, but will consider the additional information gathered at the next basin team meeting to make sure their ranking still holds. It was decided that the West Fork Red River watershed is suffering from the most threats from urban sprawl, and should be considered the highest priority for protection. Whippoorwill Creek watershed was selected as the next priority, as it has an endangered species in a watershed with lots of agriculture and septic systems. Blood River was considered the 3rd highest priority because of the amount of residential development in the watershed. Elk Fork below Allensville was selected as the 4th highest priority.

Ranking of watersheds for protection:

- 1. West Fork Red River**
- 2. Whippoorwill Creek**
- 3. Blood River**
- 4. Elk Fork below Allensville**

The next meeting will focus on the watersheds for restoration, including: Red River at Oakville, North Fork of the Little River, South Fork of the Little River, Little River, Livingston Creek, Mayfield Creek, West Fork Clarks River, Clarks River, Island Creek, Obion Creek, and Bayou de Chien.