

Minutes for Regular Meeting of Beargrass Creek Alliance on February 15, 2021, held via Zoom

Attending: Ward Wilson, Kentucky Waterways Alliance director, Linda Gugin, BCA president, Dan Siebert, BCA vice president; Jim St. Clair, BCA secretary, David Rummmler, Rick Harned, Janice Walter, Abigail Stewart, Dave Bell, Jackie Green, Barbara Berman, Mark Long, Colette Easter, Sarah Wolff and David Spenard.

BCA's 10th anniversary:

A main topic of discussion concerned what programs to emphasize as the organization marks its 10th anniversary. Trash, the sources of it, how to get rid of it and prevent it from entering Beargrass Creek, was a main focus of discussion.

Problem of Trash:

This subject generated considerable discussion and there was general agreement that the best way to begin remedying the problem was to identify and contact the sources of the pollution. The problem is one Dan has been working on for several years. He noted that he and Tessa Edelen had previously contacted homeowners whose properties abut Beargrass Creek about the trash problem in the creek but received only one reply. He's willing to send out letters again but suggested it would be best to wait until some BCA members have a chance to scout the area and take photographs. After collecting such evidence, the next step would be to contact the property owners and if the problem is not remedied to take the matter to court.

Dan also suggested another strategy should be contacting the news media to draw attention to the problem, which may prompt interest from public officials as well as the general public in cleaning up Beargrass Creek. Dave Bell with Brightside agreed with connecting with public officials and reporters, including James Bruggers, former Courier-Journal environmental reporter now with Inside Climate News and Ryan Van Velzer, an energy and environmental reporter for the public radio station WFPL.

Ward recently applied to the Clif Bar Family Foundation to support hiring a part-time staff person to help organize clean-ups this year.

Every Drop:

According to a recent survey, conducted by a committee evaluating the Every Drop program, Linda said that homeowners who have installed rain gardens and/or rain barrels are very satisfied with their installations. The survey also noted that a co-pay arrangement was very important with respondents' decision to participate. Without the co-pay respondents said they would be willing to pay \$50 to \$75. Concerning funding, Linda noted that BCA has no funds to purchase rain barrels, plants and other supplies so the organization can no longer subsidize 50 percent of costs. The cost of plants for rain gardens, depending on the size of the plot, range from \$200 to \$500. Barrels cost \$80 to \$90. Linda noted that another issue is recruiting people to help with the installation of the barrels and gardens. Ward has applied to the Louisville Sustainability Council for a \$1,000 grant to subsidize costs of the Every Drop program.

Linda said that MSD has an excellent online guide about rain gardens and asked Colette Easter, of Louisville MSD, for permission to cite a link to that guide in BCA materials. Colette said that would be permissible and added that MSD has an online video about how to install and maintain rain gardens. Additionally, it was noted that MSD has installed two rain gardens at its Nightingale Pumping Station.

Bellarmine University Presentation:

David Rummier is scheduled to make a presentation on March 25 on problems and solutions of regional water infrastructure and how to recycle at the source rather than where it ends up. The talk may be in-person or remote; a time and place will be announced later.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.