

Minutes for Regular Meeting of Beargrass Creek Alliance on May 17, 2021, held via Zoom

Attending: Ward Wilson, executive director, Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Linda Gugin, BCA president, Jim St. Clair, BCA secretary, David Rummler, Martha Carlson Mazur, David Wicks, Deany Collard, Mark Long, and Barbara Berman.

Linda Gugin, president, presiding.

### **Topics of discussion**

#### **Beargrass Creek clean-ups:**

Ward reported that KWA has received a \$10,000 grant from the Louisville Water Foundation to hire an intern to coordinate cleanups. Ward wants to expand the focus on water beyond cleanups to include improving the quality of water resources. He noted that the Foundation as well as the Louisville Rotary Club are interested in supporting such efforts. One way to help clean-up efforts, Ward said, would be installing a series of mesh bags to trap trash.

Ward and David Wicks, discussing changes this year for the annual Ohio River Sweep, noted that instead of one big event held in past years, there will be a series of mini-sweeps over a period of two months. Three are scheduled on May 22 at the MSD pumping station on Brownsboro Road and Eva Bandman Park.

Linda said BCA needs to schedule more clean-ups and have a plan for when and where to do them. Additionally, she said BCA needs to identify sources of trash as way of stopping the pollution at the source. Martha Mazur suggested developing a program to incentivize students to participate in clean-ups, such as a certificate recognizing that they participated in a certain number of clean-ups. She also suggested posting information about clean-ups in newsletters of members of the Metro Council.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

The mayor's Hike, Bike and Paddle event returns for its 17<sup>th</sup> year on Memorial Day, May 31, from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Hikers can travel along the waterfront to the Louisville Community Boat House to River Road and back to the Great Lawn. The paddling will start at the Boat House and will go behind Tow Head Island, Waterfront Botanical Gardens and up Beargrass Creek. Also, BCA will have a table with handouts describing the organization, its purpose and ways to get involved, and there will be a BCA banner over the old River Road bridge.

KWA will host its 13th Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival on June 17. This year's event will be in a hybrid format: those attending will be able to watch the festival online or at the Sauerbeck Family Drive In located in La Grange. Gates open at 7:30. The festival is one of the nation's premier environmental and adventure film festivals. Ward said this year's offerings combine stellar filmmaking, beautiful cinematography, and first-rate storytelling intended to inform, inspire, and ignite solutions and possibilities to restore the earth and human communities while creating a positive future for the next generation.

#### **Student Activities:**

David Wicks said about 100 entries have been submitted in the photography contest for K through 12 students that focus on water. The photos will be exhibited at the Louisville Free

Public Library in conjunction with the library's Ohio River exhibit, the University of Louisville, Louisville Water Company, African-American Heritage Center, and River City Paddle Sports. David also noted that the publication, "Birds of Beargrass Creek," by Male High School students is now available. He said he could provide some copies for the BCA table at the Hike, Bike and Paddle event on May 31.

Linda thanked Deany for donating lots of native plants for the garden at the Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church. On Saturday, May 15 Linda and Jim helped the church's pastor and a few church members with weeding and planting.