

Minutes for Regular Meeting of Beargrass Creek Alliance on October 18, 2021, in-person at Kentucky Waterways Alliance office and via Zoom.

Attending in person: Ward Wilson, executive director, KWA, Linda Gugin, BCA president, Jim St. Clair, BCA secretary, David Rummler, Dan and Ann Siebert, David Spenard, Carol Curtis, and Susan Griffin Ward, director of community engagement for KWA.

Attending via Zoom: Harper Zeitz, clean waterways coordinator, KWA; Madeline Scarbrough, office administrator, KWA, Rick Harned, Barbara Berman, and Mark Long.

Topics of discussion

Assessment of BCA—past, present and future:

Linda started this discussion by noting that the organization's bylaws are 10 years old and perhaps are not appropriate now. A review of documents would ensure that officers and members are keeping true to the mission and whether designing a different organizational structure is needed. Also needed to be addressed is whether current programs and activities are appropriate to BCA's mission. Noting that she is completely open to suggestions/ideas, she said another topic to discuss is whether it is necessary for BCA to meet monthly.

Dan noted that in the beginning, only the board met monthly, and members met every other month or when deemed necessary by the board. Linda said she liked the idea of the board meeting monthly and having a general meeting every other month. Linda also raised the issue of finances, saying that BCA should have a separate account within KWA. Ward, noting that KWA does support BCA with staff, said KWA can provide a little funding and added that a big part of KWA's mission is to support local organizations. Ward believes because BCA is based in Louisville, the organization has the potential to raise a considerable sum of money from potential donors who support the organization's mission to protect, restore, educate, and advocate for the water quality of the Beargrass Creek watershed. Another source of funding discussed was charging a yearly membership dues. In the past BCA members did pay dues and there was general agreement at the meeting to restore that practice.

Additional funding also would mean BCA could revive its Every Drop program, a cost-sharing program with homeowners who install rain gardens and/or rain barrels. The cost of plants and barrels are split 50-50.

A number of other subjects generated a lot of discussion, including the need for a more diverse board, recruiting representatives from each of the three forks of Beargrass Creek, and attracting students from area universities. Other subjects discussed included inviting guest speakers at meetings to address environmental topics, creating committees that focus on specific issues such as development adjacent to the three forks, the vehicle impoundment lot, and updates from projects related to Beargrass Creek, including the \$3 million Army Corps of Engineers project to restore the entire ecosystem of the Creek and MSD's watershed project for the Middle Fork. Also, Ann suggested creating a brochure that described the organization, its mission and various programs.