

Harrods Creek Watershed Team Meeting – March 25, 2014

Attendees: Beth Stuber, Jim Urban, Mark Crutcher, Clarence Mays, Louise Allen, Julie Rhodes, Sylvia Bednarski, Todd Schindler, Kurt Mason, Brigette Williams, Rosalind Streeter, Judge Voegele, Bob McAuliffe, and Tessa Edelen.

1. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

2. Watershed Planning 101

Tessa gave a brief presentation covering the basics of watershed planning including the Clean Water Act, watershed plans, and local community involvement. *The Watershed Planning Guidebook for Kentucky Communities* is a reference material for learning more about watershed planning and for writing a watershed plan. It is available on the KWA website here: <http://kwalliance.org/what-we-do/watershed-planning/watershed-guidebook/>.

This is the guide the Harrods Creek team will use to write the Harrods Creek Watershed plan. Also, there is a “Watershed Basics” section that reviews the basics of watershed planning and water quality issues.

One of the main overall goals of watershed planning is community involvement. While water quality and habitat improvement are central, local interest and participation are what makes a plan ultimately successful. This does not mean that everyone always agrees, but it does mean that everyone is welcome, and all voices can be heard. Writing the watershed plan itself will be a large component of the project, but education and outreach activities are essential as well. This can include volunteer speaking engagements to the community, tabling at events, recreational outings like paddles and hikes, farm tours, agricultural water quality plan workshops, Clean Water Act trainings, and many other things that the watershed team is interested in pursuing.

3. Chapter 1 and Project Goals

Chapter 1 of the Harrods Creek Watershed Plan will outline the initial goals and concerns of the watershed team. Like all watershed plan chapters, Chapter 1 will need reviewing by the watershed team for accuracy and readability. The watershed plan should be understandable to everyone. Tessa hopes to bring a draft of Chapter 1 to the next meeting.

It will also include a list of potential stakeholders – people who may be interested or impacted by the project. Watershed planning is iterative, so these lists may be revised and added to as the process progresses.

These lists were created at the meeting in a brainstorming session:

Watershed Team Goals

Awareness and Education
Community Involvement
Dream and Vision
Info on all Related Resources (not just water quality issues)
Public Access to the creek
Identify Issues and Areas for Improvement
List of Agencies and pertinent entities

List of Stakeholders

Watershed team members agreed to help find contact names and numbers or emails for these entities via a Google Drive document. If you would like to be included, just let Tessa know.

Salt River Watershed Watch	Farm Bureau
Kentucky Division of Water	Cooperative Extension
Kentucky Waterways Alliance	Gardening Groups
Oldham Ahead	Naturalists
Harrods Creek Boat Owners Association	Birders
Homebuilders and Developers	Yell Dell Gardens
Louisville Area Canoe and Kayak (LACK)	Boone Gardner
Kentuckiana Paddlers Association (KPA)	Oldham County Cattleman's Association
Viking Canoe Club	Oldham County Horse Council
Sisterhood Paddlers	KY Thoroughbred Breeders
Retailers and Liveries	Oldham County Board of Education
Home Owners Associations	KY Transportation Cabinet
Fox Hollow	Local businesses
Local Governments (all levels)	River Fields
Metropolitan Sewer District	Other non-profit organizations
Oldham County Environmental Authority	4-H
Golf Courses	FFA
KY State Reformatory	Schools

4. Announcements and Next Steps

A recreational paddle (just for fun) on Harrods Creek was discussed, and many people were very interested. Obstacles include securing a safe and accessible launch and take out site and finding enough boats so folks without one may go, too (there is not currently a boat rental location on Harrods Creek). Meeting attendants agreed to think on locations and boat possibilities. The tentative time for the paddle is late May; final date to be announced as details emerge. If you have ideas, get on Facebook and let everyone know!

Upcoming Watershed Events:

- April 23: Harrods Creek Watershed team meeting on Wednesday, April 23 at 6 p.m. at the John Black Community Center. Originally, this meeting was proposed for Thursdays, April 24, but Tessa is not able to make that date.

- April 26: Oldham County's Children's Earth Day Event on Saturday, April 26. This all day event will include a 5k Trail Run at the Morgan Conservation Park, Storyteller Bob Thompson, a Native American Blessing, a Flash Dance, a farm tour with hayrides and animals, and more! Most activities will take place in La Grange at the Oldham County History Center starting at 10 a.m.

- May 26: Oldham Ahead is holding its Annual Oldham County Farm Tour on Sunday, May 25. See their website for more information: www.OldhamAhead.org.

All Harrods Creek stakeholders are invited to the meeting and to all subsequent project activities. If you're interested in getting involved, contact Tessa Edelen at tessa@kwalliance.org or (502) 589-8008. Visit the project webpage: www.HarrodsCreek.org

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About Kentucky Waterways Alliance: *Working statewide for over 20 years, Kentucky Waterways Alliance has won better protection for Kentucky's waterways through community-based efforts, advocacy, and educational outreach. With a mission to protect and restore Kentucky's waterways, our work is making a difference in the quality of life for all Kentuckians one victory at a time.*