



Green Hills Regional Planning Commission

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**Our Missouri Waters-Lower Grand Watershed
Healthy Watershed Planning Meeting #2
January 21, 2016
10:00am – 2:00pm**

AGENDA

- **10:00am: Welcome and Overview, Randy Railsback-GHRPC**
- **Presentation: Pat Guinan, MU State Climatologist**
- **Presentation: Robert (Bob) Lerch, Soil Scientist –USDA ARS**
Cropping Systems & Water Quality Research Unit

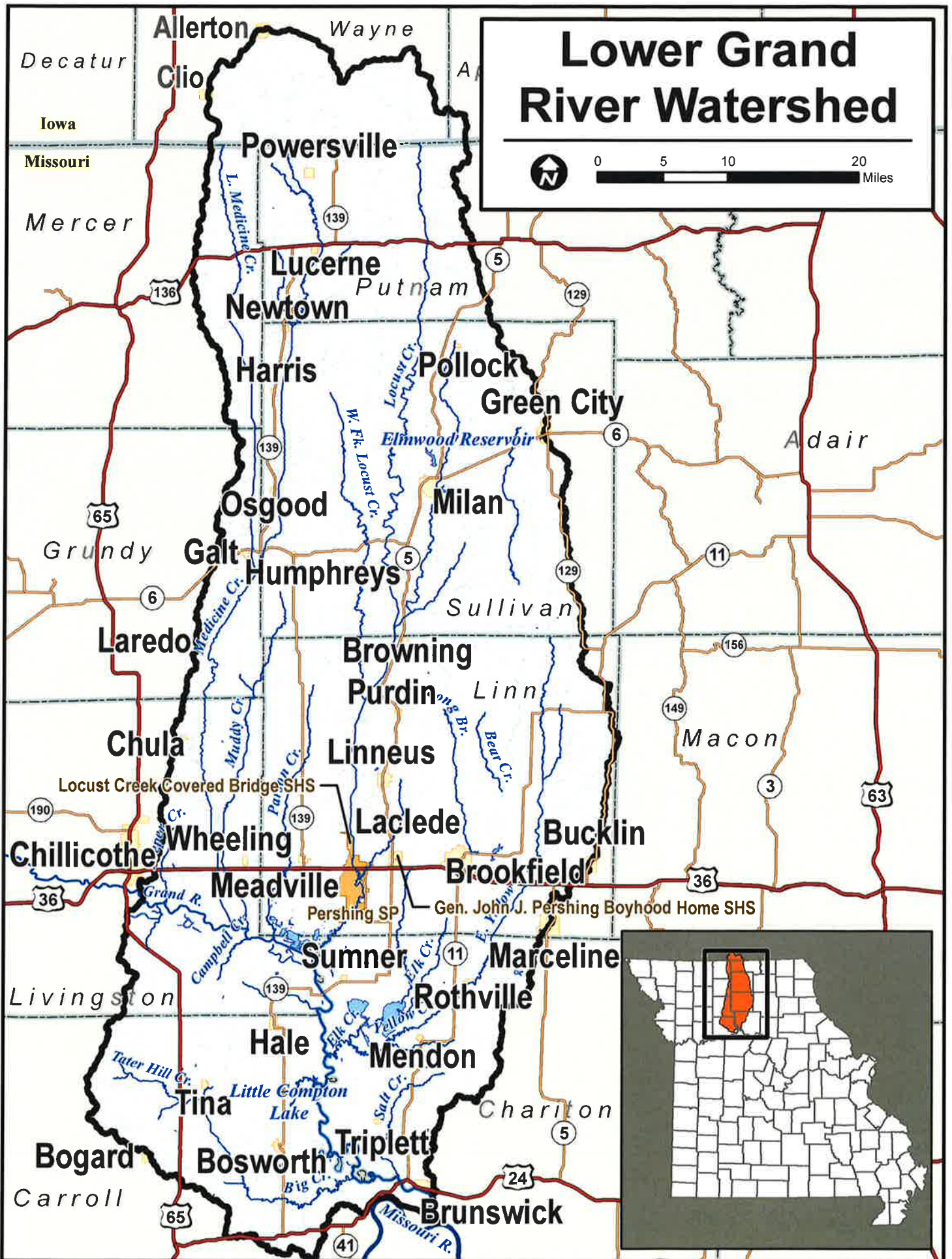
Lunch Provided 12:00-12:45pm

- **Watershed Update: Mary Culler, DNR**
- **Issues and Tasks Moving Forward: Randy Railsback, GHRPC**
Mary Culler, DNR

ADJOURN 2:00PM

Directions: On Highway 36 turn north of 36 Highway on Route M, turn west on gravel at Research Center sign, continue to University Center, or turn north on Highway 5 to east P blacktop, continue east to University Center.





LOWER GRAND DISCUSSION SESSION AND SURVEY SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 12, 2015 MEETING

1. Topic: Education – Outreach

Is this an issue or concern in the watershed that residents in the watershed feel is a concern?

- Need to educate landowners and those who are local
- Don't know what it's about so more information up front on what is happening
- Who should we be reaching out to for getting information?
- Commodity groups should be contacted
- Hands on operation
- Email monthly newsletters
- Do we need to set up a foundation

How is it a concern? Or if it is not a concern, why is this not a concern to the residents in the watershed?

- Residents need to know more basic information
- Get the word out (Farm Bureau boards, extension, SWCD, Rural water districts)
- More focused

What are some potential solutions to this issue?

- Field day with local farmers
- Farm walks
- Newsletters
- Landowners that have experience with this type of experiments should talk to school board, church boards, rural electric, rural water.
- Hands on demo
- Partner with civic organizations ie: Young Farmers, Rotary, Lions
- Regional efforts to educate youth and adults
- Educate farmers and non-farmers about the issue
- Water quality/education
- Education about what
- Innovative/Collaborative effort (new way to approach issues)

What are some ways that outreach and education could be done to reach these solutions?

- Can we incorporate with farmers for walks
- Horizontal education
- Where to get info
- Environmental/economic impact and how this could change current ag practices
- Explain how people will be personally impacted
- Discuss cost share funding opportunities

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- Education about what is working and what is not
- General information is needed for the general public
- Funding for residential wastewater
- Who will oversee any guidelines or regulations that apply to watersheds?
- What effects and unhealthy watershed the most?
- History of the watershed

2. Topic: Cover Crops & Soil Health

Is this an issue or concern in the watershed that residents in the watershed feel is a concern?

- Yes

How is it a concern? Or if it is not a concern, why is this not a concern to the residents in the watershed?

NO COMMENTS

What are some potential solutions to this issue?

- Cover crops good at certain times, but not for every crop
- Need assistance to determine what cover crop with will without a large expense
- Help groups to share what works
- Make programs less restrictive and more realistic (Improvement has been made in this area)
- More education needed
- Gather "best practices"
- General public, non-farm, needs education
- Where is farm bureau on this topic?
- Offer supplements/incentives to get farmers interested (Offset expense)
- Less Input cost
- Green Hills Farm Project
- Erosion
- Soil Health
- Alternative practices to reduce soil runoff (N&P inputs, cover crops, wetlands)

What are some ways that outreach and education could be done to reach these solutions?

- Consult with seed companies
- Young Farmers Group
- Promote native vegetation

LOWER GRAND DISCUSSION SESSION AND SURVEY SUMMARY

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3. Topic: Log Jams

Is this an issue or concern in the watershed that residents in the watershed feel is a concern?

- Yes
- Especially at US36 Pershing Park and at another location about 1 ½ miles south of 36

How is it a concern? Or if it is not a concern, why is this not a concern to the residents in the watershed?

- Water, flooding events get backed up because Locust Creek cuts over to Higgins Ditch
- How to stop soil erosion on our creeks and streams
- History of streams in area and when they were channelized
- Speed of outflow

What are some potential solutions to this issue?

- Start at the top of the watershed and clean out logs. Then develop a maintenance plan to keep it clean out.
- What are some ways that outreach and education could be done to reach these solutions?
- River bank stabilization
- Any changes with want the county and MoDOT have been doing that might control headcuts etc...

4. Topic: Flooding

Is this an issue or concern in the watershed that residents in the watershed feel is a concern?

- Yes
- Locust Creek
- Yellow Creek
- Roads
- Crops
- Fences

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How is it a concern? Or if it is not a concern, why is this not a concern to the residents in the watershed?

- Cost of flooding on roads (upkeep)
- Cleaning creeks out Corp. permits
- Damage to Roads
- Destroys crops
- Habitat
- Losing top soil
- How to stop erosion on our creeks and streams
- History of streams in area and when they were channelized
- River bank stabilization
- Erosion
- Speed of outflow

What are some potential solutions to this issue?

- PL-566 Watershed program
- Grade stable structures (State Cost Share)
- Dry structure (State Cost Share)
- More contact with road and bridge crews about trouble some sites
- More responsibility or ability to let landowners manage streams
- Watershed Structure
- Ground Cover
- Protects and create
- River bank stabilization
- Changes that the county and MoDOT have been doing that may control headcuts etc..

FLOODING CONT....

What are some ways that outreach and education could be done to reach these solutions?

- State/Fed cost share to townships etc.
- Educate an adult/ landowner level
- Information signage at public water access
- Make water testing readily available
- Schools
- Clubs
- Through extension
- Different organizations
- Opportunities to promote native vegetation

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5. Topic: Soil Erosion

Is this an issue or concern in the watershed that residents in the watershed feel is a concern?

- Yes
- Cutting
- CRP has increased erosion

How is it a concern? Or if it is not a concern, why is this not a concern to the residents in the watershed?

- Stream bank erosion is getting as bad as field erosion
- Losing productive soil
- Mid contract management for CRP ground
- Turbidity
- Out of state landowners/ renting ground as crop ground that shouldn't be crop ground ONLY AFTER THE MONEY
- Grade control and wet structures to make stream crossing
- Add sill to slow water at outlet
- Get Dave Derrick to come look at the watershed and make recommendations on several locations
- Losing Topsoil
- Continual grazing – bare ground
- Dozing fences out
- Removal of trees
- Bank Erosion – Expensive to fix
- Gullies weren't fixed before ground was put into CRP
- Sediment problems

What are some potential solutions to this issue?

- Cover crops

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- Getting moister deeper into soil
- Soil erosion practices/ cost-share practices
- Investing in ground for long term benefits
- Protect and Create
- Waterways
- Increase organic matter
- Cost Share Soil Erosion Practices - Terraces and buffer strips
- Tillage practices
- Cover Crops
- Seeding down highly erodible ground

What are some ways that outreach and education could be done to reach these solutions?

- FFA
- 4-H
- Other programs for future problems
- Put more money into local county fairs
- MU Extension
- Older and new generations
- Young Farmers
- Youth organizations
- City Councils

6. **Topic: Bacteria**

Is this an issue or concern in the watershed that residents in the watershed feel is a concern?

- Concerns about bad bacteria, but not the good ones
- Sediment and bacteria are a concern, but the average resident may not feel the concern
- How big is residential septic (or lack of) system impact on bacteria.

How is it a concern? Or if it is not a concern, why is this not a concern to the residents in the watershed?

- NO COMMENT

What are some potential solutions to this issue?

- Prevent bacteria from getting in the streams in the first place
- ID some – point vs. non point

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- Habitat (veg. buffers)
- Wastewater treatment infrastructure
- Utilize existing information from TMDL's
- Animal waste prevention
- Water Quality

What are some ways that outreach and education could be done to reach these solutions?

- NO COMMENT

7. Topic: Stream Impairment

Is this an issue or concern in the watershed that residents in the watershed feel is a concern?

- Stream bank erosion
- PL-566 watershed structures slowing water down channels can't clean out
- Want funding to clean out PL-566 structures
- Leave farmers alone and let them clean out brush and stabilize their own banks
- Brush on county bridges in Putnam county
- Water quality-N&P levels
- Sediment problems

How is it a concern? Or if it is not a concern, why is this not a concern to the residents in the watershed?

- Permitting concerns and time it takes
- Concerns over expansion of clean water act
- Otters cleaning fish out of streams and ponds
- How big is residential septic system eg, wq issues, bacteria
- Today's meeting- a back door way for govt. to get control of put. property-expansion of cwa

What are some potential solutions to this issue?

NO COMMENT

What are some ways that outreach and education could be done to reach these solutions?

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NO COMMENT

8. Topic: Funding

Is this an issue or concern in the watershed that residents in the watershed feel is a concern?

- NO COMMENT

How is it a concern? Or if it is not a concern, why is this not a concern to the residents in the watershed?

- How to share info with media/legislator

What are some potential solutions to this issue?

- Rathbun Lake in Iowa – Local landowners have pooled federal dollars from DOT, NRSC and they have replaced old bridges with culverts.
- Bring more money into the watershed
- Funding opportunities
- Educate Federal Authorities about how watersheds can reduce the effects of floods and droughts in FEMA disaster and throughout state and federal Conservation programs

What are some ways that outreach and education could be done to reach these solutions?

- Regional effort
- Plan to solve many issues, how to pull multiple agencies together to leverage funding and to get local buy in
- Everyone needs a “win” in the plan
- Clearinghouse of whom is available-all the agencies, what projects are on-going, what grants are available, what match is needed
- Pursue other groups you might not have thought of-American heart Assoc; School groups, FFA, 4H

9. Topic: Outdoor Recreation

Is this an issue or concern in the watershed that residents in the watershed feel is a concern?

- Yes

How is it a concern? Or if it is not a concern, why is this not a concern to the residents in the watershed?

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- Bacteria is a major concern & BO levels
- Effects on tourism and recreational land use
- Fisheries – Health
- Stream Health – Hunting
- Economical viable solutions
- Missing land owners that do not take care of their land

What are some potential solutions to this issue?

- Education – Marketing assets
- Volunteers
- Local Involvement
- Both younger and older generations.

What are some ways that outreach and education could be done to reach these solutions?

- Stream Teams
- Schools and field trips
- Organizations (FFA, 4-H, Rotary)
- Extension

10. Topic: GENERAL

Is this an issue or concern in the watershed that residents in the watershed feel is a concern?

Sometimes – Depends on local issues ex Murphy Brown

How is it a concern? Or if it is not a concern, why is this not a concern to the residents in the watershed?

- Lack of information
- Producers are held accountable

What are some potential solutions to this issue?

- Education
- Monitoring – Stream team
- Water treatment decontamination of municipal water sources
- Conservation buffers
- Waste/nutrient management plans
- Composting

LOWER GRAND DISCUSSION SESSION AND SURVEY SUMMARY

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- Livestock exclusion from waterways

What are some ways that outreach and education could be done to reach these solutions?

- Education at landowner level
- Public meetings
- Town hall style meetings
- Informative signage at public waters
- Make water testing readily available
- Demonstrations