

ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE OF JASPER AND NEWTON COUNTIES (ETF)

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2009, 2:00 PM

Empire District Electric Co. Board Room

Members Present: Jan Tupper, Dan Pekarek-Joplin City Health Dept., Bob Kulp-Newton County HD, Tony Moehr-Jasper County HD, Bob Nichols, Mike Palmer-Empire Dist. Elec., Bob Williams-Carthage Water & Elec..

Members Absent: Jan Blasé, Chuck Surface-City of Webb City, Bob Steere, Gary Roark, Matt Barnhart-MOAM, Jerry Carter-Newton County Comm., Dr. Harold Haskin

Guest: Mark Doolan-EPA

Bob Nichols opened the meeting and introductions were made.

Minutes of the Jan 21 meeting were approved. Bob Williams motion, Bob Kulp second. Unanimous.

EPA Activities:

Mark Doolan gave a report on EPA activities. Mine waste cleanup in Jasper County continues, mostly in WC/Carterville area. 125 acres finished, 300 acres 90% complete-should be done by September. Have received \$10 mil in stimulus so starting another 400 acres. Trying to get another \$40 mil in stimulus. Five mining companies have signed agreements that will allow another 2,000 acres of cleanup. There were a total of 7,000 acres to be cleaned at the beginning.

ASARCO bankruptcy close to finishing. EPA has requested 22 mil for Jasper County and 11 mil for Newton and is looking good might get. Dept. of Interior has also filed for Natural Resource Damage funds from proceedings. These are supposed to be used "on site" but we need to watch this because there are other organizations that would like to access these funds and use them in other parts of the state.

Almost done in Newton County with water projects. Should be done by February. Still have some private wells to drill in the Evergreen Subdivision. Remedial Investigation done for mine waste cleanup, working on the Feasibility Study. Should have a Record of Decision by end of year. About 400 acres in total to clean up. Most is in Granby area.

Residential yard cleanup continuing in Joplin on last few yards that opted out of cleanup in first project. Don Van Dyke is MDNR project manager. About 15 properties left of about 40. There may be 5 or 6 that still refuse so may end up with deed notices.

Lower Shoal Creek Watershed:

Bob Kulp gave report. Plan was submitted to DNR last October and are still waiting on comments.

Conservation Opportunity Area:

Bob Kulp gave report. Had an organizational meeting in June. Members include: Robin McAlester, Ronda Headland, Linda Swaim, Lana Henry, Amy Buechler, Bob Kulp. Will meet quarterly. A map of the area has been developed. It includes Shoal Creek approximately from the Diamond Grove Prairie/Carver Branch area to the Kansas State Line. Looking at potential projects; landowner best management practice workshops, watershed cleanups, website development, etc. Next meeting Sept. 1st. Will be looking at whether they can access any Nat. Resource Damage money.

Spring River Watershed:

Tony Moehr gave report. Trying to develop a baseline plan. Looking at doing without DNR grant due to administrative requirements. Just using Jasper County HD staff. There are 9 elements of the plan. A couple deal with TMDL's. There isn't a TMDL done on this section of Spring River so they are struggling with this. Working with DNR to try and calculate. Will bring draft of plan back to this group.

Water Conference:

Bob announced that there is going to be a conference at the Doubletree in Springfield on Sept. 17 and 18.

Air Quality:

Dan Pekarek gave the report. Two more ozone monitors (in addition to the existing one in Eldorado Springs) have been installed in Jasper County rather than the one DNR indicated. One is in Alba and the second in Carthage. Both of the new monitors had at least some readings above the 75ppm level during the month of June (the first month of operation). Dan provided copies of the data from the DNR website on all three monitors. We will need to watch this issue as we get more data.

Advisory Council-No action

Other Environmental Concerns-No action

Environmental Master Plan:

Tony discussed the EMP and indicated the Jasper County HD has received a grant from EPA to update the Environmental Inventory part of the plan. Will purchase software to put info. on web.

Highway 249 Redevelopment Plan:

Bob indicated he would be visiting with local affected communities and reminding them of the document now that the highway is complete.

Strategic Plan:

Bob discussed that we need to look at updating the plan. We have accomplished several items in the plan. Dan suggested that we wait until after the fall as the health departments are going to be very busy through the fall with several other department projects.

Old Bus: none

New Bus:

Bob asked if we want to look at doing another Environmental Conference in March. Discussed whether it should be combined with a water conference. It was decided to look at doing another conference next March then re-evaluate.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Submitted,

Dan Pekarek