



Beautiful Buffalo River Action Committee

January 23, 2018

ADEQ, Commission Room

2:00-3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Becky Keogh (Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Director), Bruce Holland (Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, Director), Stephanie Williams (Arkansas Department of Health, Deputy Director for Public Health Programs) for Nathaniel Smith, Matt McNair (Arkansas Parks and Tourism, Project Officer/Environmental Review Coordinator) for Kane Webb, Wes Ward (Arkansas Agriculture Department, Agriculture Secretary), Shelby Johnson (Arkansas Geographic Information Office, GIS Officer), Chris Colclasure (Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Deputy Director) for Pat Fitts

Members Absent: Nathaniel Smith (Arkansas Department of Health, Director), Kane Webb (Arkansas Parks and Tourism, Director), Pat Fitts (Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Director)

Invited Guests: Ryan Benefield (Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, Deputy Director)

WELCOME

Becky Keogh provided welcome remarks.

AGENCY REPORT OUTS

Stephanie Williams – Arkansas Department of Health Report Out

- ADH held meetings with ANRC about helping homeowners in watershed with failing septic systems. Will begin assessment to determine failure rates and estimated costs to repair.
- ADH has submitted an application to the CDC for a public health associate. The public health associate is a CDC funded junior staff member who would work on an ADH project for two years.

Matt McNair – Arkansas Parks and Tourism Report Out

- Reporting for APT Director Kane Webb.
- APT has hired a new Director of Tourism, Jim Daly.

Caleb Osborne – Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Report Out

- ADEQ will begin completing additional analysis for sampling for total suspended solids, at suggestion of ANRC Director Bruce Holland.
- ADEQ is in the process of developing a draft 2018 303d list.
- ADEQ has been meeting with USGS regarding potential source tracking in Mill Creek Watershed. ADEQ has committed 20k this year and next year, being matched by USGS, for this study.
- ADEQ staff has identified an additional location for evaluation, Crooked Creek Watershed.

Bruce Holland – Arkansas Natural Resources Commission

- Director Holland yielded his time, will give his report during the Buffalo River Watershed Management Plan Stakeholder Review Update

Wes Ward – Arkansas Agriculture Department Report Out

- AAD estimates that there are approximately 6,900 farms in Buffalo River Watershed, and approximately 68% of the Buffalo River Watershed is forested
- Looking ways to extend work with the Arkansas Forestry Commission in the watershed
- AAD has submitted a Feral Hog Task Force report to Arkansas Legislative Council

Chris Colclasure – Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Report Out

- Reporting for Pat Fitts, AGFC Director
- AGFC is committing to participate in the Mill Creek study and provide approximately \$3,250 to the project over the next two fiscal years.

Shelby Johnson – Arkansas Geographic Information Office Report Out

- GIS has completed the imagery project mentioned in previous meeting, which is now available to the public at gis.arkansas.gov.

EXECUTIVE DISCUSSION

Approval of December 5, 2017 Meeting Minutes – Caleb Osborne

- **Bruce Holland** motioned to approve the minutes. **Chris Colclasure** seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved with no discussion or questions.

Approval of 2018 Second Quarter Meeting Date – Caleb Osborne

- The second quarter meeting date for 2018 is to be determined at a later date. Possibilities include April 17 or 19, May 15 or 17, or June 19 or 21.

BBRAC Website Update – Caleb Osborne

- To date, the BBRAC website has received 2,200 page views
- A BBRAC listserv has been created so that the public can sign up to receive BBRAC email updates.

BUFFALO RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN STAKEHOLDER REVIEW UPDATE

Ryan Benefield

- The Buffalo River Watershed Management Plan is nearing completion.
- The informal review process was completed in mid-January.
- ANRC anticipates getting the report to EPA for review in mid-February.

- ANRC anticipates that EPA acceptance will be back in time for the second quarter BBRAC meeting.

Becky Keogh

- Laura Miller, Acting Superintendent with the National Parks Service, has reviewed the draft plan and would like to submit comments to ANRC for consideration.

GOVERNOR'S REPORT

Overview from Becky Keogh

- Governor Hutchinson has asked for a report by the end of January 2018.
- ADEQ has worked to combine reports from each agency participating in BBRAC in the Governor's Report, which summarizes early actions of BBRAC.

Commission Discussion

- **Caleb Osborne** presented proposed measurable objectives for BBRAC.
- **Becky Keogh** discussed aligning BBRAC goals with Governor Hutchinson's strategic goals for Arkansas.
- **Caleb Osborne** provided an overview of the draft Governor's Report.
- Committee members discussed potential additions to the draft Governor's Report and future reports.
- **Wes Ward** suggested adding information regarding feral hog population in the watershed.
- **Becky Keogh** suggested adding data on nuisance and harmful algal blooms.
- **Bruce Holland** suggested including information on who has presented to BBRAC, the watershed management plan process, ADEQ's work with ADH regarding dissolved solids, ideas for managing feral hogs, information about the unpaved roads program.
- **Shelby Johnson** suggested changing the last bullet point on metrics in the Parks and Tourism section from "will provide" to "will report."
- **Matt McNair** suggested including agritourism information in a narrative format.

- **Wes Ward** suggested including total number of farms that are using conservation service programs.
- **Chris Colclasure** suggested including measures that reflect AGFC programs in the watershed.
- **Stephanie Williams** suggested future reports include metrics for including swim beaches and at risk or failing septic symptoms.
- **Becky Keogh** suggested including county health metrics.
- **Becky Keogh** stated that any new feedback in the next day will be included in the report mock up, which will be provided to members in the next week. The final draft is scheduled to be completed by January 31st.
- **Bruce Holland** suggested finding additional partners to engage with as BBRAC moves forward.

CONCLUSION

- **Becky Keogh** and **Caleb Osborne** provided closing remarks.
- **Caleb Osborne** adjourned the meeting.