

## **Wichita WRAPS Stakeholder Leadership Team (SLT)**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting Presentation Notes**

#### **River Beautification:** Hoyt Hillman

Wichita Park Management to Date

- Mowed grass down to the water's edge
- Only geese benefit
- 30,000 geese winter here
- Nest where predators can't hide

His vision is to make it a more useable space. Let people come down and actually enjoy the river.

- Educate public through high visibility projects
- Convert space to outdoor classroom
- Riparian plantings
- Easy to plant shoreline and native grass restoration

#### **Rain Gardens:** Brian Nelson

I like rain gardens because each individual citizen can do one on their own property. Water runs off your roof and drains into watershed. Rain gardens are designed to collect that water and prevent it from running into the storm drain. Rain gardens absorb up to 30 percent of runoff.

Present to landscaping companies, show at home and garden tour. Work with other companies like Lowe's. The result is an accumulative effect of multiple rain gardens. KDHE has provided some funding for schools.

#### **Bioswales:** Curt VanBoening

Up to 70 percent of pollution in rivers comes from storm water runoff. Bioswales are linear, gently sloping ditches with vegetation. They slow down the runoff of water so that it can be absorbed through the ground and filtered before it goes into the water.

Helps lessen the flooding potential. Bioswales can be integrated into parking lots, highways and residential lakes. You get the benefits from treating the water using soil, vegetation and microbes. Anything we can do to help slowdown that storm water will help improve the water quality of the river.

#### **Pervious Pavement:** Vaughn Weaver

Pervious pavement is located in the WATER Center parking lot. It's very common in other parts of the country. Great for nature trails, parking lots, driveway, etc. Stops or reduces water from running down

the asphalt. By allowing the land to absorb the water it reduces the amount that goes into the lakes and streams. It creates an area that is a very functional through bio-filters. Effective low cost solution.

Natural features of the soil help break down some of the chemicals. Not perfect. There are some flaws. It will usually carry 27 pounds per sq. foot.

Also allows for good traction, which is a good safety feature. Look at putting multiple ideas together. Create a public area with many of the projects as a demonstration project. Pervious is cheaper than concrete over the life. It's easier to recycle. There is more cost upfront but over the long term it is cheaper. It can be more abrasive to tires. It doesn't stand up that well to freezing and sulfates. It has the same compaction rate as concrete.

**Water Taxis:** David Robins

We have many first class venues, but we don't have very many ways to get people there. He compared it to OKC's and San Antonio's taxis. Talked about how each city funded their projects. OKC got funding from Ferry Boat. Consider including water taxis in our project list.

He doesn't want the WRAPS group to make a decision that eliminates the possibility of ever having water taxis. There are ways that depth can be accomplished to accommodate water taxis. Work to get silt loading down to reach the required depth. Taxis will connect Old Town, the Indian Center and all the restaurants along the riverbank.

**River Clean Up Activities:** DeEtte Huffman

Ark River Coalition has done multiple cleanups. They used to do it every couple of months. It used to be that you could adopt a stretch of river and keep it clean. ARC has adopted a portion of the river near the Indian Center. We really should reactivate the idea of adopting a portion the river. Right now I don't think it's doing anything, but we could get that going again.

You wouldn't just have to do the Arkansas River, you could do any river, lake or stream. Over the years, we've pulled out a lot of trash. Every year the city also does a cleanup. It shouldn't just be down before and after the River Festival. It's seems now a days we pick up a lot of cigarette butts. They city was always available to come get the trash we picked up.

**River Access:** Tom Kneil

Several years ago we hired a consultant to look at access to the river. The primary focus was on canoeists. There is little access at this point. We looked at several access points. Within the city there are several places to put in, but it could be improved to make it more convenient.

We think it would provide recreational and economic impact. If we could promote river access and say we have a nice canoe or kayak trail it would be a benefit to people. One of the proposals is to move the Lincoln Street Dam. There would be shoot around the damn so you wouldn't have to take your canoe out. It would provide a little whitewater, which we really don't have in Kansas.

**Twitter/Social Networking/Facebook:** Dylon Story

The idea is to bring in younger people. We would like to develop a strategy that incentivizes the youth to get involved in. Low cost method.

**Water Link:** Dane Baxa

Make it part of the syllabus in their college class. Get college students to learn how to do the project. The group of students would work toward receiving mini grants through students. Focus on projects for students to work on. They've done many projects through K-State already.