E & F minutes for July 2024

**Attendees:**

**Committee Members** Present Absent

Jerry Harris – Chairman (2024) X

Pat Alexander Vice Chair (2025) X

Jim Bruchas (2024) – Secretary X

John Earle (2024) X

Dusty Rhodes (2024) X

Scott Kappelmann (2025) X

Dave Kusmec (2026) X

Tom Bach (2027) X

Todd Thomas (2027) X

Jim Pelger (2027) X

**LSLCA representatives**

Kurt Lynn Board Member X

Ron Skeen, Maintenance Supervisor X

Heather Becker, General Manager X

**Guests**

Joe Brazil, St Charles County Councilman

Nick Schroer, Senator

John Hoke, Director of Water Protection Program, DNR

James VeVerka, Environmental Specialist

Nicole Amezcua, Environmental Program Specialist

George Ertle, City Administrator

Chris Hinkle, Alderman

Aaron deBerge, BOD Member

Jim Dodds, BOD President

Jerry Harris and Pat Alexander and several other members of the E & F committee took the DNR visitors out for a tour of the lake and the LSL facilities at 10:00 AM

The main meeting was then held in the CA Ballroom B and had a large visitor attendance.

The meeting started on time at 1:00 PM after roll call and a quorum was confirmed

Minutes were approved

Agenda was approved

John Hoke and his team were introduced by Jerry Harris and he was invited to address the assembly.

He stated that there were two sources of water quality issues:

**Natural –** normal rain, runoff and other non-point sources. Presented maps of the watershed and pointed out the extensive areas of brown clay that gives our lake its brown color. John stated that he is leaving the three maps for us. He commented that the old waste treatment plant upstream did not meet the water quality standards for the past 5-10 years. He stated that they will work to create a Watershed Management Plan, once it is complete, hopefully by August, they will let us comment and submit to the DER and EPA for approval. Sources of potential money for us are 319 funds, Soil Conservation, Farm Bureau and others. Nicole will help us in finding funding.

**Developed Sources –** These are the many developments being started upstream from us. The control of these is the enforcement of existing soil runoff laws. These are unevenly enforced if at all.

John suggested that the best way to proceed is the formation of a Watershed Development Group that includes the various cities in and around the watershed, the CA and the various County and state people. The DNR is committed to developing the plan and supporting it when the Watershed group takes over to implement it. Suggested using Deer creek as a good example.

James Veverka is doing the modeling. Based primarily on non-point sources as they are by far the greatest source of sediment into our lake. The model does include point sources such as the new treatment plant, but the non-point sources is what will give us the greatest gain. The model is focusing on sediment to start but will include nutrients. He expects that the model will be completed by September 1, 2024, with EPA approval taking 30-60 days. He plans on coming out to LSL over the next few weeks to get more data for the model.

John stated that on point sources that they have some say through permitting but on non-point that they have no say at all.

So in general the plan being put together will be ready September 1, 2024. We will be given some time to review, and it will then be sent to the EPA around October/ November. Assuming a standard review, they would anticipate approval by January 2025. We could then work with Nicole on submitting applications for the higher priority projects in the plan. Submittal could start in April with approvals in October of 2025 with implementation in the months after that.

Nichole said that monitoring and milestones are built into the plan. A few of the local people can volunteer to assist with testing. She said that a great source of information as to starting the Watershed Group is Stacey Arnold at the Botanical Gardens who has a process on how to do it from start to finish.

John was asked if a consultant could help us, and he said that he could provide an approximate cost for that.

Many questions were taken from the LSL members and answered by the DNR.

Comments were made that the next steps are completing the plan and starting the Watershed Group.

The meeting then ended as a hard end time at 4:30 was reached.