



Meeting Minutes

DATE / LOCATION

10/24/2022

City of Saraland Chamber of Commerce

IN ATTENDANCE

TOM BRIAND	MICHELLE SALTER
ANN MILLER	RON MITCHELL
RUTH SCHMOLL	JASON WHITE
HEATHER DAVIS	JAMES RICHARDSON
NEWTON CROMER	OSSIA EDWARDS

WMP TEAM

TROY EPHRIAM	LESLIE LOTT
ROBERTA SWANN	CHRISTIAN MILLER
MARTI MESSICK	CHRIS WARN
TIM THIBAUT	NICOLE LOVE

DISCUSSION

Meeting began at 1:00. Everyone in attendance was given an agenda and asked to sign in

Roberta Swann began with the welcome and introductions. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and answered one or all the introduction questions provided on agenda:

1. Name
2. Affiliation
3. Location in Watershed
4. How long have you been there
5. What is your favorite thing to do in the watershed

After introductions were concluded, the presentation began and covered the following topics:

1. What does a watershed management plan do?
2. What is a watershed?
3. What is the role of the steering committee?

Discussion:

- Meeting proceeded to an open discussion with the Steering Committee to identify issues.

- Issues identified included, but are not limited to: Litter, Runoff, Groundwater Contamination, Communication Between Industry and Residents, Poor water and air quality, and Stressed Wetlands and Vegetation. Some specific details for these issue areas are noted below:
- Who from industry is not represented?
 - Vertex/Shell
 - Canfor (sawmill in Axis)
 - Alabama Power
 - MAWSS (Darryl Russell)
- Who is missing from the Steering Committee?
 - Representatives from Mt. Vernon
 - Ray Richardson – City of Mobile
- Debris/Litter:
 - Found in streams (major and minor) and roadside ditches
 - Consists of all forms of debris including; fallen vegetation, trash, snags, etc.
 - Example: Dead Lake – filled with deadheads and snags that limit recreational boat traffic. Alabama Power used to come in and do clean ups of the stream.
- Flooding:
 - One cause of flooding events is the debris in the streams and ditches which is inhibiting adequate water flow.
 - Sedimentation is another cause
 - There appears to be some permitting constraints with trying to reduce sediment
 - Lots of beaver dams blocking water flow
- Water Contamination:
 - Surface and groundwater contamination from *industry* discharges
- Wetland degradation:
 - *Industry* discharges directly into wetlands
- Air Quality:
 - *Industry* discharges
- In the City of Prichard, “you are in a watershed” signs had been placed by NEP several years ago but those need to be replaced.
- In Axis area many of the residents are on septic tanks which old and may need replacement.

Next Steps:

WMP Planning Team will continue working on characterizing the watershed and identifying critical issues.

Plan second Steering Committee Meeting 1st or 2nd week of December