

Prairie Dog Creek Watershed Meeting
February 04, 2016
Prairie Dog Women's Club
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Larry Barbula
John Kane

Robert Ligocki
Amy Doke

Carrie Rogaczewski

Meeting Opening and Introductions:

John Kane called the meeting to order at 6:05. Everyone present was familiar with each other, so there was no need for introductions.

2014 Monitoring Results:

Carrie provided a brief recap of the 2014 monitoring season. Since this was also discussed at the 2015 Steering Committee Meeting, she did not go into great detail. She did mention that the 2014 report was recently finished and peer-reviewed, and is ready to be submitted to WDEQ. The next interim monitoring season for the Prairie Dog Creek Watershed will be in 2017.

Bacteria Load Reduction Needs/Requirements:

Progress Registers:

Progress registers were developed for all three watersheds to help document water quality work. They are a way of documenting/showing water quality progress on the watershed since standard water quality monitoring doesn't reflect water quality changes in the short term. Amy continues to update these maps on an annual basis to reflect continuing progress within the watershed.

Priority Areas:

The Prairie Dog Creek Watershed Plan was developed in 2011. Load duration curves for bacteria were developed based on the 2007-2008 Prairie Dog Creek Watershed Assessment, the 2011 interim monitoring data, and the 2014 interim monitoring data. The load duration curves relate bacteria to flow. They determine how much bacteria levels need to be reduced in order to meet the standards. Last year, Amy developed maps based on the past years data to compare where bacteria levels have increased/decreased within the watershed. Two maps were developed. The first map included data from 2007-2011. The second map only used data from 2014. These maps were based on data that had not yet undergone Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) procedures. Since the completion of the QA/QC procedures, there have been slight changes to the 2014 maps. The maps are not intended to be used to determine trends within the watershed. There are too many variables and not enough data to accurately develop trends in the short-term. They may be used, however, to help prioritize projects in the event funding becomes an issue and two equally qualified projects are competing against each other.

Plan Progress Review and Update:

The current Prairie Dog Creek Watershed Plan was approved by WDEQ in 2012, and was written through 2015. The plan needs to be updated to continue to be eligible for water quality funds for improvement projects within the Prairie Dog Creek Watershed. Carrie went through the Plan and identified areas she felt needed modifications and those that are okay if left alone. The group was agreeable with the proposed modifications. Specific changes within the Plan are as follows:

Table 4.2: Pull the tributaries from the major subwatersheds as their own categories.

Section 4.2: Priority reaches—the committee needs to decide priority reaches based on load reductions and common feelings (i.e. downstream effects and where the committee feels the most important work needs to take place). The committee decided to leave the priority reach designations the same as in the 2012 Plan.

Table 4.4: The tributaries and their respective critical conditions/pollutant sources need to be added.

Wildcat Creek: (Identify Critical Condition)	
Pollutant Sources:	Small Acreage Animals (High) Large Acreage Animals Septic Systems
Jenks Creek: (Identify Critical Condition)	
Pollutant Sources:	Large Acreage Animals (High)
Meade Creek: (Identify Critical Condition)	
Pollutant Sources:	??? ???

The group decided to maintain the same priorities for the remaining subwatersheds.

Carrie will make the changes to the Plan and provide the update to the watershed committee via mail. If there are no significant comments then Carrie will incorporate said changes into the Plan and submit the revised Plan to WDEQ. If there are significant comments, then Carrie will arrange for another Steering Committee meeting to discuss said changes/additions/deletions to the Plan, prior to submitting it to WDEQ.

Additional Comments from the Group:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2017.

Submitted by Amy Doke, Program Specialist