



Arkansas River Advisory Committee

Meeting Highlights from August 24, 2005

Place: 8th Floor, City Hall 455 N. Main, South Conference Room

Next Meeting Scheduled: September 28, 2005

In attendance:

- Libby Albers, Department of Environmental Services
- Ken McCloskey, KS Department of Wildlife & Parks
- Marsha Carr, Riverside Citizen's Association
- Tom Kneil, Arkansas River Coalition
- Irene Hart, Sedgwick County
- Betty Pitts, Riverside Citizen
- Larry Hoetmer, Parks Department
- Sharon Fearey, City Council
- Kathy Dittmer, Riverside Citizen's Association
- Chris Collins, KS Canoe & Kayak Association
- Jim Johnson, KS Canoe & Kayak Association
- Tom Swan, KS Department of Wildlife & Parks

Reminder!
Saturday, October 22, 2005
Arkansas River Clean Up and Float Trip

The plan is to clean up the Arkansas River in downtown Wichita while the Lincoln Street Dam is lowered for construction and then float to Garvey Park or Derby for a take-out. This will coincide with a Riverside Neighborhood activity and World Water Monitoring Day.
www.wichitapaddler.com

Agenda Item 1: Introductions

Jim Johnson and Chris Collins of the Kansas Canoe and Kayak Association will be joining the Arkansas River Advisory Group. Learn more about their organization at www.wichitapaddler.com

Agenda Item 2: Visioneering

- Need 750 "Vision Partners" signed up by the end of 2005. Visioneering is seeking groups/projects/department to signup.
- The Arkansas River is part of the Visioneering document.
<http://www.visioneeringwichita.com/forms/VISION%20DOCUMENT.pdf> The Arkansas river is mentioned in the following areas:

19	Quality of Life	Interest in a recreation/water supply lake close to Wichita
20	Quality of Life	Improve recreational use of the Arkansas River. Clean up the river.
24	Infrastructure	Ensure the quality and quantity of water resources
25	Infrastructure	Clean up the river.
25	Infrastructure	Save the land around water ways for conservation and greenways.
25	Infrastructure	Resolve environmental issues that are barriers to development in downtown and inner city neighborhoods.
25	Infrastructure	Implement River Corridor Improvement plan.
- It was decided that both of the Arkansas River committees should register as Vision Partners. Libby will fill out the paperwork and send it to Kay Johnson for approval

Agenda Item 3: Arkansas River Speaker's Bureau

- So many groups have been impressed with the information that Vaughn Weaver has provided in his talks that at the July meeting, Marsha and Kay Johnson suggested that a speaker's bureau should be formed.
- The idea was taken to the Technical Committee and the following people/groups have committed to be a part of the speaker's bureau:

Name	Group	Topic
Ron Graber	K-State Research & Extension	Agriculture and/or Horticulture
Monty Munyon	Sedgwick County Conservation District	Urban BMP's, water wells, well plugging

Kay Drennen	CoW WATER Center	Rain Gardens, water conservation
Libby Albers	CoW WATER Center	Water Activities with Kids
Joe Botinelly	CoW Water & Sewer Dept	Urban sewer: "Rather hear about them than smell them"
Vaughn Weaver	CoW Water & Sewer Dept	Fish of the Arkansas River
Water Quality Staff	CoW Dept of Environmental Services	Wells and Septic Systems
Jim Johnson or Chris Collins	Kansas Canoe & Kayak Association	Canoeing and kayaking on the river
Tom Kneil	Arkansas River Coalition	Canoeing on the river
Jim Mason	Great Plains Nature Center	Riverside History

Agenda Item 4: General Discussion

Web Page: <http://www.wichita.gov/Residents/River/> Suggestions:

- Set up similar to "Friends of the Kaw" website. <http://www.buildasitefactory.com/index.php?sid=4>
- Link to paddling information and include a map of the proposed boating access plan, campsites, river flow information, etc.
- Need technical information like the bacteria studies, etc.
- Public access information: not all bridges are access points
- PFD information and laws

Chris Collins has volunteered to host a map of the boating access plan on their site, www.wichitapaddler.com, when it becomes available.

LABC: Tom Swan will report to the group on the information discussed at the LABC meetings. The LABC has received an update on the proposed boating access plan.

Exploration Place Exhibit: Tom Kneil spoke to Exploration Place (EP) about a year ago regarding a large interactive watershed display of the entire Arkansas River basin. At that time, EP asked to be re-contacted in six months time. Tom spoke to EP a few days ago regarding the idea and, based on the financial issues at EP, if they were still interested in the project. EP is still collecting ideas and waiting for a new director. Tom and others are going to draw up their ideas to submit to EP. The exhibit would include an interactive map of the entire watershed that shows the dams, dry spots, polluted areas, tributaries, etc.

Vaughn Weaver will make a presentation to the Riverside Citizens Association in October.

Next River Trash Round Up: May 6, 2006. The Sierra Club plans to do advertising before the event and combine the clean up with a float trip. They will also do a literature drop to the houses and businesses along the river one week prior to the even. Sierra Club will work with the City to get the to neighborhood associations, high school groups, boy scouts, and others.

Adjourn

Next Meeting:

- Discuss Target Grant with Jack Brown
- October Clean-Up and World Water Monitoring Day