

## 04/18/2015 MRS Minutes

The Mulberry River society met on April 18, 2015 At 9 AM at the Cass Job Corp center. President, Hugh Ernest presided. We reviewed the agenda. Dena Turner stood in to take minutes for Cheryl Perry who was answering a higher calling this date.

Dena Turner was to meet with Rick Leding, CPA, on April 20 regarding final formation of the 501(c)(3).

the Mulberry River cleanup 2015 was very successful, especially in light of rescheduling. It was estimated that 225 people were served a meal and the leftovers were donated to several local families.

Plans for 2016 were discussed including potential deadlines for sponsorship, if to be included on banners or flyers; it was recommended that the flyers be ready 5 to 6 weeks before the event so sponsorship might be sought between October and December. January 31 could be the banner deadline. It was recommended that a memo be drafted setting out the sponsorship information and deadlines; perhaps also starting earlier for next year's raffle with maximum number of tickets to be sold to ensure odds; and, the significance of the 25th cleanup and promotion.

***In order to identify and establish our long term goals, all committee members, please plan to meet with your committee at 9:00 am on May 16th at cass job corps. MRS regular meeting to follow, at 10:00 am.***

*long-range, and long-lasting effects of, goals were discussed. Hugh earnest brought several reports that the forest service has prepared over the years on the Mulberry River watershed as well as the handbook prepared by the beaver lake watershed group regarding preservation and protection of that watershed, all to inform and serve as inspiration for some type of similar manual that mrs might develop.*

Hugh may invite State officials, Bozeman, cotton and Bruce Westerman to a future meeting.

Watershed protection must be collaborated with the forest service in that so much of the watershed is owned by the national government. Collaboration with the Ozark Highlands Trail and Arkansas canoe club would also be advantageous. Strategic planning is an important consideration and we may seek the assistance of those trained in that area.

Federal money to buy conservation easements is available but many are unsure about entering into such an agreement. Education and information might increase interest.

Perry Hayes told of the success of the buffalo bike ride challenge. We discussed how food changes the atmosphere and creates camaraderie and it was suggested that we serve hot soup and coffee at the next jungle boat race. we discussed the group SOAR, (saving our American rivers) and their documentary on the buffalo helping to raise awareness about our water quality.

We discussed byrd's river cleanup in the fall and our eagerness to assist. We believe an MRS member has visited with them and we will find out how mrs can help and whether they would like an MRS booth at the cleanup.

Other events in which a MRS might like to participate are the June bug jam at the Buffalo headwater school which will be the last weekend of May this year; spring fest in Fayetteville in 2016; A block Street party coming up in Fayetteville; the art and farm markets in ozark this summer with the arts society of ozark.

Suggestions were made for upcoming booth displays including running Mulberry River videos on a laptop or TV or iPad, With plans to run future educational or promotional videos. College of the Ozarks has a video with interviews Conducted along the mulberry which might be of interest, and several mrs members have footage. We might conduct a seasonal contest with a \$25 gift certificate donated prize for video entries that could then be used for future displays. An annual grand prize winner might also be chosen.

Facebook and website were discussed and the linking of sponsors. And interest in a future kids' canoe race conducted in connection with the education committee was discussed.

Hugh Earnest talked about the 2014 Arkansas watershedconference and some groups setting up water trails in Arkansas. He is contacting Matthew Irwin,the Arkansas stream team coordinator about speaking at our next, or an upcoming, meeting.

We discussed getting MRS trash bags with Rive rules printed thereon and possibly Koozies, as a river requirement. And or frisbees, because we love them and mini-dry bags cause we need use them. Paragraph David gottschalk is going to learn the amounts of various river relevant fines, which we may likewise include as informative.

I think that pretty much covers it. Anybody that is interested in the ideas mentioned above are welcome to become involved in the pursuit of that activity or project. See you on the river! -Dena