

MIDDLE COOSA SUB-BASIN MEETING
Oxford Civic Center ~ Oxford, Alabama
February 18, 2016 ~ 10:00 – 12:00
MINUTES

Attendees: Chris Gann (Calhoun County); Taylor Griswell (ADEM); Jeramy Ward (City of Gadsden); Missy Middlebrooks (ADEM); Jody Burdette USDA-NRCS); Charity Mitcham (St. Clair SWCD); Renee Raney (Georgia-Alabama Land Trust); Jennifer Yates (Calhoun SWCD); Linda Ruethemann (LMLPA); and Heidi Richards (Coosa Basin Facilitator).

Gann: Welcomed everyone and self- introductions were made around the room.

Gann: Asked everyone to review the Minutes from last meeting. There being no corrections, Mitcham made a motion, seconded by Gann to accept Minutes as written. He then introduced our guest speaker, Jody Burdette with USDA-NRCS. Burdette is the District Conservationist and serves Calhoun and Cleburne Counties.

Presentation

Burdette gave a very informative and successful presentation on NRCS practices; how they benefit citizens both economically and environmentally. He also showed how most practices can have a direct link to water quality. Burdette answered questions during and after presentation. He gave contact information for those stakeholders interested in acquiring a copy of presentation.

Planning

Gann addressed the group asking what they would like to see done this year; keeping in mind ADEM would like to see a “success story” with on-the-ground project(s). Griswell and Middlebrooks answered groups’ questions concerning possible different locations. **Ward has a few sites in mind that he will check on and let us know.** Middlebrooks gave examples of landowner cost share options and reminded group that ‘existing funds’ have to be spent by this September.

Also, Mitcham (St. Clair) and Ward (Etowah) expressed an interest in having a **NEMO Workshop**. Middlebrooks volunteered to assist with both. With everyone’s schedules, we are looking at late Summer, early Fall to hold events.

Partner Updates

Griswell (ADEM): 303(d) List went out for a 30-day public review on February 7, 2016.

Raney (Conservation Education Institute): Stated that with current duties with the Conservation Education Institute, she will not be officially coordinating the CCWA but is committed to the project as a CCWA member/stakeholder. Raney has a meeting scheduled to discuss suggestions for the sustainability of the CCWA with the primary funding group. The CCWA members/stakeholders will decide the next step for CCWA. She will communicate with us at next meeting. Also, reminded us that potentially FREE (with LLBG board approval) meeting space is available at the Longleaf Botanical Gardens.

Gann (Calhoun County Storm Water Cooperative): **Will be checking to see if rain barrel installation in Jacksonville is still a viable project.**

Richards (RC&D): Made a brief statement about on-going projects and upcoming sign-up period.

Logan Martin Lake Protection Association (Ruethemann): 1.) **LMLPA will be doing their First Frog Walk on April 23, 2016 at Lakeside Park in Pell City, 7:00-9:00 P.M.** 2.) Benjamin Moore Company (paint manufacturers) in Pell City has requested to have 3 employees trained to be regular monthly water monitors on Fishing Creek behind their plant. The training is to take place Feb 12th with regular monitoring on-going. As an LMLPA/AWW trainer, Linda will provide the training." Ruethemann gave us several examples of the wonderful projects this company is doing through their program called, "Corporate Lands for Learning."

St. Clair SWCD (Mitcham): 1.) Announced the **St. Clair County Water Festival will be on April 19, 2016.** 2.) Lakeside Park will be installing pet waste stations. 3.) On March 23rd, Alabama will be adopting a new logo, "Conserve Alabama." Instead of St. Clair County Soil and Water Conservation District, each county will be their name + Conservation District. (St. Clair County Conservation District)

Gann: Set next meeting date: **Next meeting date is tentatively set for Thursday, May 26, 2016 at the same time and location. (Pending possibility of future project.)**

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.