

WWALS Watershed Coalition  
Regular Meeting - Corrected DRAFT  
Board of Directors  
Wednesday 7:30 PM 12 December 2012  
IHOP Adel, GA

**Attending:**

Al Browning  
Garry Gentry  
Dave Hetzel  
Brittney Hull (phone)  
Gretchen Quarterman  
John Quarterman  
Karan Rawlins  
Bret Wagenhorst  
Nathan Wilkins

**Visitors:**

Angel Helms  
Janet MacMahan

1. Chairman Dave Hetzel called meeting to order at 7:34.
2. Bret Wagenhorst presented our speaker, Janet MacMahan, who spoke on water contamination in the watershed. Ms. MacMahan began her presentation with a picture of 2 dogs. They were the first to get cancer. She then contracted a rare skin cancer, with her doctor recommending ways to extend her life. Her son was diagnosed with esophageal cancer at 24, in 2009. She felt that the cancers were caused by exposure to arsenic. Water in her neighbor's water heater water had toxic levels of Arsenic and iron. After she reported these findings to the health department, she began discussing with various agencies, to get responses. The health department tried to pin the cause to tobacco use instead of the water. The recommendation was to flush water heater sediment monthly, and when testing the water to state it is "water heater water" so the acid will be left in the water for 5 days to get correct readings in tests. She proceeded to show individual cases in a specific area, downstream from the fish hatchery, and at the same water source, was a landfill in which Delphi Battery has dumped arsenic and other heavy metals. She showed a cutout of what the ingredients in the food used at the fish hatchery. Her maps indicated that the river flows into the aquifer after 1 mile creek. She then listed off the effects of lead, arsenic, and other heavy metals. Heavy incidence of heavy metals were found between Irwin County and Ben Hill County. Ms. MacMahan provided the copy of her email from the health department discussing the incident of arsenic in the water supply. She presented a map documenting the highest incidence of lung cancer, primarily along the Ohio River. Point was made on uranium when drilling new wells. The presentation ended at 8:33pm.
3. John made a point on the Flint Riverkeeper document, and our discussion in the notes, however we indeed do not have a 501c3. Brittney will need to send the information to our accountant.

4. The first question raised by Brittney, was how much in dues were collected, the answer to this question was \$0 and as such the form will reflect this information. Also, to finish the 501c3 form, Brittney needed to know an estimate on our grant receptions for the year. She will fill in the grant expectancy at \$10,000. BB&T bank statement was received by Gretchen, and transferred to Dave Hetzel during the meeting. Brittney will provide a timeframe after giving the documents to Harrison.

5. The previous minutes were to be corrected to indicate the Group's belief that we were expecting a 501c3 number so we thought we would not need the Flint Riverkeeper for a 501c3 passthrough.

#### 6. Grant Discussions

- a. John haf no update on Ben & Jerry organizational grant letter of intent
- b. Other grants - Karan haf an update on DoD Legacy Grants. It has been submitted, and is in the assessment phase.

#### 7. Calendar Year 2013 Planning :

- a. Business Meetings - Every 2nd Wednesday
- b. South Georgia Growing Local Conference "okravores" - on Saturday January 26th - Discussion on how to improve growing skills. 3rd annual event and expansion of attendance yearly. Price is \$30 per person in Reidsville.
- c. Outing on the Willacoochee, Dave has friend with waterfront property, an alternative is the Highway 135 Bridge. We can check out water testing kits from the RDC. January 19th is the proposed date for this outing.
- d. Al Browning recommended that people who passed the Adopt-A-Stream water quality training could move ahead with testing near where they live. This is in addition to formally scheduled events. Dave said he and Al would organize getting a testing kit for Tifton from the RDC so people near Tifton could more easily do that.
- e. May Event: May 11th - WWALS Fundraiser by Janice Ray ; Karan can reserve the Blackshank Pavilion.
- f. Future Seminar: Gordon Rogers at a public event: March is the proposed month.
- g. Boating Expedition on February 16th . Location Alapaha River in Lanier County, on Route 122? Mapping of invasive species, and water quality testing.
- h. Our other monthly meeting will be tentatively scheduled for the 3rd Saturday of each month to better accommodate schedules.
- i. Georgia River Network conference will occur in Roswell in April.
- j. Rivers to Visit: April on the Alapaha at Heather Brasell's property? April 20th. June 15th event on Withlacoochee in Lowndes County. July 20th , location to be determined by Garry Gentry, on Alapaha, on the way to Irwinville, highway 135. August event should be inside because of heat. Fall events, will be decided during the May Meeting.

k. Rivers Alive Cleanup - Date will be established in future.

8. GA Water Coalition Meeting - distributed the new "Dirty Dozen" List for Georgia, biggest 12 issues that need tackling from a water perspective. GRN provides funding for dealing and attacking water problems, such as the issue presented on by Janet MacMahan.

John: What are thoughts on what to submit for the Dirty Dozen List? Janet presentation on heavy metals. We need to have our proof by June.

9. Publicity Committee- we need to define specific tasks for the committee. Members can discuss in letters to editors with freedom, but WWALS official statements must be approved. Specific tasks can be referenced in the document, WWALS Action Items 1/9.

10. Adjourn at 1017 John motioned to adjourn. Al seconded the motion.

A note was made that maps were not present at this meeting, but will be available for future meetings. Note, timekeeper will be determined for future meetings.