

Curry's Fork Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2008

Oldham County Fiscal Court Building

1. Attendees

- a. City of LaGrange-
- b. Darlene Rusnak- Salt River Water Watch
- c. Elsie Carter- Mayor of LaGrange
- d. Beth Stuber- Oldham County Engineer
- e. Adam Connelly, Strand Associates, Inc.
- f. Andrea Rogers, Strand Associates, Inc.
- g. Dan Wholaver- Farmer
- h. Gordon Robinson- Resident
- i. Jeff Dean- Developer, Engineer, Resident
- j. Stuart Strickler- OC Board of Education
- k. Margi Jones- DOW
- l. Kurt Mason- USDA
- m. Josh Mige sp-PVA
- n. Paul Maron, Strand Associates, Inc.

2. Overview of Last Meeting

- a. Paul Maron gave an overview of the watershed based plan process from the previous meeting. The focus of the meeting was to review the homework and provide input about the ongoing projects in the Curry's Fork Watershed.

3. Conservation Easement

- a. Natural Buffers or Greenways are areas surrounding streams that are to be unobstructed and maintain natural habitat. The potential benefit of conservation easements with natural buffers is an increase in water quality. This is an opportunity to generate funds for the grant match dollars.

4. Introductions

- a. All attendees introduced themselves including their company or organization.

5. Paul opened the floor for general comments on Conservation Easements.

- a. Darlene -Tom Nelson would be interested in donating land for a conservation easement near Greenbriar Farms.
- b. Paul-Environmentalists tend to be in favor of natural buffers.
- c. Darlene- Our stream reaches have increased from 15 to 43 feet.
- d. George- Experience flooding on his land. He went in and removed debris and obstructions and has no issues after these efforts. In favor of conservation easement, if he has the authority to remove trees or obstructions.
- e. Gordon- After planting natural grasses in the buffer area, more items will get tangled in the grasses.

- f. Paul- The structure of the riparian buffer will eventually reduce undercutting of the stream. The issue is two steps back from the grasses. Doesn't solve immediate problem but it is a long term solution.
 - g. Paul- To summarize, there are concerns about removing debris that cause localized flooding.
 - h. Gordon- Flood plain maps show that half of my back yard is in the flood plain. But when it floods it is up to my back door. Flood maps don't tell the entire story.
 - i. Margi- Stream get out of their banks more and store in to the floodplain it will slow down velocities. This is part of the function of a stream.
 - j. Paul- Public outreach opportunities exist through University of Louisville Stream restoration process and could be a vehicle to discuss geomorphology dynamics of streams. Dr. Parola from the Stream Institute is a world renowned professor of stream restoration.
 - k. Kurt- Expanded on stream dynamics and the watershed system acting as a hole. The entire area acts as a sponge.
6. Homework Review & Local Projects
- a. Paul- Homework review of projects going on in the Curry's fork watershed. Simultaneously keeping an eye out for ways to implement best management practices. We are looking for where opportunities intersect.
 - b. Open floor for known projects.
 - i. Darlene- New project on I-71 proposed to clear cut 4 miles around the interstate. There was an accident with a deer.
 - ii. Jeff-
 - 1. Expansion of WTP, concerns with taking water from Ohio River and discharging into to Curry's Fork
 - 2. Milestone Village Development- build a big wall near head of Curry's Fork
 - 3. South Curry's Fork New Bridge
 - iii. Elsie
 - 1. Mayor wont give land till after done, planning and zoning want green space does stream buffer count? YES
 - iv. Margi
 - 1. Redirect focus, WBP is wanting recommendations for what to do.
 - 2. Write a plan to get grants, WBP stimulate leveraging other funds
 - v. Paul
 - 1. So we have discussed threats, move to opportunities
 - vi. Kurt USDA program for land owners to implement streamside buffers \$ for 15 years participation. Program assists in planting native, deep root systems which increases volume able to store.
 - vii. Margi- WHIP nonpoint could pay the rest of the money not provided by USDA
 - viii. Jeff-There are no large tract agricultural land, it is now primarily 5 acre residential. Could this size land meet program requirements?
 - ix. Kurt- If residents combined to provide a linear corridor of land they would meet the requirements.

- x. Darlene-
 - 1. Rain Barrel program by MSD
 - 2. dogs hair fell off high fecal levels
- xi. Paul
 - 1. explains the rain barrel concept
 - 2. slow down rain
 - 3. planting water gardens/rain gardens, impervious pavement
 - 4. native
- xii. Gordon- Osage orange tree doesn't thrive as well in our climate
- xiii. Jeff- plant sycamore, river birch, shagbark hickory
- xiv. Kurt- USDA gives whips, might look at shrubs or willows as alternatives
- xv. Education
 - 1. Target audience could be young school age children, They are a captive audience through the schools.
 - 2. There are conservation programs in place within the Oldham County Schools.
 - 3. Earth day at the zoo is an example of education and outreach program.
 - 4. Hands on demonstrations are the most effective at conveying the message.
 - 5. Kurt USDA has envirosapes that could be an effective tool for watershed demonstrations.
 - 6. Rain barrels educational demonstrations for subdivisions.
 - 7. To be effective, there must be a connection and close to home.
 - 8. Time allotment should be considered. The smaller time frame commitment is advantageous.
 - 9. The groups that are already established could be used for gathering people, for example churches.
 - 10. Field trips to the stream or a festival day are methods for educational outreach.
 - 11. Floyds Fork usually has a large turn out for stream clean up days. This could be done on Curry's Fork.
 - 12. Kurt- USDA has developed a program that includes soil testing, rain barrel demonstration, impermeable pavement demo that we could present to two or three subdivisions.
 - 13. Summary, the education and outreach programs that would be most effective in the area need to be convenient, piggyback with other organizations and programs, make it real, and there is a general support from school kids.

7. General Comment

- a. Gordon would like to see a website that includes our meeting times and agendas.

Curry's Fork Stakeholder Meeting

January 30, 2008 – 4:00 p.m.

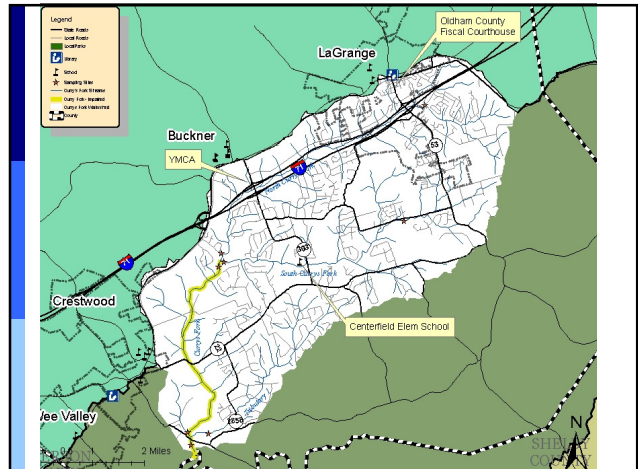
Oldham County Stream Team

Curry's Fork Stream Team

- Beth Stuber
 - Oldham County Engineer
- Paul Maron
 - Project Manager – Strand Associates
- Andrea Rogers
 - Stakeholder Group Facilitator– Strand Associates
- YOU!

Game Plan

- Goals
 - 1. Gather known information in the Curry's Fork watershed
 - 2. Gather stakeholder input from Homework



Keep it Natural with Greenways

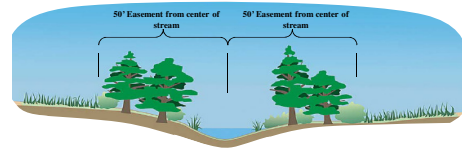
Greenways:

- ▣ Absorb Runoff
- ▣ Effective Streamside Buffer
- ▣ Uses Floodplain land unsuitable for development
- ▣ Valuable enhancement



Conservation Easement Summary

- ▣ Buffer strips along stream bank reduces the impacts of stormwater runoff
- ▣ Easements:
 - Included in development plans- Low Impact Development (LID)
 - Donated by property owner



Homework: What do we know??

- ▣ Let's walk through the homework
- ▣ Short answer section
 - 1. What is a watershed?
 - 2. What is a benefit of a Greenway?
 - 3. What are stream indicators?
 - 4. What is the role of the Stakeholder Group?

Homework: What do we know?

- ▣ Section 2- Short Paragraph
 - 1. What are projects going on within our watershed?
 - 2. What are upcoming projects within our watershed?

Homework: What do we know?

- 3. How has our watershed been used?
- 4. What are your goals for improving our watershed?
- 5. What is your initial reaction to conservation easement concept?
 - What would drive a positive response?
 - What reservations would you have?

Next Steps

- Outreach and Education Materials
- Website Development
 - Link from Oldham County Government Website
 - Meeting Minutes
 - Next Meeting
 - Educational Materials
 - Contact Information
 - And more...