Roane County Environmental Review Board

Meeting Minutes: April 7, 2016

<u>Attendance, Board Members (and prospective members)</u>

Present	Absent	
	Х	*Tom Brown, General Member
	Х	*Carolyn Granger, County Commission Representative
Х		*Scott Gregory, Vice-Chairperson
Х		*Mary Anne Koltowich, Recorder
Х		*David Martin; Chairperson
	Х	*David Reichle, General Member
	Х	Colton Rue, Prospective Student Member
Х		Scott Stout, County Executive's Office Representative
	Х	*Allen Townsend, General Member
Х		David Wasilko, Student Member
Х		*Dennis Wilson, General Member

^{*}Voting Member

Quorum Present: Yes (4/8)

Other Attendees

Angela Barnard, concerned citizen
Rod Coker, Watts Bar Lake Association
Martha A Deaderick, ORSSAB Member, prospective RCERB Member
Roger Hinsdale, Watts Bar Lake Association
Janice Moody, Watts Bar Lake Association
R. L. Pope, concerned citizen, former RCERB Member
Gene Robinson, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Services Officer
Charles Turner, concerned citizen

Meeting Location

Roane County Courthouse, Qualls Commission Room

Proceedings

Call to Order. Chairperson Martin called the meeting to order at 6:02PM. Introductions were made all around.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made to approve the April 7, 2016 agenda by DWilson and 2nd by SGregory. Vote to approve unanimous.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: A motion was made to approve the March 3, 2016 meeting minutes as submitted and reviewed via email by by DWilson and 2nd by SGregory. Vote to approve unanimous.

Public Comment Period: Deferred under after the scheduled program.

Board Business.

- A. <u>Scheduled Program: Gene Robinson, US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Services Officer</u>. Mr. Robinson serves both Roane and Loudon counties; his primary focus is to help people with land related conservation problems. The following issues were addressed:
 - Works with issues regarding SWAAPHE (soils, water, air, animals, plants, humans, and energy). Conservation efforts are carried out via voluntary programs.
 - A new NRCS program is EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) to help deal with "food deserts." These can be created by seasonal high weather tunnels. Land ≥ 1/10 acre is eligible. The cost share is up to 90% (10% funded by land owner). Often tied to soil loss (dust bowl), which is currently at record numbers.
 - There was a recent issue near Columbia, TN where a large cattle farmer (dairy cows) dumped raw manure into the nearby streams. Manure in water is a huge problem. In ponds, animals and people can sick or die from e-coli exposures and parasites. Much effort is needed to keep farm animals out of the water. It is not good for the animals in many ways, such as softened hooves, which ultimately can cause an animal to go lame. It is often more costly to deal with sick/dead animals than it is to prevent the animals from getting into water bodies (fencing).
 - Works with land owners to create and maintain conservation plans. These are based on NEPA practices to keep contaminants out of land and water. NRCS funds most of the land/water work with the land owner agreeing to maintain the conservation plan for five (5) years.
 - The EQIP Farm Bill allows for \$50,000 in "grant" spending in Roane County with \$35,000 coming from state funds.
 - The University of Tennessee (UT) Extension and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) are good resources.
 - For shoreline issues, fencing is required to be permitted by TVA if in a 100-yr or 500-yr flood plain. NRCS has engineers and biologists to design and implement shoreline stabilization projects, such as grading slopes and rip-rapping. As an aside note, TDEC has to obtain TVA approvals on related permits.
 - Helps with major flooding events, such as the 2010 flood in Nashville and surrounding counties. Mr. Robinson worked with Robertson and Cheatham counties to remediate flooded farmlands. There were huge rock piles that occurred from the tremendous forces of flowing water. The

Emergency Watershed Program helps cities and municipalities to repair damaged bridges and eroded stream/river banks.

- Two (2) main "takeaways" from this discussion:
 - There are no laws in Tennessee currently that control cattle from water using fencing, but it will become law some day
 - 30-35 feet of grass will filter out almost everything leave a vegetation buffer around creeks/streams.

B. Public Comment Period:

Roger Hinsdale, Watts Bar Lake Association (WBLA), discussed the aquatic weeds issue. WBLA plans on putting a link on its website contained information related to aquatic weeds and their associated problems. He said the company named SOLitude Lake Management company is putting together a plan on what the WBLA can do, such as testing and taking care of water quality. It is noted that aquatic weeds can only be mitigated, but not eradicated. The WBLA wants to be a catalyst to make something happen, such as establishing a stakeholder group of diverse representation to coordinate the problem.

Aquatic weed problem is growing for areas around Watts Bar and the Clinch River. TVA used to spray herbicides, but discontinued the practice to cut costs. Homeowners have found a systemic herbicide that can last up to 10 years (TVA's lasted only a short-term 1 or 2 years). Homeowners in Alabama questioned their counties to re-appraise lake property values since lakefront shores and boat docks could no longer usable due to the weed. The result was a county-city-TVA-homeowners partnership on weed control. This is a consequence of what could happen in Roane County. Much of what was discussed was also covered in a meeting April 1, 2016 with Ron Woody, County Executive, WBLA members, and RCERB Members DMartin and MAKoltowich. The notes from this meeting are attached to these minutes.

 A concerned citizen from Rhea County spoke about spending \$millions to develop property. He is very concerned about invasion from Asian Carp. He stated if these should get established in the Tennessee River and Watts Bar waters, fishing and recreation will be over. He would like to see Roane, Rhea, and Loudon Counties work together on preventing this invasive species.

C. Other RCERB Items:

- A motion was made by DWilson and 2nd by MAKoltowich that Martha Deaderick be recommended for appointment to the RCERB at the next available Roane County Commission meeting. The motion passed unanimously. It was noted the RCERB is looking for new members.
- Reclaim Act DWasilko drafted a resolution to support passing of this bill in Congress that provides monies to help those affected by abandoned

coal mines (part of the original Power+ Program). A motion was made by MAKoltowich and 2nd by DWilson to recommend adoption of the resolution by the Roane County Commission at its next available meeting. The motion passed unanimously. It was noted that Congressman John Duncan, U.S. Representative TN is now a bill sponsor.

- The DOE ORSSAB will be meeting on April 20-21, 2016. There will be DOE tours on April 19, 2016. DWilson plans on attending. The questions to be asked of DOE by the ORSSAB include:
 - The transportation of mine tailings out of Moab, Utah (discussed in previous RCERB minutes)
 - The transportation and storage of nuclear MOX fuel at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) (discussed in previous RCERB minutes).
 - The DOE Oak Ridge budget for Environmental Management (EM).
- Tiger Haven TDEC will be doing water sampling in June 2016 (per correspondence from John LeCroy).
- Nothing new has been learned of recent activity on the Joyner property (Hwy 58 South just south of the golf course). It was noted that trucks were transporting materials from the site last month.
- D. New Business: None
- E. Incoming Documents:

DOE Groundwater website links:

- http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/02/f29/10%20February%202016%20S
 SAB%20GW%20Strategy%202-2-2016%20%28map%29.pdf for "Regional Groundwater Flow Model: Status Report."
- http://knoxblogs.com/atomiccity2015/08/12/does-groundwater-sampling-program-identifies-elevated-contaminants-in-3-wells/ for Munger's blog on offsite groundwater monitoring.

Next RCERB Meeting: Thursday, May 5, 2016, 6:00 pm, Roane County Courthouse **Meeting Adjourned**: 7:45 pm.

Attachments

RCERB April 7, 2016 Meeting Agenda Meeting Notes April 1, 2016 – Aquatic Weeds Problem

Agenda for Thursday, April 7, 2016 Roane County Environmental Review Board Roane County Court House Commissioners Meeting Room

6:00 PM - Call to Order, Introductions and Chair's Comments

Our April presenter is Gene Robinson, District Conservationist, with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), Kingston Field Office.

We are expecting members of the Watts Bar Lake Association (WBLA) to be in attendance to talk with us about invasive aquatic weeds. We will give them opportunities to address the Board during the Public Comment period and after Mr. Robinson's presentation.

The next meeting will be on May 7, 2016 at the Roane County Court House. Sue Cange, Manager Oak Ridge DOE-EM will speak on environmental management on the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation.

6:03 PM - Changes to and approval of agenda 6:05 PM - Approve/changes March Minutes

6:08 PM - Public Comment Period

6:18 PM – Gene Robinson, NRCS, Water quality issues and programs to improve water quality.

7:05 PM - Board Business

- If needed, an update from Dennis Wilson on WBLA meeting on invasive aquatic weeds.
- Martha Deaderick report on recent National Environmental Justice Conference.
- Review for approval Resolution to the RCC on The Reclaim Act. DW
- Update on putting forth a request to the RCC for a lighting ordinance. DM
- Ferguson Group Report on the sighting and possible community impact of a proposed low level waste disposal site that the DOE wants to build on the DOE OR Reservation. Concurrent with this the Board also received a copy of the statement and inquiry sent to OR DOE-EM by the City of Oak Ridge regarding the proposed disposal sites. Does the Board wish to wait till the DOE formally replies to the report to consider commenting? MK
- Issue question(s) for the upcoming DOE Advisory Board meeting to be held in Oak Ridge during April. Suggestions so far:
 - At Moab, Utah, mine tailings are being taken off-site for disposal. Is that justified? Why are these materials kept on site? Oak Ridge desires to use onsite disposal as opposed to shipping off-site.

- Another rad waste disposal option is to make 10,000 ft. deep borings. Should this disposal method be used? This is now a dead issue.
- Uranium-plutonium oxide (MOX) spent fuel May go to WIPP. This needs addressing as WIPP will run out of room to dispose of US spent fuel?
- Report on the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance meeting 2/29/2015. DCM/ MAK
- Phone call to John LeCroy with regards to meeting with him, State Representative Calfee and the local area Water Resource Manager on water issues around Tiger Haven. DM
- Update Joyner CERCLA site 73512. DM
- Vote to recommend Martha Deaderick up for membership. DM
- Suggestions for new member. SG

Adjourn

Incoming Documents:

- National Environmental Justice Conference Report from Martha Deaderick.
- Draft Ash Impoundment Closure Environmental Impact Statement from Pat Flood, TDEC

Recap of RCERB Meetings

March 3, 2016 Quorum (7/8) Ron Woody, Update

February 18, 2016 Quorum (8/8) Glen Cofer, Proposed Lighting Ordinance

December 3, 2015 Quorum (5/8) Issues before the Board

November 2015 Quorum (8/8) L. Wilkerson update on ORDOE-EM

October 2015 Quorum (5/8) Officer election, fy2016 Planning

September 2015 Quorum, (6/8) Public comments

August 2015 Quorum, (8/8) (RSI) Solar Energy Projects, Gil Hough

July 2015 No meeting by agreement

June 4, 2015 Quorum TVA exit meeting on ash spill at Kingston Plant

May 7, 2015 Quorum (6/8) Soil remediation, Zone 1 ETTP

April 2, 2015 Quorum (5/7) County environmental ordinances

Roane County Environmental Review Board (RCERB)
Meeting Notes for Friday, April 1, 2016; 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Subject: Aquatic Weed Infestation of Watts Bar Reservoir

Meeting Location: Ron Woody, County Executive's Office, Roane County Courthouse

Attendees:

Ron Woody, Roane County Executive Janice Moody, Member, Watts Bar Lake Association (WBLA) Peter Giroux, Member, WBLA Roger Hinsdale, Member, WBLA David Martin, Chair, RCERB Mary Anne Koltowich, Recorder, RCERB

The Watts Bar Lake Association (WBLA) was formed during the 1990s by area residents interested in the welfare of the Watts Bar Lake Reservoir. WBLA sponsors a children's fishing derby in Spring City, coordinates a large trash clean-up event for the lake, and is currently concerned with the aquatic weed infestation of some of the lake areas that occurred during the late summer of 2015. Below are the discussion points made during the meeting.

- There are 3 primary invasive aquatic weed species present in the reservoir:
 - Eurasian Milfoil, a perennial, feathery leaves, can spread by stem pieces, stems up to 6 feet long, can be killed by one chemical.
 - Brittle Spiny Leaf Naiad, drops seeds, small saw-toothed leaves, a different chemical from milfoil is needed to kill it, ducks readily eat this variety.
 - Hydrilla, saw-toothed leaves, stems up to 25 feet long, grows from nodules, tubers, very prolific, the "kudzu" of water plants, over-winters in the sediments, very difficult to kill.
- Aquatic weeds normally proliferate in shallower waters in areas with lots of light (e.g., coves). However, hydrilla can be found in 25 feet of water and can grow in areas of low light. Seeds from aquatic weeds can be viable for 30 years.
- An outbreak of aquatic weeds was seen on Watts Bar Reservoir during the 1970s; activity has been dormant until last summer.
- Possible causes of outbreaks: 1) TVA holding back water longer in upper reservoirs, allowing for lower flow and water temperature heat-up in lower reservoirs; 2) climate change; 3) TVA holding water levels higher for longer periods to allow for longer seasons of recreation.
- Aquatic weeds can appear to clean-up or clear cloudy water and do provide some fish habitat. However, over time, these weeds deplete the oxygen in the water, making it unsuitable for fishes and other animals. BassPro tries to educate fisherman as to the detrimental effects of aquatic weeds. Some fisherman on Watts Bar have been seen taking bucketfuls of the weed from one cove to another, thinking it will attract more fish.
- The draw-down of lake levels in the past during the summer was meant to kill off
 mosquitos, but may have helped prevent the spread of aquatic weeds. The most
 prevalent mosquito types are those that breed and hatch in containers or
 stagnant water puddles.
- If the problem gets bad enough, as seen on Guntersville Lake, it prevents people from using their boats, impacts local economy, and can negatively impact owners of lake property by lowering property values.

Ron Woody expressed that hydrilla covered many acres in his cove and also his father's cove. It was seen along the shoreline next to Hwy 58 in Kingston. Some of the WBLA members have contracted a service to spray (Aqua Services) their coves to either kill or at least mitigate the aquatic weeds. There are several herbicides that have been used for years that are not harmful to the rest of the environment. Aqua Services is the same company used for treating 3,000 acres on Guntersville Lake. Due to stakeholder pressure, TVA agreed to pay for spraying services on a downward sliding scale for 3 years on Guntersville Lake. This is the last year TVA will provide funding.

The WBLA desires for the Watts Bar community to create its own stakeholders group to manage the issue by helping to monitor and educate people about these aquatic weeds, coordinate funding, and involve legislators. Ron Woody does want monitoring of the situation and prefers to see if the problem occurs this summer. David Martin suggested doing a 1-page brochure with aquatic weed pictures to let people report locations. These could be distributed at boat docks, recreational areas, boat ramps, etc. and then turned in at designated locations (e.g., marinas).

Roger Hinsdale discussed talks with TVA. TVA says it will not do anything until:

- 1) A stakeholder group is in place to manage the issue and coordinate funding
- 2) Funding is in order
- 3) Legislators are involved.

Funding sources mentioned include an additional property tax for lake/river property owners, adding a small amount to the fishing/hunting license fees, adding a small amount to the TVA electricity rate.

David Martin believes TVA should be actively involved as its mission and business is to provide for regional economic development. This is a very important point. Mary Anne Koltowich wondered if the Corps of Engineers is involved with this issue on its lakes (e.g., Percy Priest and Old Hickory around Nashville). The primary regulators that could be involved include TWRA, TDEC, and maybe TDOT.

As a side note, the Coast Guard is raising Watts Bar Lake to Squadron status.

David Martin indicated this issue would be followed by the RCERB.