

Lake Maumelle Watershed Management Plan
Policy Advisory Council Meeting
September 8, 2005

Meeting Summary

The Lake Maumelle Watershed Management Study Policy Advisory Council (Council) convened for its inaugural meeting Thursday, September 8, 2005, at ALLTELL Arena in North Little Rock. A buffet style dinner was served at 5:30 P.M. with the business meeting beginning at 6:00 P.M. Participants were provided an orientation to the objectives and timelines of the development of the management plan and an overview of the current science of the watershed, and had a discussion on the set of draft goals and objectives for the advisory process.

Council members in attendance:

Ms. Kate Althoff – Citizens Protecting Maumelle Watershed
Ms. Ruth Bell – League of Women voters of Pulaski County
Mr. John Bryant – Grande Maumelle Sailing Club
Alderman Neil Bryant – North Little Rock City Council
Mr. Jay Chesshir – Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Sue Corker – North Little Rock Neighborhoods
Mr. Randy Day – Maumelle Bass Club
Mr. Herb Dicker – Little Rock Neighborhoods
Quorum Court Member Patricia Dicker – Pulaski County Quorum Court
Ms. Jane Dickey – Board of Commissioners, Central Arkansas Water
Vice Mayor Barbara Graves – Little Rock Board of Directors
Mr. Glen Hooks – Sierra Club
Mr. Wally Loveless – Little Rock Realtors Association/Adkins, McNeill, Smith & Associates
Mr. Charles R. Nestrud – Deltic Timber Corporation
Mr. Alan Newman – U.S. Forest Service
Mr. Kevin Pierson – Audubon Arkansas
Mr. Mike Simpson – Jacksonville Water Works
Mr. Ken Texter – Property Owner/Water Association within Watershed

Council members absent:

Mr. Bill Gipson – Perry County Government
Mr. Steve Owen – North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Randy Wilbourn – Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce

Annotated Agenda

6:00 P.M. Introductions and General Orientation

Mr. Bruno Kirsch, Director of Watershed Management for Central Arkansas Water (CAW) and council member, welcomed the Council to the first meeting and requested that participants introduce themselves. Mr. Kirsch then turned over the meeting to the facilitation staff from Tetra Tech, Inc. Ms. Leslie Shoemaker, Ph.D., Vice President of Water Resources with Tetra Tech Inc., and project manager for the CAW study, presented to the group a “Roadmap for Developing the Management Plan.” This roadmap described the key deliverables and outcomes expected from future meetings of the council. In addition, Dr. Shoemaker gave an

overview of the various organizations, and their respective roles, involved in the process of creating the Management Plan.

Ms. Kimberly Brewer, Associate Director of Tetra Tech, then led the group in a discussion of the protocols and rules to be used by the group at meetings. Ms. Brewer stressed the importance of these protocols due to the Policy Advisory Council members' diverse background. Ms. Brewer defined consensus as "being able to live with a proposal or outcome." "Conditional consensus" was defined as agreement "if" something happens at a later date. In the event that the Council cannot reach consensus, a coordinating group will be formed to recommend a resolution. Finally, if the coordinating group cannot develop and recommend a resolution, the disagreement will be deferred to Central Arkansas Water for a decision.

Ms. Brewer then reviewed the 16 ground rules presented in the "Protocols for the Lake Maumelle Watershed Management Plan Policy Advisory Council Process" document provided to participants at the beginning of the meeting. Ms. Ruth Bell, representative of the League of Women Voters of Pulaski County, asked for clarification of Ground Rule # 6: "Offer mutually beneficial solutions. Actively strive to see the other's point of view." Ms. Bell stated that sometimes members will not always know that a solution is mutually beneficial.

Mr. Trevor Clements, Manager of Watershed Management Planning Services for Tetra Tech, provided a review of the existing scientific information that is available on the Maumelle Watershed. This review included information that Tetra Tech had summarized from government reports and data sets, as well as input from resource agencies and stakeholders. Mr. Clements presented information on the physical characteristics of the lake, water quality data, watershed characteristics, and potential impacts to the watershed. Mr. Clements concluded his remarks and asked for questions or comments.

Comments from council members included:

- Ms. Jane Dickey, representative of the CAW Board of Commissioners, mentioned a Mobil Oil pipeline on the north side of the lake.
- Ms. Patricia Dicker, representative of the Pulaski County Quorum Court, commented that she thought there was clear-cutting going on within some of the surrounding areas of the lake and the clear-cutting should be addressed.
- Ms. Dicker asked whether the following statement is accurate: "Anything that increases sedimentation (e.g., road building) is going to be detrimental to water quality, very quickly." Mr. Clements responded that he could not make that type of a statement at this point in the analysis, but the consultant's study would model this type of impact.
- Mr. Charles Nestrud, representative of Deltic Timber Corporation, asked that it be important not to focus on worst-case scenarios but rather real scenarios of the types of landowner activities in the watershed.

In response to questions and comments from council members, the consultants stated that future meetings would include discussions/clarifications on travel times for runoff from different areas of the surrounding watershed; the impact of impervious surfaces; discharging systems; and travel time for water from the western end to the eastern end of the lake.

For the final session of the meeting, Ms. Brewer presented a first-draft of the Goals and Objectives of the Lake Maumelle Watershed Management Plan. She outlined the overarching goals, as follows:

1. *Maintain high quality water supply to meet the needs of the community*
2. *Provide an equitable sharing of costs and benefits for protecting Lake Maumelle*

In addition, objectives were presented in three categories: Most important, more important, and important. Council members then were asked to offer comments or questions on the goals and objectives.

Mr. Glen Hooks, representative of the Sierra Club, asked whether the goal to “Maintain [a] high quality water supply” meant there would be no decrease in water quality from the present state. After some discussion, the group decided this goal could mean two things: a) no degradation of water quality or b) some element of degradation but not beyond a point where the water was not still of high quality. Ms. Dicker added that to “maintain” water quality inferred that some degradation could be allowed to happen if it was offset by efforts to clean the lake. This goal will continue to be discussed at future meetings.

Mr. Kevin Pierson, representative of Audubon Arkansas, asked that the objective to “Allow limited recreation and maintain aesthetic enjoyment of Lake Maumelle and its watershed” be stated as “Allow and maintain opportunities for recreation and aesthetic enjoyment.” The study consultants agreed to draft an alternative objective for review.

Ms. Bell suggested that the objective to “Minimize water supply taste, odor, and color problems” should be re-categorized as a “most important” objective instead of a “more important” objective.

The council agreed to the objectives given that Tetra Tech, subject to the revisions discussed during the meeting.