



Science & Policy Committee Conference Call, Monday, June 13th, 2016

Call to Order at 12:00 noon (CST) by Committee Chair, Andrew N. Sharpley sharpley@uark.edu

Nine Committee members were able to be on this month's call, along with four invited guests: Noel Gollehon, Senior Economist, Resource Economics and Analysis Division, NRCS, Beltsville; Genny Walters and Greg Kohler, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Greater St. Louis Area; and Skip Hyberg, FSA, Farm Services Agency, Economic and Policy Analysis, Natural Resources Analysis Group, Washington, DC.

Jim Guilford and **Andrew Sharpley** briefly outlined the role and goals of the SWCS S&PC for invitees on the call not familiar with the Committee. **Clark Gantzer** updated the group on the process of continuing and expanding the people involved in developing an updated SWCS policy statement on a variety of issues and concerns related to flooding for the benefit of invited guests on the call.

Noel Gollehon briefed the group on NRCS activities to address recent issues through WRP (Wetland Reserve Program) and WHEP (Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program), after which **Genny Walters** and **Greg Kohler** described the Corps efforts within the Meramec River Basin Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study and other efforts to be better prepared for such events in the Basin in the future and to improve ecosystem quality in the Basin.

It was clear that the intended and unintended consequences of flood plain management was contributing to the severity of flooding and associated impacts. It was generally agreed that a focus of efforts on the use of ecosystem services to mitigate flooding impacts is needed.

To move this discussion forward, **Clark Gantzer** will circulate an updated version of the document he prepared for discussion a couple of months ago to a sub-group of the S&PC and invited experts. The Corps also agreed to circulate information on upcoming meetings in the Jefferson City area, which relate to this issue, in case members would to call in. I will forward information to the committee as a whole, so that others who are interested can join in the sub-group.

The main conclusion and consensus reached was that a continuing dialogue is essential to move this subject forward and that as many agencies should be involved in the discussion to facilitate a positive outcome. An initial product of the working sub-group is to develop a short piece that would be submitted to the JSWC as a viewpoint in the "Features" section.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm (CST).

The next meeting of the S&P Committee is scheduled for Monday July 25th from 12:30 to 1:30 at the SWCS Conference in Louisville. Room information will be provided nearer the meeting time.