

Minutes of the March 13, 2001 steering committee

It was discussed that the group look into having a trash pick up field day sometime. This could be a good event if we can get the public to show up and work. Probably should feed them if possible. There are many areas in the watershed that need cleaned up.

Next, the group talked about whether we should get more monitoring data or stop with what we have. It was a good discussion.

The group then discussed two available cost sharing programs and if we should apply for them. Both LARE and EQUP programs would get us some money to fix things.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Rusty

# Watershed Training Planning Team (You and Your Steering Committee)

## SKIT OUTLINE Moderator Andy

Information to include:

Late person – no idea where mtg. is to be held  
No agenda  
No or limited minutes  
No ground rules  
Side conversation  
Stakeholders not represented by committee  
Missing person (empty chair)  
No end time (someone gets up to leave during mtg.)  
Start late  
No introductions  
Taking a vote (hastily – split decision)

Background: The Lost Lake watershed steering committee. This is their 4<sup>th</sup> mtg.

Steering Committee Members are:

Possible Roles

District Conservationist –USDA, NRCS	Susan
Watershed Coordinator for the Lost Lake project	Jill
SWCD Supervisor/Farmer	Jim
Environmentalist - Envirocare United	Kent
Farmer # 1 from adjacent county	Matt
Politician – County Commissioner	April

Meeting scheduled to start at 7:00 p.m. A few members of the committee are ready to start on time, some keep talking.

**Watershed Coordinator:** O.K. I guess we will open the meeting it's 7:15 p.m. Did everyone read the minutes.

**SWCD Supervisor:** I forgot to send them out, I was busy talking with my seed dealer and completely forgot to mail them out. But here is my copy and I'll read them to the group. (Supervisor reads minutes)

**Farmer 1:** Lets go ahead and get started on applying for that grant money, I've got a few places where I need some fencing.

**DC:** (interrupts) Wait we need more data, right now I can't figure out what the monitoring results are telling us.

**Farmer 1:** (Adlib) note: During discussion everyone else at the table will turn their heads back and forth towards whom ever is speaking. **We need money for practices...**

**DC:** (Adlib) **I have worked in this county for 30 years and we just now got a hold of some good data from IDM. They sent me 3 boxes of data. We need to analyze the data and figure out where we are. We should be able to do this at one meeting. And we need to contract with someone to continue to sample.**

**Farmer 1:** (Adlib) **What the heck are you talking about? I lived here 40 years now and this is the first time we have had a chance to get money to put in dams and tile and it won't cost the farmers anything. This is great. Let's spend money where it will count.**

**DC:** (Adlib) **But how do we know what needs treated without the data, and who's going to fund us unless we get data?**

**Farmer 1:** **Practices will correct our problems. More data isn't going to fix anything!**

**DC:** **Nobody does anything without several years of good data to see what the problems are!**

Co. Commissioner: (enters the meeting late) Sorry I'm late, I couldn't remember if the meeting was at the library or the extension office. So what did I miss, are we working on the trash pick up thing?

### **FREEZE**

**Moderator:** How many times do meetings get started in this direction? Can you point out some of the problems with this situation?

Discuss the following

Coordinator opened the meeting  
Chairman or structure of group not known  
No agenda keep group on track  
No decisions were recorded in the Minutes  
No ground rules  
People coming in late

### **Resume**

**Coordinator:** I think I could talk the volunteer monitors into getting more data. They're a great group of people, I really like working with them!

**Farmer:** Why do we need more data when we have three boxes of it? I've got neighbors that could use money for dirt dams and field tile projects. I think we could spend \$20,000, if we could get the money.

**DC:** We need more data.

**Farmer:** We need money for practices.

**Coordinator:** Let's take a vote! Everyone in favor of data? (4) Everyone in favor of practices? (2) O.K. it's a 4-2 decision that we need more data. Let's start determining what sites we want.

**Group:** (starts discussing monitoring sites)

(Farmer and SWCD Supervisor start having a side conversation between themselves and become disinterested with the current subject.)

**Farmer:** You know ever since they replaced old Jim in the office this county's been going down hill. Why I remember when Jim got here back in '81. He was here for the farmers.

**SWCD Supervisor:** Yeah, he watched out for us, knew this stuff too. By the way are you coming to the township hog roast this weekend?

Farmer: Is it that time again already.

Supervisor: Sure is, I need some one to serve, you willing to cover it?...

### **FREEZE**

Discuss the following  
Domination of two people, what do the others think?  
Position instead of need  
Voting (Winners and Losers) Consensus  
Side conversation (Who is in control?)

### **Resume**

**Commissioner:** I'll tell you one thing, at monitoring site six there is trash everywhere. I don't know if or when the group wants to do a trash pick up, but that would be a good place to start.

**SWCD supervisor:** I agree with that Bob, you can see trash scattered along the East Side of the bank.

**Environmentalist:** Site six is a trashy site. Sunday I was out fishing and saw litter all over the place. Not only is littering a problem, but there are too many geese using the

lake. I fished all day long and only caught ten fish. I normally have good luck with my special shiny gold laced purple corn worm spinner bait, but they just didn't bite. I don't know if the sun was at a wrong angle or what, but I used the tug and reel method, which seems to always catch fish. So I decided to switch lures to a strange looking glowworm, you know the ones seen on television, anyway .....

### **FREEZE**

Discuss the following

Story teller (They can kill a meeting)

Jumped to another subject without any decision about the previous subject

### **Resume**

**Coordinator:** Our watershed plan needs some work. I'm not from around here, however, I hear that Lost Lake has an interesting history. We need to capture some of that history in our plan. Any volunteers?

**Supervisor:** I think our coordinator should handle that.

**Coordinator:** O.K. What about working on the land use section, any volunteers?

**Supervisor:** I think you can handle that too.

**Coordinator:** O.K., I guess I'll do that too. What about looking into getting donations for a web page for the project? (silence) Me, again?

**Supervisor:** I think you should, since you will be working with it.

**Commissioner:** Well, I've got to go, it's getting to be 10 o'clock.

**Environmentalist:** Has anyone seen the orange goo that floats on top of the lake early in the mornings? Someone needs check out the Lost Homes subdivision, I'll bet it is coming from their septic systems. They're dumping something down the drain and it's showing up as an orange film on the lake.

**Farmer:** Yeah, someone needs to go check that out. It's those people.

**Coordinator:** (pipes up that the orange goo is from the homes along the Lakeshore.) We need to tell them to quit it and fix it. Does anybody know who lives over there?

### **FREEZE**

Discuss the following

No true commitment to the project, if coordinator leaves the project dies.

Pointing the finger before analyzing the problem and all the potential sources

Homeowners (stakeholder) not represented on steering committee

Ground Rules – start and end time

**RESUME**

**DC:** Well, seems like we're on the right track. I say we call it an evening.

**Environmentalist:** Sounds good to me. Are we meeting here again or at the Library?

**Farmer 1:** Yeah the Library. I move to adjourn the meeting.

**DC:** I second it.

(DC and Environmentalist leave)

**Farmer #1 and Supervisor:** (corner Coordinator) I still think we need to put together a grant application for practices just to see if it might get funded. Grant deadline is tomorrow, go ahead and fill out these forms.

**FREEZE**

Discuss the following

No decisions made or recorded in the minutes

No action register develop – no tasks assigned

No agenda developed for next meeting

No summary

Fragmented group

All tasks dumped on the Coordinator

**THE END**