

Huddle Notes
February 11, 2020

In today's Huddle, Mike Cromrey from the Watershed of the Ozarks discussed with us what all they do for Greene County.

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks:

- Started in 1984.
- In early 1980's we had very serious water issues. Water at Wilson Creek was black; and the water at Fellows Lake was green.
- County, City Utilities and City of Springfield all came together to discuss how to fix this.
- They have one board meeting per month and a public meeting the 1st Monday of the month starting at 7:30 AM and ending at 8:30 AM, at the Midtown Library.

Tyler from Environmental said that a group from their office goes every month and anyone who wants to attend is welcome.

Education & Outreach

- Mike said the heart of the Watershed is located at Valley Water Mill.
- They have a program which helps them work with schools to educate students on water quality.
- The College and Career Pathway Program with Hillcrest High School is helping teach Hillcrest students both how to grow native plants and the impact those plants have on the environment.
- Mike advised in another three (3) years this program should be funding its self.

MS4 Compliance:

- Volunteer program – MS4 Public Engagement.
- Partnership with Wilson Creek.
- Watershed Conservation Corps, provides engaging hands-on involvement by employing youth in watershed improvements.
- Mike talked about how a flood plan violation turned into a successful partnership on the Little Sac River restoration.

USDA "RCPP":

- One of the biggest grants they have applied for and should know in about a week if funds will be granted.

What the Watershed Does: Educate on the importance of taking care of our water supply.

- Research and planning.
- Ground water monitoring.
- Fund raising.
- Build relations with citizens.