



**Beautiful Buffalo River Action Committee**  
**June 19, 2018**  
**ADEQ, Commission Room**  
**2:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:** **Becky Keogh** (Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Director), **Bruce Holland** (Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, Director), **Dr. Nathaniel Smith** (Arkansas Department of Health, Director), **Matt McNair** (Arkansas Parks and Tourism, Project Officer/Environmental Review Coordinator) for Kane Webb, **Wes Ward** (Arkansas Agriculture Department, Agriculture Secretary), **Shelby Johnson** (Arkansas Geographic Information Office, GIS Officer), **Justin Stroman** (Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Federal Regulatory Program Biologist) for Pat Fitts

**Members Absent:** Kane Webb (Arkansas Parks and Tourism, Director), Pat Fitts (Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Director)

**Invited Guests:** Tony Ramick (Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, Fiscal Grants Manager), Heather Saco (Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Operations Branch Manager), Scott Gain (United States Geological Survey, Director, Lower Mississippi Gulf Water Science Center)

## **WELCOME**

---

**Becky Keogh** provided welcome remarks

## **AGENCY REPORT OUTS**

---

### **Matt McNair – Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism**

- In attendance for APT Director Kane Webb

### **Dr. Nate Smith – Arkansas Department of Health**

- ADH has continued to monitor water E.coli data collected by the National Parks Service
- ADH is looking at ways of doing on site wastewater septic survey in Mill Creek area
- ADH is working with ANRC to identify ways to potentially assist residents in Mill Creek area with septic concerns

### **Bruce Holland – Arkansas Natural Resources Commission**

- Director Holland yielded his time, Tony Ramick will be presenting on the Watershed Management Plan

### **Wes Ward – Arkansas Agriculture Department**

- AAD is continuing to work on feral hog eradication task force

### **Justin Stroman – Arkansas Game and Fish Commission**

- In attendance for AGFC Director Pat Fitts
- AGFC has removed 424 feral hogs with the parks service, private land owners, and game and fish staff through the feral hog eradication task force
- AGFC has made a preliminary commitment of \$50,000 for a filamentous algae study
- Continuing work through AGFC stream team
- 2018 elk survey has been completed

### **Shelby Johnson – Arkansas Geographic Information Office**

- GIS has received high resolution terrain data produced through a joint project with FEMA, USGS, and NRCS, which encompasses the entire Buffalo River Watershed

### **Becky Keogh – Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality**

- Permitting and appeal process is continuing on hog farm
- ADEQ has resolved unpermitted farm issue
- Marble Falls NPDES permit has been renewed
- ADEQ has an algal bloom app, which will help the department accurately assess algal bloom reports
- Scott Gain, USGS, will be proving a presentation today on the Mill Creek sampling project

## **EXECUTIVE DISCUSSION**

---

### **Approval of January 23, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

- **Wes Ward** motioned to approve the minutes. **Bruce Holland** seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved with no discussion or questions.

### **Approval of 2018 Third Quarter Meeting Date**

- The third quarter meeting will be held on August 21, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

## **EXECUTIVE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

---

### **Heather Saco, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality**

- Heather Saco provided an update on the BBRAC Executive Subcommittee, which has met three times since January BBRAC meeting
- Members asked questions and discussion followed

## **BUFFALO RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

---

### **Tony Ramick, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission**

- Tony Ramick with the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission provided an update on the Buffalo River Watershed Management plan, which has been accepted by EPA on June 5, 2018, and met all required nine elements
- Members asked questions and discussion followed

## **MILL CREEK CONTAINMENT SOURCE TRACKING**

---

### **W. Scott Gain, Director, Lower Mississippi-Gulf Water Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey**

- Scott Gain provided a preliminary study update on the Mill Creek Nutrient and Bacteria Source Tracking Study
- Members asked questions and discussion followed

## **CONCLUSION**

---

- **Becky Keogh** provided closing remarks and adjourned the meeting

Handouts and video of the meeting can be found at <https://bbrac.arkansas.gov>.