

MEMO TO: Environmental Quality Committee and Interested Parties
FROM: Jeremy Tanz/Kara Johnston
SUBJECT: Meeting Summary March 11, 2022, Meeting
DATE: March 11, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Bauman, at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

Chairwoman Bauman introduced Director Buntin. Director Buntin has been the DNR director since August of 2021. Before that he has been with DNR for many years servicing the Upper Mississippi River Basin and working with Wastewater Management.

Director Buntin spoke of the goals and direction of DNR. He first spoke on the budget request that the DNR have placed for the upcoming budget year. These include: \$17.9 Million for drinking water development, \$9.6 Million for wifi projects in state parks, \$411 Million was requested for wastewater and storm water infrastructures, \$10 Million for lead service line mapping to identify lead, \$42.3 Million for state park water/wastewater, \$10.5 Million for Missouri hydrology, \$69.3 Million for Rock Island Trail State Park, \$78.6 Million for new state laboratory including animal health center and DNR labs. All these have been submitted into the budgets. Director Buntin also talked about how the DNR works best with partnerships and therefore he is leading the department into more compliance assistance. This would include meetings and education on violations. According to Director Buntin there are 13 charging stations currently done and this accounts for about half of the budget allotted for them. MoDot is partnering with the DNR for the Charging Station Project. There was another \$65 million awarded for state parks. This was to update campground loops, lodging and add yurts. Along with various other things that are needed in the state parks. This also opened increased federal funding for local communities to open trails or parks.

Jeremy Tanz gave an update on the status of ozone monitoring readings. March 1st is the start of the Ozone testing season. The first week was up from last year. Mr. Tanz explained that the readings have been trending up since the pandemic. Included in the meeting packet was a handout of things you can do to help reduce ozone. Jeremy spoke about plans to formalize and distribute these things to schools, businesses, and the public. This will help educate people on what they can do to reduce ozone. Mr. Tanz also spoke about how the EPA is looking to lower ozone standards which would make compliance in our areas almost a non-issue.

Mr. Thompson reported on solid waste, Mr. Thompson stated that they are close to finalizing all the 2021 grants. Mr. Thompson also reported that the next grant call is nearing and end. This call ends March 18th for everyone but Perry County which will have until March 19th due to the newspaper not being able to get the ad ran until a day later. We have already received 2 applications and Mr. Thompson said he is expecting 2 more at least. Andrew Horrell from Holcim (US) Inc. spoke about their grant application. They are wanting to do another waste roundup. They did one last year and Mr. Horrell spoke of how successful it was in the community.

Mr. Tanz touched on the Paint Stewardship Program

In other business, Commissioner Nelson explained that all counties have issues with tire dumping. A discussion followed on this ongoing issue. Also in other business, Mr. Tanz spoke about the electric charging stations 13 were approved in 2 rounds of voting. One of which is in Perryville. There is a website plugshare.com that the DNR will publish to once the stations become active. Director Buntin spoke more on this stating there was discussions of fast charging stations to be put into state parks. The cost of these are much higher. Another item of business was the Governor Budget Share Meeting held in Representative Dale Wrights office last week, ARPA has a limited time funding available for \$2.1 billion total. There is also

\$4 billion available now from funding the state held back during the pandemic. Representative Wright said the Governor is looking for more long-term projects to invest this money into. It will also require match funds. These could include cash, ARPA funds already acquired and future funds approved but not acquired, property in hand, in-kind donations. Representative Wright said “now is the time for projects in Missouri.”

Sandra Cabot of the Regional Engagement at the Missouri Department of Economic Development encouraged people to get onto the DED’s preliminary portal which closes March 21. This will give them the ability to list projects and their approximate cost. Once the actual portal goes live you will still have to apply for these projects. This just gives the DED a better idea of how much people are requesting.

The date of the next Environmental Quality Committee meeting, to be set for September 9, 2022.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:50.

Follow up: The next Environmental Quality Committee meeting was set for September 9, 2022.