



Hinkston Creek Watershed Stakeholders Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2021, 3 PM- 4:30PM

I. Introductions/Attendees:

Emily Anderson (NRCS), **Mahtaab Bagherzadeh** (KDOW), **Shawn Barns** (Community Ventures), **Rick Fletcher** (Mt. Sterling Water & Sewer), **Dave Gamstetter** (Davey Resource Group), **Marie Halpin** (LRWW), **Kevin Hopkins** (City of Millersburg), **Rhonda Curran-Koth** (Nicholas Co. Chamber of Commerce), **Erica Logan** (Nicholas Co. CD), **David McGrade** (Centre College), **Kristi Morris** (WEDCO), **Morgan Murphy** (Fayette Co. Ext./ Resident), **Lindsie Nicholas** (BGGs), **Earl Pfanstiel** (Property Owner), **Hayley Perkins** (NRCS), **Brian Rauf** (FOSC, LRWW), **Reno Runck** (Producer/ Property Owner), **Lorrain Smoot** (Resident), **Valerie Tipton** (Bourbon Co. CD), **Barry Topping** (Tetra Tech / Resident), **Marium Van Meter** (FOSC, LRWW), **Scott Wells** (Bourbon Co. Fiscal Court), **Lynn Williams** (FOSC, LRWW), **Michael Williams** (Bourbon Co. Fiscal Court)



II. Announcements

- a. Riparian Buffer Grant Application deadline extended through **May 31st** for streamside buffer establishment in the Hinkston Creek Watershed
- b. [Septic Care Workshops](#) returning in June/July with applications for the pumpout and repair program available to workshop attendees in the Hinkston Creek Watershed:
 - i. Nicholas Co – Tues, **June 15th** 6:00-7:30PM at the Neal Welcome Center
 - ii. Montgomery Co – Tues, **June 22nd** 6:00-7:30PM at the Montgomery Co Extension Education Center
 - iii. Bourbon Co – Tues, **July 6th** 6:00-7:30PM at Mustard Seed Hill
- c. [Connecting Community and Water](#) Student Packets still available for PreK-5th grade students in the Hinkston Creek Watershed
- d. Farmer to Farmer Video Series underway, click [HERE](#) to watch
- e. Water Quality Mini Grant applications will be available in November for stakeholder led projects in 2022, up to \$5,000 per project

III. Stakeholder Mapping Activity

- a. Stakeholders each wrote down their name and their organization/affiliation on a blue sticky note and placed it on a white board, slowly organizing themselves into groupings.
- b. Each stakeholder then helped to determine groups or organizations that were missing. These new sticky notes (green) were added.

- c. Below is a graphic summary of the activity. The goal of the activity was to see how each stakeholder plays a role and how the group can work together to build stakeholder capacity working toward improved water quality as a community.

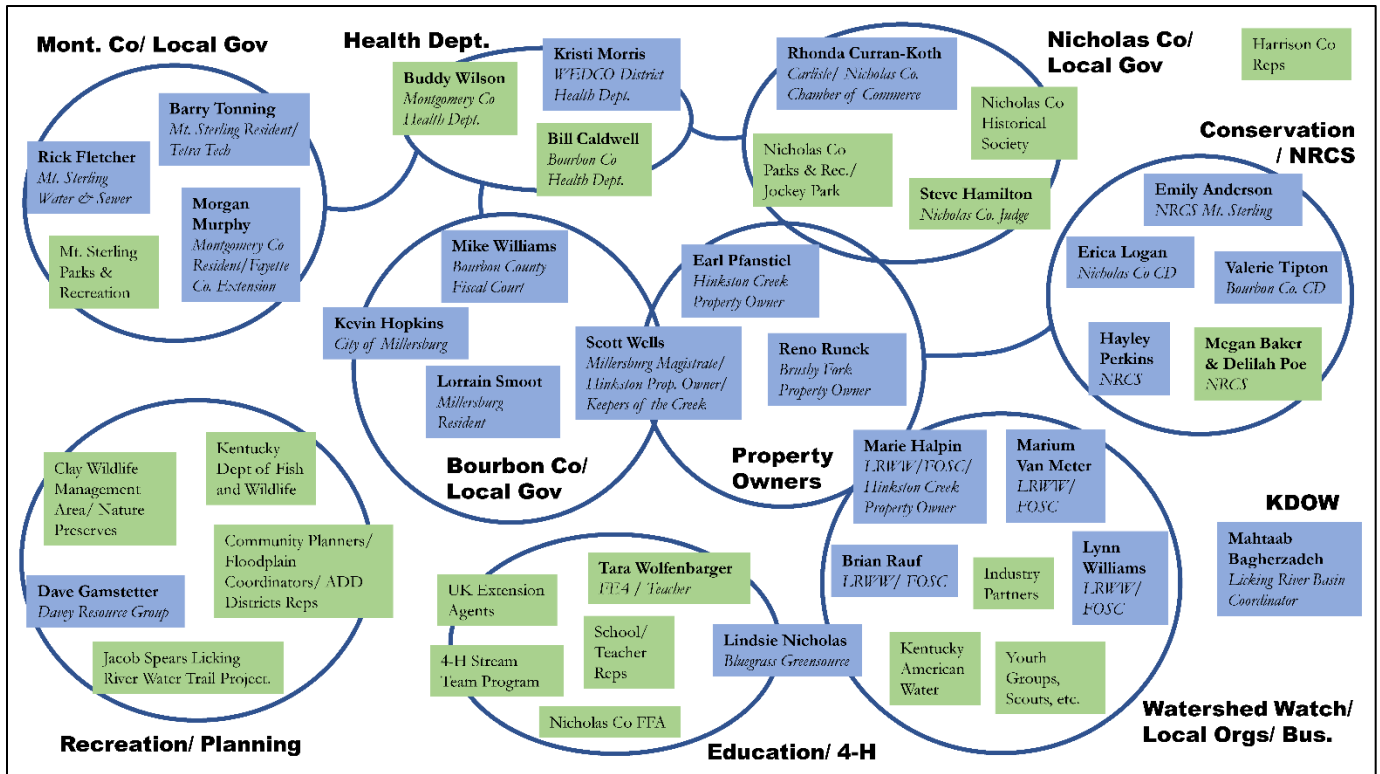


Figure 1 - Hinkston Creek Watershed Stakeholder Map

IV. Project Brainstorming

- a. Random Word Generator Activity Stakeholders called out 5 words at a time that were randomly generated from a website. Words were recorded on a white board and the group worked together to use as many of the words to identify potential stakeholder-led projects focusing on water quality improvements. (completed 5-6 rounds)
- b. [Hinkston Creek Watershed Stakeholder Project Story Map](#) – for reference and planning

Table 1 - Stakeholder Project Concepts

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vision – linear park Develop plans for a linear park along Hinkston Creek in Mt. Sterling along the Adena Trail, including stream access, outdoor classroom space, educational signage, riparian buffer zone 2. Fish – decreased fish population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase community engagement and connection with local waterways by seeking out and creating public access points along Hinkston Creek for recreational use such as fishing, kayaking, and hiking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Siltation in creeks and increased streambank erosion results in steeper banks and makes access to the creeks difficult, seek opportunities to address steep streambanks 3. Basin – watershed level farm mgmt. Farmers in the watershed are likely the stakeholders with the most access to local waterways, continue to develop relationships with and include them in the conservation discussion, F2F project connection
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<p>4. Cruelty - sewage Continue to focus funding assistance and seek additional resources to address straight pipes and failing septic systems in the watershed, raw sewage a leading cause of bacteria pollution in the watershed</p> <p>5. Time – volunteers are hard to come by Possible outreach campaign with LRWW to engage and connect with the community to get them out and interested in volunteering as water samplers (target landowners)</p> <p>6. Research Expand dissemination of UK Extension publications and resources available to the public, tabling events, partnerships, festivals, etc.</p> <p>7. Watershed Festival Plan a cross-county watershed wide festival with a focus on Hinkston Creek and local waterways, water quality, history, recreation, and wildlife, including a combination of youth and adult education and outreach activities. Possible locations include Millersburg/ Mustard Seed Hill, Paris Athletic Complex, Hinkston Creek headwaters-Adena trail area in Mt. Sterling, Jockey Park</p> <p>8. Demonstration - green infrastructure Integrate green consciousness into community development, installing urban and rural demonstration projects to familiarize the community with low impact design and conservation practices</p> <p>9. Career - video project Produce a Hinkston Creek documentary, building off of the Farmer-to-Farmer Video Series with addition streamside and drone footage along Hinkston Creek, kayak trails, capture historic content from Barry Tonning's Newspaper series, etc.</p> <p>10. Ride – adventure tourism Partner with local government, LVA, and others to develop a stream signage campaign up and down Hinkston for those recreating on the creek (location/ mile markers, historical signs, etc.)</p>	<p>11. County Partnerships – waterway access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a cross-county public access campaign to Hinkston, working with local governments and property owners to identify areas for access (identify possible land donations, purchase easements, planning/ design/ construction) - Bourbon County has waterway access in their budget, but has found it hard to identify points for public access - Jacob Spears Licking River Water Trail Project design underway in Bourbon Co with Copperhead Environmental Consulting <p>12. Fish + Wildlife Possible opportunity to partner w/ Department of Fish and Wildlife in the South Fork Licking area</p> <p>13. Forest – creek walk Develop a creek walk/water trail map and/or virtual tour for Hinkston Creek and local waterways, include history, restoration challenges, wildlife viewing, and kayak trail recreation activities, utilize Barry Tonning's newspaper articles for historical context - Possible tie in with video project #9</p> <p>14. Concentration – problem areas Increase education about not mowing to the edge and lack of buffers, streambank erosion challenges in Montgomery Co noted as a concern</p> <p>15. Challenges – barriers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address barriers to implementing conservation practices on the farm, including permanent easements, time, permitting, engineering requirements, paperwork, public notices, and cost - Develop a means to streamline the implementation process and provide increased education (UK/ BGGs/ Conservation Districts), link with Hinkston Farmer to Farmer Grant, Famer leadership program, staked conservation practices, etc. <p>16. Buffer projects – Identify riparian buffer demonstration projects for field days and education videos, work with NRCS/FSA to encourage the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Mt. Sterling Water and Sewer Hinkston Creek WWTP Riparian Buffer Project, Brushy Fork Buffer Project with Nicholas Co and Reno Runck</p>
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<p>17. Confluence of Hinkston and Stoner Creek in Ruddles Mill</p> <p>Develop plans for the confluence in Ruddles Mill - historically significant location, great opportunity for establishment as a recreational landmark/ park/ outdoor education facility – having a direct link to the water fosters compassion for WQ issues (would require land acquisition)</p>	<p>18. Focus Conservation Program/ EQIP</p> <p>Develop Hinkston Creek conservation program, detailing specific watershed issues for consideration for the regional workgroup as part of EQIP funding (possible alternative or supplement to F2F Grant?)</p>
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V. Closing Comments

- a. Next Stakeholder Meeting **November 2021 - TBD**
Discussion topics: development of stakeholder-led project ideas and partnerships
- b. Summer stakeholder meet and greet, look out for more details
- c. Homework: Review the list of project ideas, brainstorm more ideas, and start making connections with other stakeholders to move desired project ideas forward
- d. Reminder, the [Story Map](#) is available as a tool for project planning
- e. Meeting minutes, presentations, recordings, and upcoming meeting dates posted on the Hinkston Creek site: <https://bgreensource.org/hinkston-creek-watershed-group/>