



Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education (ISEE)

March 6, 2013; 1 – 3 PM Eastern Time Zone

Downtown Waterfront & Cove Spring Park, Frankfort, KY

IN ATTENDANCE: Joyce Bender, Billy Bennett, Ed Councill, Sean Elkins, Billie Hardin, Elizabeth Schmitz, Michelle Shane, Zach Webb, and Seth Wheat.

Presentations:

Frankfort/Franklin County Tourist & Convention Commission Executive Director Joy Jeffries gave a tour of the Downtown Riverfront redevelopment to date. A “Kentucky Riverwalk” is being promoted that ties together the downtown riverfront with Buffalo Trace Distillery and the Capitol complex. The Commission is funding an environmental science education boat that will dock at and tour the downtown waterfront; the ribbon cutting is tentatively scheduled for this summer. An amphitheater has been built between the river and the Kentucky Bar Association building. Mixed-use private redevelopment and walking & bike trails have been proposed where the old Gattitown building now stands.

Nick Ozburne, Kristy Nowak, and Rob Lewis of the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) gave a brief presentation regarding various stream restoration projects the agency has undertaken throughout the state. The Wetland and Stream Mitigation Program at KDFWR restores aquatic habitat throughout the state. The goals are to provide excellent aquatic habitat for fish and other aquatic fauna as well as plant native riparian and wetland vegetation, protecting the habitat in perpetuity. To date, the program has committed to restoring or preserving over 110 miles of stream habitat throughout the state. The funding comes from impacts to streams and wetlands, which are resources protected by the Clean Water Act. KDFWR and local park staff then led a guided tour of the current stream restoration project at Cove Spring Park.

Nick Ozburne also offered the following information for our ISEE members to share with their contacts:

- Locations such as public parks and schools can make excellent locations for projects if they have sufficient space to work.
- When KDFWR restores a stream or wetland, the stream must be protected in perpetuity. The stream can be protected via easements, property purchase, or agreements with public land holders. These agreements prohibit activities such as logging, ATV use, construction, or mining in the protected area.
- Our typical project is over a mile long. We tend not to take on shorter projects.
- Our staff spends most our time getting stream projects built, but hope to work on public outreach/education some more in the future. NC State University and the NRCS have some educational materials on stream restoration that may be appropriate for the general audience.
- The vast majority of our work is in rural East Kentucky because this is where most KDFWR stream impacts are (where funds are derived). We are excited to have a showcase project in Frankfort that is more visible to the public.