

Vision

The vision of the Environmental Task Force of Jasper and Newton Counties is to enhance and protect the environmental quality of life in the area.

MISSION

The mission of the Environmental Task Force of Jasper and Newton Counties is to provide leadership for policymakers and citizens on environmental issues through education, research, public policy recommendations and action projects.

Objectives of the Strategic Plan

The objectives of the Environmental Task Force of Jasper and Newton Counties Strategic Plan are to

- Identify factors (strength, weakness, opportunities and threats) that will affect the mission of the Task Force. The Plan will be reviewed and updated annually.
- Update the mission and principles to guide the Task Force's Board of Directors and future staff members.
- Identify and develop a core group of strategic areas and action items on which the Task Force will focus.
- Provide clear policy direction for the organization.

Core Strategies

Through planning meetings the Board of Directors of the Task Force will identify the following core Strategic Areas:

- Organization Membership
- Leadership
- Education
- Regulatory/Legislative
- Finance
- Technology/Projects

Organization/Membership

The current membership of the Environmental Task Force of Jasper and Newton is the two counties represented by a Board of Directors which the two counties appoint. The stakeholders, however, includes all the cities and villages, industries, businesses and citizens in the two counties.

Strategic 1. Develop one or more advisory group of stakeholders to assist the Task Force in accomplishing its mission.

- Action Item: Create a Membership Committee to prepare an informational brochure and presentation material to be used in recruiting advisory group members.

Click here to enter text.

- Action Item: By the end of 2011 contact all the cities and villages in *the* two counties.

Click here to enter text.

- Action Item: By the end of 2012 recruit at least 10 members for the advisory group(s).

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Strategic 2. Outreach and encourage active participation by all the Chambers of Commerce in the two counties.

- Action Item Meet with Chambers of Commerce organizations in the two counties to explore common goals and interests which will encourage economic growth of the area.

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Strategic 3. Develop programs of interest to the advisory group(s).

- Action Item: Develop information summarizing the several current projects being conducted by the Task Force.

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- Action Item: Distribute information concerning current projects to the advisory group(s) inquiring as to their interest.

Click here to enter text.

- Action Item: Encourage all advisory members to be active in one or more of the Task Force activities.

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Strategic 4 Participate in establishing an umbrella organization of watershed planning organization in Grand Lake O' the Cherokee watershed.

- Action Item: Identify the watershed planning organizations in the watershed.
Through sponsorship of the ETF, the following organizations were formed: Lower Shoal Creek Watershed Partnership operating under a Board of Directors with no membership, Spring River Watershed Partnership operating under a Board of Directors with no membership, and the Grand Lake Watershed Council with thirteen cooperating agencies and organizations.
- Action Item: Invite the watershed planning organizations to be the Task Force guest to a discussion meeting. Plan an appropriate agenda.
2012 – Currently members of all three watershed planning organizations listed above are on the ETF Board of Directors and they represent ETF within the watershed organizations.
- Action Item: Offer to serve as the interim secretariat during the formational period.
2012 – Bob Nichols, President of the Board of Directors, acts as the facilitator for the Grand Lake Watershed Council.

Strategic 5 Establish a working relationship with the Stream Team Association of Southwest Missouri.

- Action Item: Contact the Stream Team Association of Southwest Missouri and inquire about some type of relationship.
2012 – A member of Stream Team or an affiliate sets on the Board of Directors and Stream Team activities are discussed as part of a regular agenda item.

Leadership

The Environmental Task Force of Jasper and Newton Counties is current led and managed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Since the Board and Committees serve on a volunteer basis, the activities of the Task Force are extremely limited. While it is very desirable to have paid staff, financial resources are not available to hire any. Therefore, the Task Force must continue to rely on volunteers.

Strategic 1 Seek additional volunteers to carry out the work of the Task Force.

- Action Item: Inquire of the members of the Advisory Group(s) if any are willing to volunteer to assist.
Click here to enter text.
- Action Item: Ask Chambers of Commerce to publish the need for volunteers.
Click here to enter text.
- Action Item: Submit articles to the several area newspapers asking for volunteers.
Click here to enter text.

Strategic 2 Develop a plan to ultimately hire an executive director.

- Action Item: Develop an executive director job description by July 2012.
Click here to enter text.
- Action Item: Develop a budget for the executive director by October 2012.
Click here to enter text.
- Action Item: Seek funding for an executive director by January 2013.
Click here to enter text.

Strategic 3 Develop Leadership contact with key public officials and their staffs.

- Action Item: Routinely meet with key elected officials and their staff.
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Education

The purpose of the education effort is two-fold. First to increase the awareness of all the stakeholders of the importance of protecting and enhancing the environment in which they live. Second, to make elected officials and their staff of the Task Force's ability and willingness to assist in evaluating local environmental issues. The following strategies outline the educational efforts of the Task Force.

- Action Item: Develop a speaker's panel charged with providing presentations to civic organizations church groups, school groups, and other organizations.
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- Action Item: Develop and maintain a PowerPoint presentation to be used for these presentations that can be adapted to a variety of audiences.
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- Action Item: Develop a short video to be used in the kiosk to be located in appropriate locations.
2011 – The Life of Water video was developed with help of the MSSU media department. The short video uses areas in Jasper and Newton counties to talk about the water cycle, water conservation and watershed issues. 2012 – Another video will be developed with the help of TAMKO. This video will focus on watershed issues and will be directed toward school-age children.

Regulatory/Legislative

There are many Federal and State agencies that play a role in environmental issues.

Strategic 1 Establish working relations with appropriate divisions in the Environmental Protection Agency.

- Action Item: Identify the appropriate divisions within EPA.
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- Action Item: Identify the appropriate contact person in each identified division. Make contact and establish a working relationship.
Click here to enter text.
- Action Item: Add contact person to mailing list and send copies of meeting notices, minutes, reports, etc.
Click here to enter text.

Strategic 2 Establish working relations with appropriate divisions with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

- Action Item: Identify the appropriate divisions within MoDNR.
Click here to enter text.
- Action Item: Identify the appropriate contact person in each identified division. Make contact and establish a working relationship.
Click here to enter text.
- Action Item: Add contact person to mailing list and send copies of meeting notices, minutes, reports, etc.
*ETF distribution list for meeting notices, minutes and reports include:
Jasper County Commissioners, Newton County Commissioners, Mark Doolan, EPA Project Manager*

Strategic 3 Establish a relationship with all State Representatives and Senators in the two counties.

- Action Item: Identify all the State Representatives and Senators in the two Counties.
Click here to enter text.
- Action Item: Prepare an executive summary of the Task Force, its mission, dreams, accomplishments, etc.
Click here to enter text.
- Action Item: Meet with each Representative and Senator and discuss the Task Force, its purposes, goals and needs.
Click here to enter text.

Strategic 4 Establish a relationship with all elected officials and appropriate staff of the two counties and all the municipalities in the two counties.

- Action Item: Identify all the elected officials and appropriate staff of the two counties and all the municipalities in the two counties.
Click here to enter text.
- Action Item: Prepare an executive summary of the Task Force, its mission, dreams, accomplishments, etc.
Click here to enter text.

- Action Item: Establish a relationship with elected officials and appropriate staff of the two counties and all the municipalities in the two counties and through either direct meetings or mail, discuss the Task Force, its purposes, goals and needs.
Click here to enter text.
- Action Item: Encourage the participation in and use of the Task Force.
Click here to enter text.

Finance

Currently the Task Force receives limited financial support from the two counties. It is doubtful the counties can increase their support due their very limited resources. For the Task Force to be successful, it must seek additional funding. Funds are essential in order to hire staff and conduct its projects

Strategic 1 Maintain Jasper and Newton Counties financial support.

- Action Item: Keep the two counties well inform in order to justify continued support.
Click here to enter text.

Strategic 2 Seek grants and other support.

- Action Items: Monitor available grants from EPA and MoDNR. Make application for appropriate grants.
October, 2011 – Representatives of the US Fish and Wildlife Service made a presentation to the Board on the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan. This program can potentially generate grants (2012) for this area to be funded by damage settlements from local mining companies in Jasper and Newton counties. Grant applications must be to restore, rehabilitate, replace and/or acquire the equivalent of the injured natural resources from the local mining industry. ETF will work to see that adequate grant applications are submitted for local projects.
- Action Item: Investigate the availability of grants from local foundations.
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- Action Item: Investigate the possibility of seeking grants from local businesses and industries.
Applications were made to Missouri American Water in 2011 to fund a Shoal Creek Cleanup and again in 2012 to sponsor a landowner's meeting on Lower Shoal Creek but no funds were approved.

Strategic 3 Establish an endowment.

- Action Item: Investigate the feasibility of establishing an endowment to fund future activities of the Task Force – Complete investigation by July 2012.
Click here to enter text.

Technology/Projects

Technology is the foundation of enhancing and protecting the environment. The enhancing of the environment will be accomplished by projects conducted by the Task Force or others.

- Action Item: Continue developing watershed management plans for Spring River.
A 9 Element plan has been developed by the Jasper County Health Department for a section of Spring River in the Carthage area. Additional 9 element plans for the remainder of Spring River has been delayed because of funding. The Spring River Partnership (SRWP) has been formed under the ETF and the members of this group are charged with this Action Item. The SRWP representative reports to the ETF at Board meetings.
- Action Item: Develop a watershed management plan for Lower Shoal Creek.
The Shoal Creek Watershed Partnership Strategic Plan was prepared and published in May 2007. The 9 element has been delayed because of funding and then finding an available qualified contractor to write the document, the lack of a TMDL set by DNR and concerns on changing DNR expectations for the content and formatting the document. The Lower Shoal Creek Watershed Partnership (LSCWP) has been formed under the ETF and the members of this group are charged with this Action Item. The LSCWP representative reports to the ETF at Board meetings.
- Action Plan: Meet with representatives of the several cities to discuss implementing the Highway 249 Redevelopment Plan.
Click here to enter text.
- Action Item: Seek funding to update the Environmental Master Plan.
2012 – This is complete except for making the information available to the public through the website. The update was accomplished by the Jasper County Health Department. The plan covers only Jasper County since the plan was developed before Newton County became a part of the ETF.
- Action Item: Continue monitoring the air quality monitoring program of EPA.
This is an agenda items at every Board meeting. Board members are assigned to follow issues and report back on regulatory changes and implementation; they liaison to other local groups such as the Ozark Clean Air Alliance and the Joplin Area Transportation Study Organization. The ETF is prepared to act at the administrative level for any part or all of the required implementation. In November 2011, the ETF submitted a proposal to the Joplin Area Transportation Study Organization delegated the issue to the ETF. The Joplin Area Transportation Study Organization accepted the proposal in May 2012. ETF will begin working on this issue in the near future.
- Action Item: Continue monitoring and working with EPA on the cleanup of the Superfund areas.
This is an agenda item at every Board meeting. Regular reports are given from knowledgeable Board members, EPA contractors or EPA representatives.
- Action Item: Develop and implement a Prescription Drug Disposal Program.
Initial contact was made with The Alliance of Southwest Missouri, Safe Teens Coalition program in January of 2011 in order to support an existing area program to prevent improper disposal of prescription drugs. EFT agreed to sponsor a prescription drop off box in one of the two counties which later was extended to four boxes. As of May, 2012, drop off boxes are located in Webb City, Lamar, Carl Junction, Joplin, Carthage and Neosho.