

Grayson LandCare Monthly Meeting  
Monday, August 17th, 2015

Kathy Cole called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. There were 21 people in attendance.

Save Green Expo: Karen Hollifield announced that the Save Green Expo will take place on Saturday, Sept. 12th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Fire Hall in Independence. There are 23 confirmed vendors right now. She asked if anyone would be able to volunteer to help the evening before, and the day of the Expo. Also if anyone would be interested in having a booth that showcases Grayson LandCare's activity, please contact Loren Webster.

Jim Disbrow introduced our guest speakers; Jonathan Luper, head of Grayson County Public Works, and Stephen Delp, head of the recycling division. First Jonathan spoke and gave a history of how the recycling division evolved. It is a testament to recycling and ingenuity because every machine and vehicle they use has been recycled from somewhere or something else. The program began in 2012 and each year they are handling more material. With only two employees, in 2014-15, they were able to recycle 606 tons of material. In addition to the 6 green buildings around the county, Steve makes 57 cardboard stops, some more than 1 time per week. Donnie Snow, the other employee, makes 43 stops which include the green buildings. Every school recycles. The prison is now composting their food waste and recycling their cardboard.

They would like to get a mobile paper shredder because there is a good market for shredded paper. Mickey Cunningham suggested they get in touch with US General Services division to see if they have anything secondhand.

They will be moving the green building that is in the Courthouse parking lot to their facility up the road and closing it on Sundays. Michelle Pridgen and others pointed out that many people, including the weekend and holiday residents bring their recycling on Sundays, on their way out of town so it was important to have a location that was open on Sundays. Jonathan said that the current location at the Courthouse is a difficult one for the trucks to maneuver and has created unwanted trash around the building.

There were questions and requests for glass recycling which is unavailable now in Grayson County. Jonathan and Steve both said that before they get into glass, they would like to get all they can out of paper and cardboard.

Rick Cavey suggested that there be recycling set up for the festivals that take place at the Courthouse, like the Wine Festival. Jonathan said that electronics recycling will soon be available in designated locations. Rick asked what can GLC do to promote recycling. Kathy offered to give out handouts about recycling locations at the IFM. Kathy wrapped up their talk and thanked them for coming.

Old Business:

Minutes: Kathy told everyone that the minutes are posted on the GLC website. Mickey made a motion to approve the minutes, Charlotte seconded and the minutes were approved.

Film Series: Rob Meinecke reported that 32 people attended the last film, "The Vanishing of the Bees." Next year the film series will begin in April and there will be 5 films.

Forestry Committee: Mickey said there is still a need for a small kiln in Grayson County and he is researching, with the Forest Council, what type of kiln we need.

NTFP: Katie Trozzo announced that she got her work plan approved for her doctorate.

Natural Resources: Jim reported that the Natural Resources committee is still looking for volunteers. He will have his signup sheets available at the Save Green Expo.

Ag and Gardening: Collette said that they co-sponsored three workshops this year; elderberry, blueberry and wool production. Her co-chair position is opening up and Charlotte Hanes has agreed to step in. Kathy Cole attended the Agribusiness Tour and Tiny House Tour.

IFM: Michelle said that Jen Cavey won the tomato weigh-in with a 2.98 lb. tomato. There were 13 salsa entrees and it was a wonderful turnout for Tomato Day. She talked about a storage building for market vendors.

Mickey and Libby Kahn went to the 4H Fair at Bottomley's. The IFM was invited to attend "Steep Canyon Ranger" concert at the Blue Ridge Music Center on Aug. 18th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.