The officers of the Beargrass Creek Alliance held a meeting on February 18, 2019, at the Kentucky Waterways Alliance’s office (120 Webster Street, Suite 217) in Louisville, Kentucky. The meeting started at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Officers present:
Dan Siebert, Vice President
David Spenard, Secretary

Officers absent:
Suzanne Hoehne, President
Ann Siebert, Treasurer

Ward Wilson, Executive Director of the Kentucky Waterways Alliance (KWA), was also in attendance.

Some additional members of the BCA joined the officers’ meeting while it was in progress.

The group discussed the staffing at the KWA and coordination between the BCA and KWA regarding the EveryDrop program. W. Wilson indicated the need for follow-up efforts for raingarden installations.

D. Siebert stated that Tessa Edelen (former KWA employee) had, as a practical matter, served as the BCA’s executive director, particularly in running meetings and coordinating the flow of information between the BCA and KWA. It was noted that there has been turnover at the KWA and that BCA no longer has a KWA staffer serving BCA in the capacity that T. Edelen served.

Linda Gugin noted that use of an agenda will help establish the objectives (and results) of future meetings.

The group discussed the focus of the BCA needs to include, generally, outreach, education, cleanup activities, and raingardens.

At approximately 7:00 p.m., the regular monthly meeting of the BCA was held at the KWA’s office. [Note: The January 2019 Beargrass Creek Alliance meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.]

Officers present:
Dan Siebert, Vice President
David Spenard, Secretary
Officers absent:
Suzanne Hoehne, President
Ann Siebert, Treasurer

Ward Wilson, Executive Director of the KWA, was also in attendance.

The group discussed issues concerning the location for the monthly meetings. Heine Brothers has indicated that it will no longer allow reservations of meeting space. The consensus of the group was to maintain the practice of meeting at locations within the Beargrass Creek watershed.

An update was provided for the then-proposed BCA speaker event at Bellarmine in March 2019. There was a delay associated with the tentative speaker for the event. It was noted that March is a difficult time to hold a speaker event due to a variety of factors including spring break and the basketball tournaments.

W. Wilson provided an update regarding the Congress for New Urbanism's planned creek crawl, workshop, and reception scheduled for March 2019. W. Wilson explained the various events scheduled for the March site visit and workshop. The focus is on developing a legacy project for the South Fork of Beargrass Creek with the general goal of connecting the community with the creek through such things as developing destinations in the corridor from the Louisville Zoo to the Ohio River (and also improving the health of the creek). KWA and the BCA are serving as the project champion for the project. The Congress for New Urbanism will hold its conference in June 2019 in Louisville.

The group discussed the Salt River Watershed, a KWA March clean-up event scheduled for Harrods Creek, and a Filson Club event regarding Harlan Hubbard.

The group discussed Louisville Metro planning and design activities. D. Spenard indicated that he would contact Louisville Metro with a request for an update regarding the impound lot.

David Rummler discussed a discussed a National Science Foundation wastewater project and the need for local treatment and recycling of wastewater (as opposed to transport to remote treatment stations and discharge into the Ohio River). D. Rummler discussed the Center for Infrastructure Research at the University of Louisville.

W. Wilson discussed the United States Army Corps of Engineers and some of its ecosystem restoration projects.

The group agreed that the BCA should seek to be involved in Metropolitan Sewer District’s studies of the Beargrass Creek watershed. W. Wilson stated that Beargrass Creek is one of the best monitored streams in the state.
The next meeting of the Beargrass Creek Alliance will be held on March 18, 2019. Officers will be elected at the March meeting.

The meeting was thereafter adjourned.