

Hinkson Creek  
Collaborative Adaptive Management  
Stakeholder Committee  
June 23, 2026, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM  
Virtual and In-person – Microsoft Teams  
801 E. Walnut, Room 301, Columbia, MO 65201

Online/Phone: EPA Facilitator Amanda Reed, Mike Kruse, Dennis Elmore, Commissioner Justin Aldred, Councilwoman Betsy Peters, Scott Hamilton, Isaac Ellis

Online/Phone Guests: Alec Brown, Cody Luebbering, Dane Boring

In-Person: Jeanine Pagan, Diane Oerly, Dee Dokken

In-Person Guests: Nicki Rinehart, Justin Fessler

Absent: Susan Hart, Rob Wolverton, Leanne Tippet Mosbey, Jeff DeShon, David Seamon

**1. Welcome to Process, Participants and Introductions**

Stakeholders and guests introduced themselves.

**2. Approval of previous meeting minutes**

A motion was made and seconded (Pagan/Oerly) for the September 2025 minutes to be approved. Motion passed.

**3. MDNR/MS4/Stakeholder/Watershed Updates**

Nicki Rinehart shared that this was Creek Week. Monday night there was a movie showing and panel discussion at Rag Tag Cinema and Thursday there is a Springs and Wells History Tour starting at Flat Branch Park; registration is through Missouri Conservation Corp. Other activities throughout the week will take place in the Greater Bonne Femme Watershed, but all topics will benefit the Hinkson Creek Watershed as well.

Nicki stated that the SaltSmart: Healthy Streets, Safe Streams initiative was launched this winter. Partners met to discuss snow removal methods used and contacts for public inquiries.

Nicki shared that the MS4 permit has been administratively continued and the MS4 partners are compliant with that permit. Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) accepted the City of Columbia and Boone County proposed ordinance changes and Stormwater Management Plan revision. The MS4 partners held an interested parties meeting in April at Columbia City Hall. The MS4 permit should be available for public comment on MDNR's website in July. Diane Oerly asked how long the permit was good for. Nicki answered that it is a five-year permit.

Nicki congratulated Michele Woolbright on receiving the 2025 Missourian Progress in Sustainability Award, awarded in November at the Missouri Progress Awards in Columbia.

Justin Fessler announced that the City of Columbia a first read of their draft ordinance revisions and the 2024- 2025 MS4 Annual Reports last Monday at Columbia City Council.

#### **4. Science Team Updates**

Nicki Rinehart shared that Hinkson Creek MDNR sampling will resume in Spring 2026. She is unsure if any sampling has taken place yet, due to high flows. Isaac Ellis asked if there was any possibility that we could ask for soil bank samples along with water samples because of increased erosion. Mike Kruse said he would ask, but the QAPPs are already done for the year. Justin Fessler asked if there were any particular locations Isaac was interested in. Isaac thought soil samples in the same locations as the water samples would be enough. Diane Oerly asked if this should be proposed by the Science Team. Nicki Rinehart responded that we could always take the proposal to the Science Team for their input, but ultimately it will be up to MDNR. Mike said he would be asking the MDNR Science Team members. Amanda Reed asked what MDNR's sampling parameters were. Cody Luebbering said he had spoken with Dave Michaelson at MDNR, and they plan to pick up macroinvertebrate sampling in Fall 2026, climate dependent. Cody said they usually include basic water chemistry, temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, chloride, sulfates, hardness, and some metals along with the macroinvertebrate testing.

Nicki Rinehart shared that the most current version of the Science Strategy was available on the Help the Hinkson website. Robb Jacobson is working on updates to the document now and plans to share those updates at the July Science Team Meeting. Diane Oerly asked when the next Science Team meeting will be. Nicki responded that they are being held on the first Tuesday of the month. Diane asked if once that's shared with the Science Team, that a presentation can be given to the Stakeholders.

#### **5. Action Team Updates**

Chloride Study – Cody Luebbering shared that we are in year three of the study. There are 11 monitoring stations along Hinkson Creek and its tributaries. Geosyntec is collecting data every 15 minutes for water temperature, water level, and specific conductance. They have collected between seven and eight samples paired with specific conductance for chloride and other ions to assess and develop a long-term regression of chloride to specific conductance to predict chloride over a time series of data. Once this is completed in November, they will be able to back calculate an estimated level of chloride throughout the year at these 11 locations, understand where chloride enrichment and loading are occurring, time of travel, etc. Cody said there would be a final presentation upon study completion. Isaac Ellis asked if the 11 sites were the same as last year. Amanda Reed asked if these were the same sites that MDNR was sampling. Cody said there are some consistencies in locations, but some of Geosyntec's sites are along tributaries.

USGS Chemical Sampling – Lynne Hooper stated that this project has been completed, and we are not expecting a completed report. There was a final presentation provided by David Avarez to the Science Team. There is uncertainty about if there will be any next steps arising from the results.

Right now, chloride is a primary driver of what's going on with Hinkson Creek. We will know more once the revised Science Strategy comes out as to what path we might be pursuing based on the chemical study.

#### **6. Riparian Subcommittee Updates**

Battle HS Riparian Buffer Improvements - Justin Fessler said the City is working with Battle High School to move forward. Tom Wellman is the primary contact for this project. Justin believes they have secured the funding but does not have more details at this time. Amanda Reed asked for details of the project. Justin responded that this is a streambank stabilization and native grass planting project. Nicki Rinehart added that the site will be able to be used in conjunction with education classes.

Grindstone Park Riparian Restoration – Nicki Rinehart shared that 13-16 trees were planted and caged at the end of April. There was great volunteer turn-out. Lynne Hooper stated that Michele Woolbright is working on designing an informational sign about riparian buffers.

County House Branch Community Workshop – Nicki Rinehart stated this workshop was held in May and was well attended. Topics included invasive plant identification, native plants, storm drain marking, water quality benefits, karst topography, and backyard birding. Amanda Reed asked who put this on. Lynne Hooper responded that the Riparian Subcommittee hosted, in conjunction with US Fish and Wildlife Service and Conservation Corps.

#### **7. New Business**

- 2024 Annual Report – Nicki Rinehart sent a draft out to Stakeholders. She is waiting on the County's infrastructure list for non-CAM related activities the County performed in the watershed. Diane Oerly asked if we could approve the report via email, so the group didn't have to wait until the next Stakeholder meeting. Amanda Reed was not sure what the rules were for that. Nicki said she would check Missouri Sunshine Law requirements. Amanda asked when the draft was sent for review. Nicki said she sent it a few days before the meeting. Amanda didn't see a problem with waiting until the September meeting for approval.
- 2025 Annual Report – Nicki Rinehart is preparing this report for the Stakeholder Group.

#### **8. Old Business**

CAM Stakeholder representative replacements – Nicki Rinehart mentioned that the Stakeholder Committee has an open spot for someone in the Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

#### **9. Collaborative Adaptive Management Committee Discussion of Next Steps**

Nicki Rinehart is going to invite Robb Jacobson to present the updated Science Strategy and send the 2024 and 2025 draft Annual Reports to the committee.

#### **10. Adjournment**

A Dokken/Oerly motion to adjourn was made. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nicki Rinehart