

# **Beautiful Buffalo River Action Committee CHARTER**

## **Mission Statement**

To protect the Buffalo National River as a source of scenic beauty, high quality water, unique aquatic species and habitat and exceptional recreational uses through the coordination of resources within the Buffalo River Watershed while preserving agricultural productivity, the livelihood of communities and farm families in the watershed.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The role of the Beautiful Buffalo River Action Committee (BBRAC) is to provide direction and support for coordinating the actions of Arkansas state agencies and interested partners on water quality related research, policy, and management decisions affecting the Buffalo River Watershed (BRW).

Governor Asa Hutchinson directed the BBRAC to “establish measurable objectives, set achievable action items, establish durable partnerships, share agency resources, and inform policymakers and the general public of relevant progress.”

In carrying out these efforts, the BBRAC may establish subcommittees or working groups to meet these goals. Meetings will be scheduled in a manner to remain transparent, foster stakeholder involvement, and share agency resources. Meetings of the executive committee will be scheduled and noticed at least two weeks in advance. Information will be posted on a website, which will be routinely updated with all relevant information regarding meeting minutes, timelines, agendas, annual reports, etc. In addition, since the Buffalo National River (BNR) is a treasured resource from the national to local level, all committee meetings will provide a forum to receive input from the public.

The Executive Committee will nominate a secretary responsible for keeping detailed meeting minutes. The Executive Committee will submit annual progress reports to the Governor, beginning on January 31, 2018.

## **Meetings**

As directed by Governor Hutchinson, the BBRAC will hold, at a minimum, quarterly meetings. Meetings will be held the third Tuesday of the month.

## **Proposed Quarterly Meeting Format**

- Approval of minutes from previous meeting
- Individual agency reports on watershed activities and issues
- Partner presentations – to be selected
- Watershed Management Plan progress report – as available

**Executive Team**

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Director (Co-Chair)

Arkansas Natural Resource Commission, Director (Co-Chair)

Arkansas Department of Health, Director

Arkansas Parks and Tourism, Director

Arkansas Agriculture Department, Director

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Director (*ex officio*)

Arkansas Geographic Information Office, Director (*ex officio*)

**Subcommittees**

Subcommittees will be established based on need and determined by the Executive Team.