

Whitewater River Watershed Steering Committee Meeting



Minutes of November 29, 2016

Whitewater River Watershed

Attendees: Heather Wirth, Chris Fox, John Kruse, Jon Seymour, Helen Kremer, Evan Divine, Chuck Goins, and Adam Lehmann

The meeting began at 6:00pm at the Harrison Library in Harrison, OH. After Heather Wirth, Watershed Coordinator, called the meeting to order, attendees were asked to review the previous meeting minutes. With no immediate revisions, members of the committee were asked to let Heather know if they had any additions or corrections that need to be made.

Under new business:

Heather informed the committee the management plan received approval from EPA in August. The plan is available on the watershed website: www.dearborncountywatersheds.org and hard copies will be developed and available at Franklin, Dearborn, Butler, Hamilton County SWCD offices, local libraries, and local high schools.

The new implementation grant started on November 10, 2016. The grant is funded for 3 years and 3 months, so the end date is February 10, 2020. This grant includes funds for education/outreach and cost-share. Heather reviewed the grant tasks with the steering committee.

The committee spent the rest of the meeting outlining the details of the cost-share program and developing the guidelines. The committee developed the following questions and scores for the ranking sheet.

	Points	Yes	No	Total
1. Does your livestock have access to streams, ponds or springs? - If yes, are you willing to restrict?	30			
2. Do you currently have resource concerns on your pastureland? If yes, are you willing to address them and following a grazing plan?	30			
3. Does your livestock currently have access to woodlands? - Are you willing to restrict access?	20			
4. Do you have a nutrient management plan? If no, are you willing to implement one?	20			
5. Are you currently using a tillage system that leaves less than 30% residue at anytime? – If yes, are you willing to go to a no-till system?	20			
6. Are there disturbed areas void of vegetation that cannot be stabilized using normal vegetation measures – If yes, are you willing to stabilize the area?	20			
7. Are you willing to convert current HEL cropland to permanent hayland, pasture*, wildlife or woodland?				
a. Less than 5 acres	10			
b. 5 to 10 acres	15			
c. Greater than 10 acres	25			
*Note: Pasture would have to following a grazing plan in order to receive pts	25			

8. If you have idle crop fields, are you willing to plant a cover crop to reduce erosion and promote soil health?	20			
9. Do you have existing gullies that need to be addressed – If yes, are you willing to address these problems?	10			
10. Are you willing to establish buffers, as needed, along field perimeters to address water quality concerns? a. Minimum Standard Width b. Doubled Standard Width	30 50			
11. If you never participated in cost-share programs before, are you willing to follow the guidelines for this program?	10			
12. Are you willing to implement the conservation system(s) on your entire farm(s) and rented land?	10			
13. Severity of issues present on the majority of acres willing to be enrolled into the program - determined by field visit a. Very severe – Direct impact on stream or trib. (< 500 ft) b. Severe – Direct impact on stream or trib. (500 ft to 1,000 ft) c. Moderate – Indirect impact on stream or trib. (1,000 to 1,500 ft)	40 20 10			
Total Points				

The following are the guidelines the steering committee submitted to IDEM for approval. Applicants in the high priority critical areas, determined in the management plan, will be funded first. If funds are still available halfway through the grant term, applicants in the medium priority critical areas will be eligible. Heather will conduct a field visit and fill out the ranking sheet according to the resource concerns present and what the landowner/operator is willing to improve. A landowner/operator can received up to \$8,000, if funded. There is \$200,000 in the grant for cost-share so at least 25 people can receive funding. All practices will be cost-shared at 70% with the following not to exceed rates.

Practices	Percent Cost-share	Not to Exceed
Access Road (560)	70%	\$2.50/sq ft
Animal Trails and Walkways (575)	70%	\$2.50/sq ft
Cover crops (340)	70%	\$35/ac
Critical Area Planting (342)	70%	\$375/ac
Filter Strip (393)	70%	\$550/ac
Grade Stabilization (410)	70%	\$75/ft
Grassed Waterway (412)	70%	\$4.75/ft
Heavy Use Area Protection (561)		
Gravel	70%	\$2.50/sq ft
Concrete	70%	\$3.25/ sq ft

Lined Waterway or Outlet (468)	70%	\$75/ft
Mulching (484)	70%	\$1/ sq yd
Forage and Biomass Planting (512)	70%	\$295/ac
Permanent Fencing (382)	70%	\$3/ft
Pipeline (516)	70%	\$4/ft
Pumping Plant (533)	70%	\$1,700/unit
Riparian Buffer Establishment (390 & 391)	70%	\$700/ac
Roof Runoff Management System (558)	70%	\$6.50/ft
Spring Development (574)	70%	\$1,600/unit
Stream Crossing (578)		
Rock	70%	\$2/sq ft
Culvert	70%	\$5,000/unit
No-Till System (329)	70%	\$15/ac
Nutrient Management (590)		
Plan Development	70%	\$5/ac
Implementation	70%	\$5/ac
Prescribed Grazing (528)	70%	\$5/ac
Subsurface Drain & Underground Outlet (606 & 620)	70%	\$3/ft
Tree and Shrub Establishment (612)	70%	\$650/ac
Watering Facility (614)	70%	\$800/tank

Funding approval will be determined by the steering committee at least for the first couple rounds. After they review a good number of applications, the steering committee may determine what ranking score range is high and at that time any applicant in that range will be funded automatically. Heather will do the majority of the engineering for the bmps. The NRCS Tech-Team from Greensburg will assist when needed.

A request was made to move steering committee meetings to a day meeting. Attendees who were present were willing to try it and see how it works for everyone else. The next Steering Committee meeting for the Whitewater River Watershed Project is tentatively set for Tuesday, February, 7th at 10:15am at the Harrison Public Library. With no further business or concerns, the meeting was adjourned.

Heather Wirth

Heather Wirth, Technical Coordinator