

Whitewater River Watershed Steering Committee Meeting

Minutes of August 4th, 2015



Whitewater River Watershed

Attendees: Chelsea Tooley, Heather Wirth, John Kruse, Evan Divine Bruce Koehler, Mike Kohlsdorf, Brian Bohl, and Jon Seymour

The meeting began at 6:00pm at the Harrison Library in Harrison, OH. After Heather Wirth, technical 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 see Chelsea or Heather if they had any additions or corrections.

Under new business, Heather asked for suggestions on educational events and opportunities the committee would like to see in the grant application for implementation. The committee discussed adding a septic system workshop, rotational grazing field day, and a soil health workshop. John Kruse brought up a workshop on bees, but the committee at large decided it wasn't in the scope of the project. Heather also asked about specific projects and brought up the potential for "Friends of the Whitewater River" signs for participants in the cost share program. The committee agreed the signs would be a good idea. The ideas of a public awareness baseline survey and a signage project for reducing litter in the watershed were also discussed. Heather asked that if anyone in the committee thinks of anything else to please email Heather by the end of the month.

The committee also briefly discussed some upcoming events that may be included in the next Whitewater River Watershed Newsletter or an interest to the group. The Great Miami Cleanup will be October 24th from 9am to noon. Locations were not yet determined. Also this year the OKI regional tour will be hosted by the Hamilton County SWCD on August 27th.

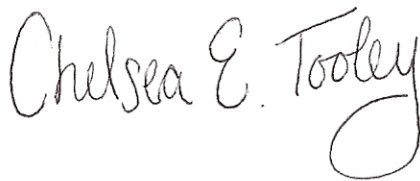
Afterwards, Chelsea Tooley, outreach coordinator, led the committee in a discussion to update the goals section of the watershed management plan (WMP). Comments were received back from IDEM on sections 1-24 earlier in the week. The committee discussed each of the goals in the plan and modified them from monitoring based to practice based goals. The first goal regarding sediment was decided to be on a 15 year timeline, with a 10% reduction in tons of sediment/year every 3 years. The goals regarding nitrogen and phosphorus were set up in a similar manner.

When discussing how to implement progress checks on the goals on E. coli, biodiversity, public awareness, and trash/litter, the committee discussed and chose practice based progress marks. For example, when monitoring the progress of reducing the E. coli in the watershed, the project will be looking at how many head of cattle or other livestock were restricted from streams, how many houses with known failing septic systems were hooked onto a sewer system, and how many people attended septic system workshops. The committee also voiced a

strong preference for wanting to include wording in the plan that would promote the project to look at available sources of outside monitoring data to evaluate the progress of improving water quality in the Whitewater River Watershed as a whole.

A brief discussion was held about the creation of the “Friends of the Whitewater” group. The group’s responsibilities could range from monitoring, cleanups, habitat surveys, annual events, and working with third party groups to accomplish goals outside the scope of the 319 program.

The next draft of the WMP is due on October 29th. With no further business, discussion points, or concerns, the meeting was adjourned. The next Steering Committee for the Whitewater River Watershed Project was set for 6pm on September 22nd at the Harrison Library provided meeting space availability.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chelsea E. Tooley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Chelsea E. Tooley, Outreach Coordinator