

Whitewater River Watershed Steering Committee Meeting



Minutes of November 15, 2017

Whitewater River Watershed

Attendees: Heather Wirth, Jon Seymour, Ben Braeutigam, Bruce Koehler, Lynn White, and John Kruse

The meeting began at 6:00 pm at the Harrison Library in Harrison, OH. After Heather Wirth, Watershed Coordinator, called the meeting to order, the attendees were asked to review the previous meeting minutes. No corrections were made.

Jon Seymour passed out maps and discussed the new property Oxbow obtained located east of I-275. Jon and Lynn also discussed their recent clean-up efforts.

Cost-share Applications Review

The project received 7 new cost-share applications to review (6 in the high priority areas and 1 in a medium priority area). The committee reviewed all of the high priority area applications first with ranking scores of 10, 10, 50, 70, 90, and 100 pts. The applications included the following practices, fencing, watering systems, cover crops, gravel HUAPs, animal walkways, and tree plantings. After reviewing the applications the steering committee decided to fund the 50, 70, 90, and 100 point applications at this time. A total of \$104,000 of the original \$200,000 will now be allocated. The medium priority application scored 50 points on the ranking sheet so will have to be tabled until next summer since it was less than 120 points. The committee held a short discussion on how word of mouth is the best method to engage new participants.

Cost-share Update

Heather updated the committee on the cost-share participants who have completed their projects. Two participants are completely done with all of their practices and used the \$8,000 maximum. One participant planted his cover crops and hay and plans to install fence and more cover crops next year. The project has paid out \$20,764.90 so far.

Education and Outreach

As a part of the outreach efforts of the grant, Friends of the Whitewater River Watershed signs need to be developed and provided to cost-share participants who are willing to display them. Heather showed the committee an example she developed and asked for any suggestions or changes they would like to make. Committee approved the sign the way it was. Dearborn SWCD will be having their Tillage Breakfast on Friday, November 17th and Franklin SWCD will have one early next spring. No other events are planned yet for next year.

Next Meeting Date/Time

One active member can no longer attend evening meetings and the committee held a short discussion on whether to change the meeting time. All members present did not have a problem attending daytime meetings so the committee will try it next time and see how it goes. The next meeting will be scheduled at a later date depending on number of new cost-share applications received. .

With no further business or concerns, the meeting was adjourned.

Heather Wirth

Heather Wirth, Watershed Coordinator