

Whitewater River Watershed Steering Committee Meeting



Minutes of April 12, 2017

Whitewater River Watershed

Attendees: Heather Wirth, Jon Seymour, Tim Hesselbrock, Helen Kremer, Michael Miller, Adam Lehmann, and Bruce Koehler

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. Bruce had a couple of corrections that were made.

Under new business:

Cost-share Program/Applications

At the time of the last meeting, the cost-share program guidelines stated projects in the medium priority areas would only be eligible for funding half way through the grant period if funds were still available and IDEM approves the funding. One of the first applications the committee reviewed last meeting was located in a medium priority area but ranked 130 points with direct impacts to the stream. A request to receive an exemption to the medium priority funding guideline was sent to IDEM and was later approved. The committee may now fund up to 3 applications during the first half of the grant as long as the application receives at least 120 points and has direct impact on a stream. The committee reviewed the medium priority application again and decided to use 1 of the 3 exemptions allowed to fund the application. Heather provided information on 7 new applications which were all located in high priority areas. The committee reviewed each application and after a lengthy discussion decided to move forward and approve funding for the top 3 applications at this time. The remaining 4 applications will be tabled for possible funding in the future depending on how they rank with any new applications received. The committee would like to get the most environmental benefits possible for the cost-share money provided.

Education and Outreach

A discussion was held on the education and outreach requirements of the grant. The following were some possible topics for future workshops/field days: buffers and streambank stabilization, grazing field day, cover crops/nutrient management, surface water contamination on aquifers and wells, stream assessment demo day with OHEPA, and an expo for river recreation and use. The committee would also like to put together a brochure/pamphlet with the recreation/use information for the public which would include public river access locations, fishing information, and other related information. Adam Lehmann stated he would like to create a Google Earth map which identifies river access points in Hamilton County sometime next year. The project is currently working on septic system workshop with the Hamilton County SWCD, Hamilton County Health Department, and OKI. The workshop will be held this summer in Hamilton County. The committee discussed several possible locations for the workshop. Heather will be working with Helen Kremer on the upcoming River Sweep clean-up which will be held on June 16th or 17th.

Citizens Water Quality Monitoring for the Great Miami River Watershed

Michael Miller from the Rivers Unlimited organization handed out a packet of information on the 2016 Water Quality Analysis for the Great Miami River Watershed conducted by the Citizens' Water Quality Monitoring volunteers. The information was broken down to the subwatershed level, Whitewater River, Great Miami River, Mill Creek, and the Little Miami River. He presented graphs on the Total Phosphorus and E. coli data. Michael also described their ranking system using 8 different parameters: nitrates, total phosphates, pH, turbidity, conductivity, E. coli, optical brighteners, and in vivo chlorophyll a. The water quality rank in the

Whitewater River Watershed was excellent on all dates. He also showed an analysis on the correspondence between water quality and land use. They are working on redoing their website but all of the information and water quality data will be available to the public later in the year.

The date for the next meeting will be set when more cost-share applications will need to be reviewed.

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

Heather Wirth

Heather Wirth, Watershed Coordinator