

Whitewater River Watershed Steering Committee Meeting



Minutes of February 7, 2017

Whitewater River Watershed

Attendees: Heather Wirth and Bruce Koehler

The meeting began at 10:15 am at the Harrison Library in Harrison, OH. After Heather Wirth, Watershed Coordinator, called the meeting to order, the attendee was asked to review the previous meeting minutes. No additions or corrections were made.

Under new business:

Heather informed the committee the cost-share program was approved by IDEM in December. There are currently 2 cost-share applications. One application was for a grassed waterway and cover crops, which was located in a high priority area. The other application was located in a medium priority area and was for exclusion fence along a creek, watering system, roof runoff, and HUAP. Since exclusion has a large benefit and it is in a medium priority area, Heather requested an exception from IDEM to be able to fund that application without waiting halfway through the grant period. Heather has not received an answer yet. Bruce approved funding for the first application for the grassed waterway and cover crops in the high priority area.

Heather went over the education/outreach requirements for the grant.

- 5 field days/workshops with 3 post-event surveys
- 16 publications – newsletters, flyers, etc
- 1 septic system workshop with survey
- 6 project updates/presentations at local events and meetings
- 2 clean-ups
- Friends of the Whitewater River Watershed signage
- 12 steering committee meetings
- Maintain & update website

Heather requested ideas for topics for the workshops/field days and publications. Bruce suggested a workshop on riparian buffers and filter strips along with streambank stabilization. He also provide a local contact as a possible presenter. A grazing field day and a cover crop/ nutrient management workshop were also discussed. Bruce also brought up the idea of having a workshop on the importance and vulnerability of surface water contamination on the aquifer and private and public wells. At the beginning of the grant, Heather talked with Holly and Adam with the Hamilton County SWCD about partnering on a septic system workshop and will be contacting them again to work on the workshop planning. The steering committee discussed trying to put together a publication on public river access locations in the past. Bruce also brought that topic up along with information about fishing. Heather thought the 2 topics would go together nicely and requested ideas where to find some of the information. Bruce gave her names of some local groups who may be able to help.

Heather will send out an email requesting input on the next meeting time and date.

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

Heather Wirth

Heather Wirth, Watershed Coordinator