



## Whitewater River Watershed Steering Committee Meeting

### Minutes of February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Attendees:** Chelsea Tooley, Heather Wirth, Ben Braeutigam, Becky Braeutigam, Kathy Scott, Tim Hesselbrock, Mike Kohlsdorf, Bruce Koehler, Jon Seymour, Chris Fox, and Evan Divine

The meeting began at 6:00 pm at the Harrison Library in Harrison, OH. After Chelsea Tooley, Outreach Coordinator, called the meeting to order, attendees were asked to review the previous meeting minutes. No additions or corrections were present so minutes were approved.

Under New Business Chelsea Tooley asked for steering committee input on the stakeholder concern analysis table (section 2.4 in the management plan). The committee reviewed each concern from the stakeholder concern survey. For each concern, the committee was asked to discuss what evidence there was for the concern, whether or not that data supported that concern, whether or not the concern is quantifiable, whether or not the concern is part of the project's scope, and whether or not the concern is something that the project would like to focus on. Upon discussion the committee decided to create a tier system (created by Tim Hesselbrock/Chris Fox) instead of a simply yes/no answer for "is this something the project would like to focus on." The tier system has three tiers. Tier 3 is the lowest priority and contains actions like education and outreach that could take place in the future. Tier 2 is the medium level priority and contains actions like limited cost share projects, programs (field day/workshops), and partnering efforts that could take place in the future. Tier 1 is the highest priority and contains actions like cost share funding, hosting programs, and partnering efforts that could take place in the future. Below is the "Focusing on Concern" ranking/ruling for each stakeholder concern discussed:

- Excessive Gully Erosion in Cropland and Pastures – Tier 3
- Too much conventional tillage of cropland – Tier 2
- Stream bank Erosion – Tier 2
- Need for soils education involving compaction, cover crops, & nitrogen fixation issues – Tier 3
- Sedimentation from erosion caused by overgrazing – Tier 3
- Livestock with direct access to streams – Tier 1
- E. coli within the streams – Tier 1
- Pollution from failing septic systems – Tier 1
- Drinking water contamination – Tier 3
- Pollution and Volume from Urban Runoff – Tier 3
- Drift from Chemical Application – No priority
- Invasive species in the watershed – Tier 3
- Low quality plants and pastures – No priority

- Need for more cover crops on cropland – Tier 1
- Lack of riparian buffers along streams – Tier 1
- Fencing of livestock from sensitive areas – Tier 1
- Overgrazing pastures – Tier 3
- Need for education on wildlife – No priority
- Overpopulation of wildlife in the watershed – No priority
- Unchecked development – No priority
- Trash/Litter in streams – Tier 2

After discussing which concern the committee would like to prioritize and focus on the committee was asked to come up with broader problem categories that each stakeholder problem would fit into. After some discussion the committee came up with:

- Trash
- High E. coli levels
- Sedimentation
- Lack of Stream Bank Stability
- Decrease in biodiversity
- Need for improvement livestock management
- Need for improvement cropland management

In an attempt to save time while still allowing members to contribute their thoughts and opinions to the next two tables in the plan (that are due on March 8<sup>th</sup>) Chelsea and Heather will be sending out the link to the Google document as well as sending out a separate word document to the steering committee with the blank tables for them to send their input back in. The link to the updated Google document is below (you can either copy the link below into your web browser or hold control and click directly from this word document)

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/110H4LGOIvVrukq-gArXDLzMrJW67DvtmvWqU\\_Xz5Ugs/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/110H4LGOIvVrukq-gArXDLzMrJW67DvtmvWqU_Xz5Ugs/edit?usp=sharing)

Before closing there were a few more reminders. **Windshields surveys need to be completed and turned in as soon as possible** as it is needed to complete the section of the watershed management plan that is due on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The upcoming events were discussed in detail last meeting and still remain the same. Heather will be sending out flyers soon for each of the events that can be passed along and shared with interested parties. Complete information about each upcoming event is below.

**March 14<sup>th</sup> – Conservation Tillage Breakfast at Zimmer Tractor in Brookville, IN –**

Breakfast will be served at 7:30 and the workshop program will immediately follow. Topics: Drill and Planter Setup, Cover Crop establishment, and cover crop benefits. Pesticide applicator recertification credits are applied for the following: CCH, PARP, and Ohio.

**March 31<sup>st</sup> - Backyard Conservation Workshop at Harrison Public Library at 6pm –**

Topics: Rain gardens, rain barrels, native plants, and composting

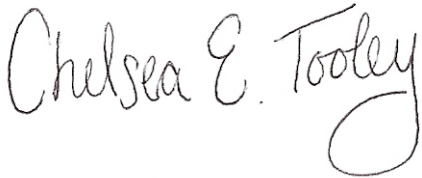
**April 29<sup>th</sup> – Lawn and Garden Management: Trees, Nutrients, Pests, & More Workshop at Harrison Public Library starting at 6pm –**

Topics: Tree Planting & Care, Soil Testing, Fertilization, and Chemical Usage

**June 20<sup>th</sup> – River Sweep**

More information will be available as the date approaches.

The next Steering Committee for the Whitewater River Watershed Project was set for 6 pm on Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Harrison Library provided meeting space availability.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chelsea E. Tooley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'y' at the end.

Chelsea E. Tooley, Outreach Coordinator