

**Minutes of the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership**  
**Board of Directors meeting**  
**Village of Bluffton's meeting room, 6:00 - 8:40 pm**  
**May 10<sup>th</sup> 2017, Bluffton, OH**

E. Reynolds presiding, Bob Connour recording.

Present: P. Martin, D. Croy, J. Augsburger, G. Russell, D. Kozlowski, R. Antibus, B. Doyle, B. Connour, E. Reynolds, J. McCleary, T. Macke

**Welcome and Introduction**

- E. Reynolds called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.
- The minutes from the previous meeting were approved by email vote.

**Financial Report**

- T. Macke presented the financial report and provided accompanying documents.
- T. Macke stated that currently all the finances are stable.
- D. Croy motioned to approve the treasurer's report and D. Kozlowski seconded. It passed unanimously.

**Old business**

- **Canoe trip**
  - D. Croy said he has scouted the river looking for a good place to remove canoes.
  - Discussions were had about this and when to start and stop.
  - It was decided the canoes would launch from Blanchard Landing at 4:30 pm and May 25<sup>th</sup>.
- **SandWand™ Demonstration.**
  - D. Kozlowski said the demonstration day in Bluffton would be on June 2, 2017 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.
  - The site is located at the mouth of Little Riley Creek with Riley Creek.
  - The demonstration day in Findlay will be held on June 5, 2017 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.
  - Volunteers are needed on the demonstration days to assist as needed.
- **Tent Use**
  - P. Martin requested that we change the criteria for tent use to allow any corporate sponsors to use our tent at no charge. T. Macke voted to allow this and R. Antibus motioned to second. It passed unanimously.
- **Golf Balls**
  - P. Martin asked if the remaining golf balls could be given to sponsors to use as door prizes at their golf scrambles. The group approved.
- **Ottawa River Clean-up**
  - T. Macke announced the river cleanup in Ottawa will occur on Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup>. People will meet at the landing at 9 am at Arrowhead Park.

## **Committee Reports**

- **Executive Committee**
  - E. Reynolds said the executive committee has not met but they will be very soon.
  
- **Community Advisory Council**
  - Discussion was held about who should be invited to the East-Central region meeting in Findlay and the Headwaters region meeting in Bluffton.
  - P. Martin said he would draft a list for each region and send out for others to add names to the list.
  - The East-Central region council will meet in Findlay on June 26<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 4:30 pm at the City of Findlay Municipal Building. Grant Russel agreed to serve as host for the meeting.
  - The Headwaters region council will meet in Bluffton on June 27<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 4:30 pm at the Village of Bluffton Offices. Judy Augsburger agreed to serve as host for the meeting.
  
- **Education Committee**
  - J. McCleary said that the education committee is active and she discussed “Project Wild” which will occur on Monday June 19<sup>th</sup> at Brugeman lodge.
  - P. Martin stated that the panels on our display need to be changed and updated. He presented what the updates likely look will like, and said the group is meeting in the next two weeks.
  
- **Stewardship Committee**
  - T. Macke stated that the stewardship committee met May 2<sup>nd</sup> and reviewed the strategic plan timeline.
  - T. Macke said they are working on a preliminary financial needs document.
  - The committee has talked about developing a matrix to measure what they do.
  - Discussions were had about how we could get people to spread our message through social media.
  
- **Board Governance Committee**
  - J. McCleary stated that a board governance committee meeting will happen very soon. She went through the topics they will discuss.
  
- **Membership Committee**
  - D. Croy stated that the membership committee has not met.

## **New Business**

- **Coordinator Succession Plan**
  - E. Reynolds stated that P. Martin sent her a draft of a coordinator succession plan and the executive committee will review and discuss the plan.
  
- **Citizens United for a Better Blanchard River**
  - The group “Citizens United for a Better Blanchard River” gave a presentation to the board.
  - Leo Schroeder from the group stated that they began two years ago as a group to deal with flooding issues but water quality ended up being an issue they want to address as well.
  - The group’s main focus is to eliminate “pinch points” along the river. This will restore the normal flow and eliminate some of the erosion that helps with the nutrient loading into the river.
  - Several members of the group gave short presentations on how improve water quality.
  - P. Martin stated he supported the water quality efforts and suggested that the group work with the BRWP to coordinate efforts to improve water quality.
  - Several other board members have questions and good discussion was held.
  - The group noted they planned to have a group in Putnam and Hancock County.

## **Coordinators Comments**

- P. Martin presented a handout and went through it with the group.
  - Highlights were a review of the active grants, grants applied for and update on 2017 projects.
  - Martin passed an update on watershed districts. He noted that any activation of a district would have to occur at the commissioner’s level and higher.

## **Other Business**

- T. Macke said that Ottawa Rotary is having “Little Nashville” perform on August 4<sup>th</sup>. He said they need someone to help for 7 hours for a portion of the money that is made.
- The June meeting will held on June 14, 2017 at the Hancock County Engineer’s meeting room from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.