



**Blanchard River Watershed Partnership  
Education and Communication Committee  
Meeting – February 11, 2015, at 3:30 p.m.  
Hancock County Engineer’s meeting room**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Phil Martin, Tim Brugeman, Theresa Allen, Jane McCleary, Ted Elliott, and Elaine Reynolds

P. Martin welcomes everyone to the meeting. He reviewed the goal of the committee.

- ❖ **Goal of Committee** – The goals of this committee are to be working on means of presenting educational materials to the stakeholders. The committee will also be in charge in developing the communication network for the BRWP.
- ❖ P Martin reviewed the **Rain Barrel contest**. He mentioned the contest would be held on February 28, 2015 through March 1, 2015 at the Findlay Village Mall as a part of the Home Show. Judging will occur on Friday evening and Saturday morning.
  - **Prize Structure** - P. Martin reviewed two prizes options. In Options 1 there would be 8 places and a Peoples Choices award. Option 2 would have 12 places and the People’s Choice award. After much discussion, T. Allen suggested that we go with Option 1. T. Brugeman suggested we add a prize for “Best Watershed Theme.” The proposal will be presented to the Board meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - P. Martin talked about the need for Help at the Mall on February 27<sup>th</sup> and March 2<sup>nd</sup> and during the show.
  - P. Martin mentioned we could use more sponsors.
- ❖ P. Martin **reviewed the Greater Findlay Home Show**. The show will occur during the same time as the Rain Barrel Contest.
  - P. Martin said that he would have our two videos set-up to play on a 32” TV.
  - Our Billboard will be hanging at the back of the room.
  - Our fair display will be out front of the store
  - P. Martin mentioned that help is still needed
- ❖ E. Reynolds presented plan to update the **Web Site**. She mentioned that she had talked with Martin and a plan had been developed by Reynolds. A “sandbox” web site has been set-up where members of the Board can see any changes and give comments. The Education Committee gave enthusiastic approval to the plan.

- ❖ P. Martin mentioned that he had be contacted by Jessica Crawford from the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio to have volunteers at their Spring Break "It's Your Planet Love It" to talk about the watershed and do activities with the girls. The Day will be in Findlay at the end of March. After discussion, it was suggested that we might agree to a half-day session. P. Martin said that he would get more information.
- ❖ P. Martin mentioned that the Western Lake Erie Basin has out-of-date and very little information on the Blanchard River watershed. He has talked with Cheryl Rice who is in charge of the site. The group decided to put a memory stick together to give to Cheryl Rice.
- ❖ P. Martin mentioned the County Fair dates. He also said the entry fee to all the fairs was being paid through the Community Foundation grant.

1. Putnam County Fair – June 22-27 in Ottawa
2. Allen County Fair – August 21-29 in Lima
3. Hancock County Fair – September 2-7 in Findlay
4. Hardin County Fair – Sept. 8-13 in Kenton

❖ **Under Other Potential Projects** discussed the following

- Rain Gardens - P. Martin mentioned he had written a \$100,000 grant that was submitted through the Hancock SWCD. In the grant was \$10,000 for a rain garden at Jefferson Primary School located at 204 Fairlawn Place in Findlay. The grant is from left over GLRI money through the Ohio EPA. The remaining \$90,000 is to be used for innovative BMPs in the Lye Creek, Upper Eagle, and Lower Eagle watersheds
- P. Martin mentioned river clean-ups. Several people suggest we need to find ways to get more volunteers. This item will be discussed at the Board meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>.
- P. Martin mentioned that there were grants available from Ohio Environmental Education Fund and Freshwater Futures. After some discussion, it was decided to bring ideas to the next meeting.

**Next Meeting** - April 8<sup>th</sup>

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.