

**Blanchard River Watershed Partnership
Minutes March 17, 2011 Steering Committee
Meeting Hancock County Engineer's Room**

Members Present: Phil Martin, Tim Brugeman, Dick Kozlowski, Bob Connour, Theresa Allen, Robert Antibus, Jeff Loerhke, Leo Schroeder, Mike Homsher, Robert McCall, and Leo Schroeder.

Guest Present: Mike Schroeder

- The meeting was called to order by P. Martin, watershed coordinator, at 6:05 p.m. Martin asked that the agenda's order be changed, since Connour needed to leave at 6:45 p.m.. All agreed to the change.
- Previous meeting were approved by acclimation.
- Kozlowski gave the financial report for February. Loerhke moved; Allen second to approve the report. Motion was approved.
- Kozlowski reviewed the Great Lakes Basin Storm Water Management grant that the BRWP received. The grant is to help cover the cost of an Urban Storm Water Forum to be sponsored by the BRWP and the City of Findlay. The BRWP will receive \$ 1500 from the grant. A match of \$ 500.00 is required from the BRWP. Kozlowski presented an Appropriation Proposal (2011-1) for \$ 500.00 to meet our match. Loerhke moved to accept the Appropriation Proposal (2011-1); Allen seconded. Motion was approved.
A mailing list on invitees will be developed to include the entire watershed. McCall's group working on PowerPoint presentation will be included.
- Martin presented an Appropriation Proposal (2011-2) to printed 2000 additional "A Citizens Guide to Measuring the Value of the Blanchard River Watershed" brochure a cost of \$ 771.00. Discussion occurred with Allen suggesting that we print 5000 brochures. An estimated cost of \$ 1500 was given by Martin. Allen moved that we print 5000 brochures at a cost of no more than \$ 1500. Kozlowski seconded. The motion was approved. ***NOTE: Brugeman talked with Allegra printing about printing 5000 brochures. The final Appropriation Proposal (2011-2) will be for 5000 brochures at a total cost of \$ 1077.41***
- Martin presented an Appropriation Proposal (2011-3) for \$ 200 to cover technical support from Neodox for 2011. The money will provide 5 hours of support. Neodox will provide an In-kind match of \$ 200.00. Loerhke moved to accept; Antibus seconded. Motion was approved.
- Martin discussed "Sky Drive". Sky Drive is an on-line site that will allow the BRWP to post photos, documents, and other materials that can only be available to the Steering Committee members and other invited quest. Sky Drive is easier to use than Google Docs. Instructions for signing on to the site were given.
- Martin reviewed the Volunteer Opportunities for 2011. These will be included in the spring edition of the BRWP Times and posted on the web site.
- Martin discussed river clean-ups. The following times were given. Findlay - spring - UF Wilderness Club is planning one for April23/24. Martin will check with Dr Dean for exact date and time. BRWP usually only provides a trailer to collect the trash. The fall Findlay clean-up is August 20th. The BRWP will sponsor this clean-up. Clean-ups in Bluffton and Ottawa are being planned. Schroeder and Loerhke will look into Ottawa, while Lehman and Antibus will look at Bluffton.
- Martin discussed that the BRWP will have a display at the Home Show to be held at The Cube on April 1-3, 2011.
- Martin stated that the Fair display needs to be readied for fair season. People are needed to set-up and take down the display. Martin and Brugeman will discuss this with the Education and Communication Committees.
- Stream Observation Walks for Riley Creek will resume in April when weather permits.

- Loerhke and Schroeder mention that there is a show at the K of C in Ottawa during February. The BRWP will look to be there next year.
- Martin discussed additional updating of the web site. New tabs for videos, maps, and gallery were added. We need information for the education tab and FAQ. Please send any to Martin. Check proofreading when you can.
- McCall mentioned that there is a agency that sponsors “Experience Works” that pays senior citizens to do work for non-profit groups. We will look into using them.
- Homsher mentioned that UF and Lourdes College maybe forming a partnership concerning Glisten education. BRWP may be asked for a letter of support.
- Martin mentioned the need to get our committees active. Brugeman and Martin will meet with each committee Streamflow/Habitat and Agriculture Committees need chairman.
- Brugeman stated that he had talked with Anne Cresswell concerning “Clear Solutions for Clearer Waters” project. Cresswell has agreed to head the project.
- Brugeman also discussed his discussion with Mr. Army from Maumee Conservancy District concerning the BRWP role with the Blanchard River Watershed. Loerhke mentioned that would be a meeting on April 25, 2011 in Ottawa concerning a possible sub-district for the watershed.
- Brugeman update the group on the Blanchard Valley Green Coalition and Hancock County Sustainability Coalition concerning Rain Gardens Project and Complete Streets Program. Discussion followed on both topics. Jeff Loerhke moved that elected members be allowed to support causes that meet our missions by signing letters and petitions. They will need to report to the Steering Committee at the next meeting. Allen seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
- Martin reviewed grants that we have applied for and potential grants.
- Martin asked for items the spring issue of the BRWP Times be sent to him by Friday March 25th.

Due to April 21, 2011, being Holy Thursday, Martin was asked to conduct an email survey with the committee to determine the next meeting date. The result of the survey was to meet April 28, 2011 in Ottawa at 6:00 p.m.

Coordinator's Comments
March 17, 2011

The Outlet/Lye Creek WAP

The revisions to the Implementation Plan (Chapter 7) have been completed and will be sent to Matt Adkins this weekend. Chapters 1-6 have been revised and proofread. After Chapter 7 is approved, chapters 9 & 10 will need to be updated. Chapter 8 is waiting on approval.

Riley Creek WAP

The first two chapter have been written in draft form.

Meetings Attended

- Active Conservationists Teamed Together (A.C.T.T.) meeting on 2/24/11. This group is made up of several conservation groups in the watershed. They sponsor the fair tent.
- "complete streets" program in Findlay/Hancock County meeting at UF with the Blanchard Valley Green Coalition.

WEB Update

- Tim, Joe Worden, and I met on March 5, 2011 to go over the on-going update of the web site. Tabs now are: Home - Videos - Gallery - Education - Organization - Resources - Maps - Water Quality - Volunteer/Donate - Contact - BRWP Times - Riley Survey - 2011 Goals
- We need help with the following: Education Materials, FAQ, and Documents.

Volunteer Opportunities

It is that time of the year to get commitments to our projects and seeks volunteers for these projects

- River Clean-up: Bluffton, Ottawa, and Findlay (April 23/24 - UF Wilderness Club; August 20 BRWP)
- Stream Observation Walks - starting in April 16-17 sections left on Riley Creek
- Water Quality Monitoring - June & September/October
- Fair Displays (See Calendar for dates)
- Home Show April 1-3 at The Cube in Findlay

Sky Drive

We have been trying to find a way to share materials within the BRWP. Google Docs has proven to be very hard to use. Sky Drive is a part of Microsoft's In the Cloud technology that allows us to have a private sharing area for documents, photos, and other items. You will need to accept an "invite" to join the group.

Go to this site: <http://brwp.groups.live.com>; click on Groups home page; click on Sign up

Grants

- **Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund for \$ 150,000.00, included Hancock Board of Health & Hancock Commissioners. To be used to repair and restored HSTS for low income owners.**
- **The Environmental Education Fund grant from Ohio EPA for around \$ 4500.00**
- **Ohio Storm Water Management - Training and Education grant for \$ 1500.00**
- 319 grant from Ohio EPA due May 13, 2011
- Freshwater Futures grants due March 31, 2011 & September 30, 2011
- Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Due April 15, 2011
- Great Lake Restoration Initiative Due April 11, 2011

Letters

- Freshwater Futures thanking us for the \$ 100.00 membership
- Active Conservationists Teamed Together summarizing the 2/24/11 meeting