

BLANCHARD RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

MEETING MINUTES

8/18/10

Present: Martin, Kozlowski, Benroth, Connour, Lehman, Betts, and Switzer

Guests: Mike Homsher and Robert McCall

Kozlowski made a motion; seconded by Connour to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Coordinator Comments

See report.

A. Meetings

B. Future Meetings

1. Larry Wood from OSU will be at the Manure Science Review being held in Continental. He will allow time to discuss Bioreactors.
2. Martin would also like to find out more about a phosphorous and nitrate removal bog for floating wetlands.

C. Other Thoughts

1. See additional documents for Project Proposal for Neodox.
2. Allen County Fair set up is Wed. after 1pm.

D. Riley Creek Work

1. Lehman and Benroth will have a pre-training session on 8/20/10 at 9:00 a.m. They will meet in front of Luke's to do a walk assessment from College Avenue to Cherry Street.

E. Future Activities

1. Monitoring is counting the number and different types of macroinvertebrate.
2. The monitoring results of Lye Creek in July is being posted and need the data for the Riley.

Treasurer's Report

Benroth presented the balance for the end of July and the breakdown of departments per grant.

Rearranging breakdowns for grants was requested. This was done due to additional funding being granted. (See sheet)

Previous Minutes

Connour made a motion; seconded by Kozlowski to approve the minutes from the 7/21/10 meeting. A notation should be made that Anne Cresswell was present. Motion passed.

Old Business

A. River Cleanup Update

Saturday, August 21, 2010 is the River cleanup in Findlay with the University Students. There will be two teams. One group will work from 9:00 am until noon. They will meet at the river road at I-75. The cleanup will re-do the same area as before.

The second group will work from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm. and will meet at Civitan Park. The Park Board will provide a flat boat and canoes. Shovels may be needed. The Park will provide life preservers for those in the boats.

Both groups will need to sign waiver forms and H.O. will provide dumpsters.

Martin stated that he needs to dispose of about 75 tires from the last cleanup before Monday.

B. Ottawa Clean-up

Nothing has been heard from Leo Schroeder. The cleanup is put on hold.

C. Poster Proposal

Connour made a motion; seconded by Lehman to remove the poster project proposal from being tabled. Motion passed. The proposed project would be funded from Community Foundation. The big question is what type of poster are we aiming for? An upper class one that's laminated to be displayed at places like libraries or paper ones for classrooms? Brugeman acquired a quote from Allegra (250) posters, 17" x 23" on paper. That is not exactly what Kozlowski had in mind. Kozlowski will be putting more information together for the posters and will present it prior to printing.

Information that we present on the posters should not give statistics that citizens can't comprehend like that there is 771 sq. miles in the watershed. The figures should relate to something that will create a visual image.

Kozlowski's project proposal entailed high quality posters. For \$1500 staples could print up 48 and Allegra about 50. A smaller size was considered and not as high as quality was requested. Medium quality ones should be put in government buildings and places like libraries. Paper posters should be aimed at school age kids and be made of paper. Topics could be: 1. What is a watershed. Where are we in the watershed.

Kozlowski made a motion; seconded by Connour to revise the project proposal and move forward. Motion passed.

D. Other

1. The old display board has broken into two pieces. The pieces could be used as traveling displays. We should find out if we can set up a traveling display in all the local libraries.
2. More information is needed for the storm water brochure. What style should it be? 8-panel or 4-panel? Or should there be two styles?
3. Contact should be made with Greg Nagette from ODNR to find out why we were not awarded anything in the last grant round.

Homsher

Mike Homsher presented information concerning the National Center for Science & Civic Engagement. It provides funding for a project called GLISTEN. (See attachment) Ben Dolan at the University of Findlay is trying to get something like this started in our area. It would be a 3 year project and provide cross collaboration with other watersheds.

New Business

A. Coordinator Position

The Partnership has received a grant from ODNR Costal Management for Coordinator Salary for the period 7/1/10 to 6/30/11 in the amount of \$15,500. A project proposal was submitted to increase Martin's Coordinator fee to \$1,550 a month from 9/1/1- to 12/31/10 and increase his duties. (See attachment) A motion was made by Betts; seconded by Switzer to accept the Coordinator Project Proposal. Motion passed.

B. Annual Meeting

Tentatively the annual meeting is to be at the Ag. Center on Route 140. Proposed dates are the week before Oct. 31st or the week after. Thursday evening is the selected day of the week . Preferred date is Nov. 4th and the next date is Oct. 21st. The speaker could discuss the algae problem from an economic standpoint.

C. Riverside Dam

To apply for a restoration grant with a 40% match we need to hold a citizen's comment session. The grant could re-establish 16 acres. Findlay City Council is willing to sign on with us for any grants. Randy Tucker has new technology that is being used on St. Mary's Lake and the Cuyahoga watershed and has been accepted by the EPA. We need to get an endorsed plan for EBA funds. This might be an additional topic for the annual meeting.

D. Other

We need to prepare weekly articles for the local newspapers or newsletters in the area.

E. Neodox Project Proposal

Martin has met with Nick Powell. He discussed topics with Worden before the meeting. We have a capacity issue. We only have access to 2 megabytes on the server and we need 4 to house all our information.

Martin would like to use a Googledocs account to set up a protected area for the board to access power points and board only documents. A password and code would be needed. The general public would not have access and there is no charge for the password protection option.

A scrolling banner would be great to have on the website.

A watershed survey is required for the WAP and it's to be placed on the website and can be answered on-line and survey results tabulated. This would need to be setup and implemented by Neodox. The partnership would send postcards to Riley Creak Watershed property owners and direct them to answer the survey on the website.

The Project Proposal includes an increase from 2 megs to 4 megs and would cost an additional \$16/ month and 2 additional hours of training. Neodox fee is \$812 but is willing to give us a discount for

\$400. Worden and Martin will come up with a priority list. Connour made a motion; seconded by Benroth to approve the Neodox Project Proposal. Motion passed.

F. Riley Creek Survey

An approximate cost for 520 postcards is \$330. A previous Project Proposal was approved for \$500. Selection of who to send the postcards to has not been decided. Martin, Benroth and Lehman will devise a plan by the next meeting. The survey will be ready by the 4th quarter. Benroth made a motion; seconded by Betts to table the Survey Project Proposal until definite plans are available. Motion passed.

G. Chemical Testing

The last testing was done by the EPA in 2005. The communities could assist in current testing. McKibben should be contacted on methodology on how to test.

The Little Riley in the Beaverdam area is in need of testing because of all the new truck stops and truck washes. Randy Greeno from the City of Findlay can provide some testing. Kozlowski, Connour, Martin, Benroth and Lehman have volunteered to collect water samples. We possibly could ask ONU and Bluffton University to assist with testing.

We need to devise a plan on what type of sample to get, how many and where to take them. We also need to get the muck ground tested to set a baseline.

McCall volunteered to assist on guidance for chemical testing and methodology from McKibben.

H. University of Findlay Students

We may be able to recruit them with mini internships to work on public relations. They could write news releases and update the website.

I. Switzer would like to arrange collaboration with the Hancock Handlebar Association to inform us of creeks that need cleaned up that they view in their travels and then we set cleanup dates. Switzer has biked in our watershed and hasn't seen any trash lately. We need to determine how to set this collaboration up.

J. Kozlowski received a postcard from Freshwater Futures to write a letter to Obama concerning the Asian Carp Infiltration. Lehman made a motion; seconded by Betts to approve the letter. Switzer voted no, all others voted yes. Motion passed.

Connour made a motion; seconded by Betts to adjourn. Motion passed.