

**BRWP Annual Members Meeting  
Hancock County Agricultural Bldg.  
October 21, 2010**

Board of Directors present: Connour, Loerhke, Kozlowski, Benroth, Allen, Schroeder, Lehman, and Brugeman.

Committee Members Present: Sarah Betts, Randy Greeno, and Doug Switzer

Kozlowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Kozlowski welcomed the audience. Kozlowski noted that this is the fifth anniversary of our organization. A reminiscence of the major steps to 2010 was presented along with an assessment of where we are today, a proud volunteer group dedicated to and ready to implement a number of projects to improve the water quality in the Blanchard Valley. The new PR brochure "A Citizen's Guide to Measuring the Value of the Blanchard River" was presented as our next step to reaching a broader audience.

Kozlowski introduced our two speakers: Linda Merchant-Masonbrink - OEPA Program Coordinator reviewed the science of algae blooms that have been plaguing Lake Erie and now inland lakes and ponds over the last few years. The 2010 toxic algae bloom is particularly important for our region of NW Ohio. The toxic "algae" is actually a bacterial growth that occurs at the same time and often appears the same. These bacteria release a cyano toxin during its life cycle.

Melinda Huntley- OSU Sea Grant Extension Officer reviewed the economic value of tourism in Ohio concentrating on the values in the Lake Erie region and the damage caused to the Lake St. Mary's region this year.

A question and answer period followed the presentations.

Kozlowski read and asked for an approval of the minutes as submitted from the 2009 Annual Meeting. Minutes approved.

Benroth presented a summary of the finances for 2010 and reported we have a cash balance of \$25,283.18 as of September 31, 2010.

Kozlowski presented the Nominating Committee slate of candidates for election to the 2011 to 2013 term for Board of Directors. No nominations were made from the floor and the slate was elected by acclimation. Those elected were: Robert Antibus-Riley Creek, Bob Connour-Eagle Creek, and Tim Brugeman-At Large #2

Martin presents a slide show that reviewed the accomplishments of 2010 and the goals for 2011 (See next page).

Nancy Benroth received the "2011 FRIEND OF THE RIVER" award for her outstanding work over the five year period of our existence. Nancy served as out treasurer for all 5 years and as secretary for the last three years.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30

## **2010 BRWP Highlights:**

- Water Quality Monitoring
  - 9 sites on the Blanchard River
  - 4 sites on Lye Creek
  - 3 sites on The Outlet
  - 8 sites on Riley Creek
  - 5 sites on Little Riley Creek
- Started Stream Observation Walk in the Riley Creek Watershed. (have completed all of Little Riley and 3 sections of Riley Creek)
- Re-designed and updated Web Site: <http://www.blanchardriver.org>
- Published 4 quarterly news letters - BRWP Times - email Phil Martin at [gbbm157@att.net](mailto:gbbm157@att.net) to get on the email list
- Had fair displays at Allen, Hardin, Hancock, and Putnam County fairs
- Held public meetings in Bluffton, Ottawa, and Findlay
- Work with many local and state agencies - Ohio EPA, ODNR, OSU Extension, SWCDs, City of Findlay, Health Departments, County Commissioners, Township officials in The Outlet/Lye Creek watershed, Village of Bluffton and Ottawa, EDF, County and City Engineers, Schools and Universities, and many businesses
- Completing the revision of The Outlet/Lye Creek Watershed Action Plan
- Held/supported two river clean-ups in Findlay
- Conducted stakeholder survey in the Riley Creek watershed
- Received \$ in grant money

## **2011 Projection Goals and Activities**

- Complete endorsement of The Outlet/Lye Creek Watershed Action Plan
- Continue Water Quality Monitoring - **Volunteers welcome**
- Complete Stream Observation Walk in Riley Creek - **Volunteers welcome**
- Continue gathering necessary data for starting the watershed action plan for Riley Creek
- Start Implementation of The Outlet/Lye Creek Watershed Action Plan
- Expand our Outreach and Education
- Become more Sustainable
  - double membership - call Phil Martin in interested at 419-422-6487
  - find grant money for full time watershed coordinator
  - recruit more volunteers - call Phil Martin in interested at 419-422-6487
  - seek more grant money
- Hold river clean-ups in Findlay, Ottawa, and Bluffton
- Form subwatershed groups in the six subwatersheds - call Phil Martin in interested at 419-422-6487