



**Blanchard River Watershed Partnership
Education and Communication Committee
Meeting – January 19, 2014, at 3:30 p.m.
Hancock County Engineer’s meeting room**

Minutes

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

P. Martin called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Martin discussed the goal(s) of the Committee. It was decided the following would be the goals.

Goals of Committee – The goals of this committee are to be working on means of presenting educational materials to the stakeholders and develop the communication network for the BRWP.

Immediate Projects

Rain Barrel

Decoration Contest

- Martin led on discussion on the Contest. The Rain Barrels are due on February 21, 2014. They will be on display at the Great Findlay Mall from February 22, 2014 through March 2, 2014. The location at the Mall will be in the store just outside of Elder Beerman. Help is needed on Friday the 21st in the morning.
- Martin has contacted several people to act as Judges
- Martin mentioned that more sponsors needed. He said that he would talk with Hancock SWCD and the Farm Bureau. T. Allen said she would ask Whirlpool. If you know of any other possible sponsors, please let Martin know
- The schools involved will be Arlington (2), Pandora Gilboa (1), Riverdale (1), St. Wendelin (2), and Van Buren (2) Science Dept. (4) FFA.
- The group decided to give away one Rain Barrel and to take orders for purchasing a Rain Barrel.

Village of Ottawa

- Martin mentioned that he had sent to Tim Macke a draft of a Rain Barrel Rebate program. NOTE: Tim Macke emailed that the Village of Ottawa agreed to proceed with the Rebate program.

Greater Findlay Home Show

- Martin mentioned that the Greater Findlay Home Show will be at the Findlay Village Mall on March 1st and 2nd. The BRWP will have a display along with our Rain Barrel display.
- Volunteers are need to man out display. Martin said he would send out a “Work Schedule” sheet.
- Martin asked for help in designing our display. The Golf Scramble will have a spot for sign-up.

Must do..

- Martin reviewed the must do projects for 2014
 - County Fairs - the committee decided recommend we have a display at the Putnam, Allen, and Hancock County fairs.
 - T Allen said she would check to see if the was a space available at the Hardin County Fair. Martin said the area provided by Hardin SWCD was not enough.

Potential Projects

- Four new banner stands - Martin mentioned that additional spaces were still need for the stands
- Rain Garden(s) - Martin mentioned that Tim Brugeman and he had met with a group at Jefferson Elementary in Findlay concerning a Rain Garden. After discussion, the committee agreed that the BRWP should promote Rain Gardens and help with finding possible funding, but not commit to helping with installation. Martin mentioned that Colin Hagen from Hancock SWCD was trained in urban work and would help with planning a garden.
- Martin mentioned possible river clean-up in Ottawa in April and later in the summer in Findlay. This item will be discussed at the February BOD meeting.
- Martin mentioned some potential grants. He asked the committee for possible projects
Some possible projects are:
 1. Education booklet on Rain Barrels and Rain Gardens - Martin mentioned that there were some other watershed groups in NW Ohio that were interested.
 2. The need for Chemical testing and training volunteers to help
 3. A volunteer group in Cranberry Creek watershed to gather data for the action plan. Other subwatersheds are possible with interest.

Outreach - Presentation

- PowerPoint presentation - Martin reviewed three PowerPoint presentations for input on how to edit for a presentation to a senior group on February 5, 2014. Great input was given. The PowerPoint include the one Martin used at the Annual Meeting and AR marketing.

Next Meeting will be April 23, 2014

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

