

**Blanchard River Watershed Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting
Owens Community College
7:00 p.m. March 17, 2010
Room 58**

Minutes

Members Present: Sarah Betts, Sarah Lehman, Doug Switzer. Tim Brugeman, Bob Connour, and Phil Martin

B. Connour moved to confirm Sarah Lehman as the new #2 at-large representative to the Board replacing Brad Hess. D. Switzer second the motion. Motion passed. email vote was 5-0

S Betts moved to accept the minutes with corrections. B. Connour second. Motion passed

P. Martin gave the Coordinator's Comments:

1. WAP The Outlet/Lye Creek

- Loading calculations are scheduled to be worked on March 25, 2010 with ODNR
- Chapter 1 and 2 has been revised.
- Chapter 3 Watershed Inventory Revision calls for Inventory to be done at the 14-digit level. I am meeting with Matt Adkins on April 5th or 6th to go over needed revisions.
- Finally, the implementation plan with cost and details will need to be worked out.
- I will be going to Angola, IN. on March 23rd to meet with Joe Draper from The Nature Conservancy to discuss some implementation BMPs - 2-stage ditches.

2. NWOFPMP will dissolve at the end of 2010. A new Public Entity or plans to form one will need to be in place by June 1st. so the Army Corp of Engineers can proceed. The Public Entity Study Group composed of elected officials from the watershed has been formed. I talked with the chairman about the BRWP place once the final decision is made. A conservancy district or Port Authority appear to be the two main options.

3. Spring Monitoring: Plans are to start the monitoring the first work at June and be done by June 15th. Volunteers will be very useful.

4. WMAO - Water Management Association Ohio new group design to help coordinators. Watershed groups will be asked to join the group.

6. I attended the workshop Watersheds: Moving from Plans to Action

5. Membership - By-laws stated that all steering comm. members need to be members by Feb. meeting. Also, letters were sent out to all former members.

P. Martin present the Treasurer's report as emailed to him by Treasurer Nancy Benroth. S. Betts moved to accept the report, S. Lehman second. motion passed.

Old Business

S. Lehman gave a Riley Creek landowners permission update: 45 % of the forms have been returned with only 5 denial for permission.

B. Connour gave an update on river clean-ups for 2010. The UF Wilderness Club will be holding their spring clean-up April 17. The BRWP will again be willing to support the project. B. Connour will check into the August clean-up using the in-coming UF freshman. The BRWP may sponsor this clean-up. Details to be present at the April 21st meeting. Clean-ups in Bluffton and Ottawa are still on the planning table.

D. Switzer has set-up a facebook page on the web. The page is a public page and anyone can become a friend and post comments. To reach the page and become a "Friend of the BRWP" simply go to your facebook page, click on groups, and type in Blanchard river.

T. Brugeman discussed a tree planning project being sponsored by the Hancock Park District on April 21st. during the United Way Days of Caring and Earth Day Week. Any member of the Steering Committee wanting to volunteer to help would be appreciated. It was discussed and decide that this project would be the only one done during Earth Day week.

Tammy Rooney was on the agenda to discuss fundraising, but was unable to attend. A general discuss of fundraising was held. The main focus was to try and get Corporate money for grant match.

P. Martin reviewed grant proposals that have been submitted and potential grants that are available.

The watershed coordinator grant review held in late February pointed out the need for a Policy Notebook for the BRWP. P. Martin reported on policy notebooks from other watershed and gave a list of items to be included. T. Brugeman felt that this project fell under his committee, Strategic Issues - Organization, responsible. With the help of Martin and other, Brugeman will complete the project.

D Switzer talked briefly about the Hancock Handlebars Association noted the amount of trash around many of the bridges in the watershed. A briefly discuss followed and it was decided that Switzer would contact the group and asked that they make note of where these bridges are located and the BRWP would try to get the trash cleaned-up using volunteers.

P. Martin reported that the BRWP would be sponsoring the OEC quarterly meeting on April 27th. The meeting will be held at The Lodge at Riverbend Park.

P. Martin reported that The Main Street Deli would be willing to have a chair decorated about the BRWP placed in their establishment. S Betts agree to get a chair decorated.

P. Martin announced that the April 21st Steering Committee would be held at Ottawa, Ohio in the Courthouse at 7:00 p.m.