

BRWP Times

Winter 2011-12

Blanchard River Watershed Partnership

Volume 4

One of the chosen watersheds....



The BRWP received word from the US EPA that The Outlet/Lye Creek subwatershed of the Blanchard River Watershed is one of the focal watersheds in the Great Lakes to receive Great Lakes Restoration Initiative money in 2012. The money will be used to address impairments caused by nutrient and sediment loadings. Check our web site and the Courier for further information as it becomes available.

Annual Meeting...The meeting was held on November 17, 2011 at the University of Findlay. Nearly 50 stakeholders attended the event. The two main business parts of the meeting was the adoption of new committees for 2012. See the section on the next page for a detail description of each committee and how you can get join and get involved. Election of three board members was also held. Jane McLeay was elected to the At-large #3 seat; Ted Elliott was elected to represent Cranberry Creek; and Richard Kozlowski was re-elected to represent The Outlet/Lye Creek. Thanks to these stakeholders that are willing to serve. Dr. Homsher from University of Findlay and some of his students for their report on the chemical testing of sites in The Outlet/Lye Creek watershed. Lynn Army, from the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District present an excellent overview of the Conservancy's role in a watershed.

Hancock County Commissioners, Hancock Board of Health and the BRWP working together have secured a \$160,000 **Water Pollution Control Loan grant** to repair/replace 10 Home Septic Treatment System for income-eligible homeowners in Hancock County. We still have enough money for 9 systems. Your system will not be evaluated before your eligibility is determined. Please contact Phil Martin, Watershed Coordinator at 419.422.6487 for information.

Grants update....The Partnership is waiting to hear about two big grants that we applied for last year....

Ohio EPA 319 Grant...The BRWP applied for this grant through the Hancock SWCD to address agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the Lye Creek subwatershed. A representative from the Ohio EPA stated that our grant was still in consideration awaiting the final appropriations from the Federal Government. Depending on how much money is appropriated to the 319 fund, our grant may be funded. Cross your fingers. The grant was for \$220,000.

ODNR 3 -Year Implementation Grant for funding the Watershed Coordinator...With The Outlet/Lye Creek endorsed watershed action plan, the BRWP was eligible to apply for a \$126,000 ODNR 3 - year Implementation Grant to cover the watershed coordinator's salary. If we receive the grant it will provide stability to our watershed coordinator position for the next three years. The BRWP has been surviving on year-to-year grants and was only able to make the coordinator's position full time this past July. Special thanks to the following groups for providing matching funds for the grant:

- ◆ City of Findlay
- ◆ Hancock County Commissioners
- ◆ Putnam County Commissioners
- ◆ Village of Bluffton
- ◆ Village of Ottawa

The BRWP needs your help by becoming a member. Your contribution will help to fund our daily operations. Your time is also needed in helping with our projects...join a committee and/or sign up for clean-ups and other activities. Call 419-422-6487.

Typical areas that need restoration



New Committees...The members at the 2011 Annual Meeting approved the following new committees for 2012. The committees will be under the leadership of the Watershed Coordinator. Each committee will have a representative to the Steering Committee.

♦ **Land Use & Resource Management**

(2 meetings a year)

GOAL: To focus on identifying and reducing pollution within the watershed that impairs our stream and water quality.

(Current priority: agriculture-related issues).

Membership: Professional representatives invited from Soil & Water Districts, USDA NRCS, OSU Extension, Farm Service Agencies, Regional Planning Commission, agri-businesses, farm owners, others & BRWP Board member.

Tasks for 2012:

1. Implementation of The Outlet/ Lye Creek Watershed Action Plan
2. Gather & develop needed data for projects, tracking progress
3. Develop closer ties to ag community & BRWP

♦ **Water Supply & Waste Water**

(1 meeting each quarter, if needed)

GOAL: To address rural and municipal issues of water supply and waste water.

Membership: City/county health departments, waste water & water supply treatment plant operators, private industry, rural community assistance programs, other stakeholders and BRWP Board member.

Tasks for 2012:

1. Implementation of the Outlet/ Lye Creek Watershed Action Plan
2. Gather & develop needed data on wells, water supplies and home septic treatment systems and stormwater issues.
3. Plan collections (Rx / meds, recycling) and river clean-ups.

♦ **Education & Communications**

(meetings 1 each quarter)

GOAL: To increase awareness of watershed issues to stakeholders.

Membership: Representatives from educational institutions, public/private sector marketing & public relations, public at large and BRWP Board member.

New Committees continued from bottom first column..

Tasks for 2012:

1. Strengthen communications network (website, FACEBOOK, newsletter, news releases, other.
2. Develop educational watershed video for school/public use.
3. Plan/promote river clean-ups with other Committees.

♦ **Organization & Development**

(meetings 1 each quarter)

GOAL: To strengthen and guide operations, leadership and funding of BRWP.

Membership: The Executive Committee, other stakeholders to assist.

Tasks for 2012:

1. Review & revise Bylaws for 2012 Annual Meeting approval.
2. Develop fund raising initiatives for long range BRWP sustainability.
3. Plan/promote projects, grant applications and BRWP growth issues.
4. Plan Annual Meeting (input from Board/ Committees).

Any interested stakeholder is encouraged to join any committee. Your input is needed.

Mark Your Calendars...Here are just some of the activities the BRWP will be involved in during 2012. If interested in helping, please contact Phil martin at 419.422.6487.

- **March through year** - Stream Observation Walk on Riley Creek
- **April** - River clean-up with UF Wilderness Club
- **April** - River/stream clean-up in Ottawa
- **June** - Spring water quality monitoring on the Blanchard River, The Outlet, Lye Creek, Little Riley Creek, and Riley Creek.
- **June 18-23** - Putnam County Fair
- **August 17-25** - Allen County Fair
- **August 18th** - Blanchard River Clean-up in Findlay
- **August 29-Sept. 3** - Hancock County Fair
- **September 4-9** - Hardin County Fair
- **September/October** - Fall water quality monitoring on the Blanchard River, The Outlet, Lye Creek, Little Riley Creek, and Riley Creek.
- **November/December** - Annual Meeting

⇒ **Check us out at our web site: www.blanchardriver.org.**
⇒ **Join us on Facebook to see daily news -Blanchard River Watershed Partnership.**