

# BRWP

Summer 2017 Volume 10

Times



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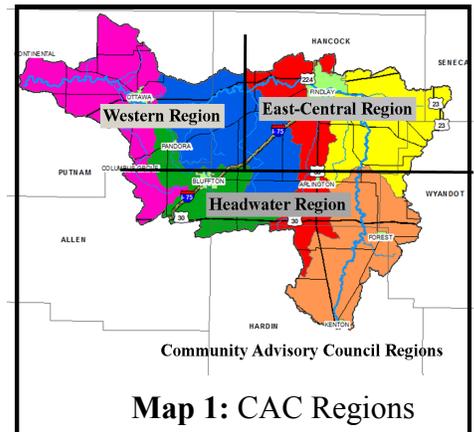
**NEED MORE INFORMATION?**

Visit our website at:

[www.blanchardriver.org](http://www.blanchardriver.org) or on [facebook](#) at Blanchard River Watershed Partnership *or*, call Phil Martin, watershed coordinator at 419.422.6487

## >>> Community Advisory Council

The Blanchard River Watershed Partnership (BRWP) has reached out to stakeholders, agencies and water use leaders in our watershed to create a Community Advisory Council (CAC), Initially the CAC was divided into three regions in the watershed: Headwaters, East-Central and Western regions (see map).<sup>1</sup> A list of representatives was developed for each region and meetings were held in Bluffton, Findlay, and Ottawa. The focus of the CAC is to identify the specific needs and concerns of each region in regards to water quality. Once the needs and concerns were identified, the future needs were identified. The information collected will be used by the BRWP to better focus our work in that region. The information will also be forwarded to the agencies working in our watershed. The summary of the top three for each region are shown below.



Headwaters Region	
Concerns	Future Needs
1. More education is needed for the public and businesses on water pollution	1. Funding for research initiatives
2. More education for how to keep nutrients on the ground and out of the water	2. Funding for education of the public
3. Agricultural run-off and not enough use of Best Management Practices (BMPs)	3. Provide research / data to the public on water conservation
East-Central Region	
1. Urban run-off	1. More incentives on technology
2. Agricultural run-off	2. Develop green infrastructure
3. Need funding for farmers and communities To establish BMPs	3. Collaboration at local level for funding unfunded mandates
Western Region	
1. Addressing failing Home Septic Systems	1. Provide research / data to the public on water conservation
2. More education is needed for the public & businesses on water pollution	2. Find funding for research and education initiatives for the public
3. More education for how to keep nutrients on the ground and out of the water	3. Maintaining our current clean water supply

## >>> Summer Projects



The BRWP sponsored two SandWand™ Demonstration days in Bluffton and Findlay. Many agencies and stakeholders stop by the sites to observe a cheaper and easy way to remove sediment from the substrate of a stream without destroying the habitat. Streamside Systems is willing to lease and train groups to use the SandWand™. Picture 1 to the right shows the SandWand™ being used in Little Riley Creek in Bluffton, This site is one of our macroinvertebrate sites. The macroinvertebrate data for this site shows a decline of the water quality due to the sediment loading over the last two years. It will be interesting to see how quickly the macroinvertebrate population returns.



Picture 1: SandWand™ being used in Little Riley Creek



**Home Septic Treatment Systems (HSTS)** - Ohio Administrative Code Section 3701-29-19 (A) states in part that Boards of health shall develop a process and timeline for phasing in O&M (Operation and Maintenance) management for prior installed systems. In 2014, Hancock Public Health began phasing in O&M management on existing systems. The BRWP, in partnership with the Hancock Public Health Department and the Hancock County Commissioners, will help to implement a \$150,000 grant from the Ohio EPA to repair/replace failing Home Septic Treatment Systems (HSTS) in Hancock County. There is about \$20,000 left in the grant for 2017. You can check your eligibility prior to anyone inspecting your septic system by filling out the Application Form on the web site and mailing it to the address on the form. For further information, look under the Grants Tab on the Home page on our web site at [www.blanchardriver.org](http://www.blanchardriver.org).



### Blanchard River Demonstration Farms Update!

On August 23, 2017, there will be a Precision Ag Field Day held at the Kellogg Farms in Hardin County. Farmers will be able to obtain fertilizer certification. For more information on the event or to schedule a tour, email Aaron Heilers at [blancharddemofarms@gmail.com](mailto:blancharddemofarms@gmail.com).



### Freshwater Futures Grant

The BRWP received a \$10,000 grant to write at least one and possibly two **Nine-Element Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategic Plan (NPS-IS plan)**. A NPS-IS plan is written at the 12-digit HUC watershed level and replaces the old watershed action plans. In order to receive federal grant money, a NPS-IS plan needs to be written and fully endorsed. The Tiderishi Creek watershed is the first watershed a plan will be written. Map 2 shows the Tiderishi Creek watershed in Hancock County.



Map 2: Tiderishi Creek watershed



### County Fair Dates

The BRWP will have a display at the Allen County Fair from August 18, 2017 until August 26, 2016 in Lima. Our display will be in the Conservation shelter house on the west side of the fairgrounds. The Hancock County Fair will run from August 30, 2017 until September 4, 2017 in Findlay. Our display will be in the Farm Bureau tent across from the Legacy Building. The final fair will be the Hardin County Fair in Kenton from September 5, 2017 until September 10, 2017. Our display will be in the Commercial Building.

# See You at the Fairs!

# What Can You Do to Protect Water Quality?

*Homeowners can be a major source of water pollution.* One of the areas where homeowners contribute to water pollution and the degradation of the water quality, is through what they flush down toilet.



## **THINGS NOT TO FLUSH**



### **1. Medications**

Prescriptions, over-the-counter, vitamins, illegal drugs, patches, hypodermic needles

### **2. Cloth**

Cleaning rags, nylon stockings, underwear, shop towels, mop heads, dental floss

### **3. Feminine Products**

Sanitary pads, tampons, applicators

### **4. Plastic**

Plastic bags, plastic cotton swabs, disposable lighters, hotel shampoo bottles

### **5. Chemicals**

Cleaning products, herbicides, insecticides, solvents

### **6. Grease**

Auto, industrial

### **7. Wipes**

Baby wipes, "disposable/flushable" wipes, personal hygiene wipes, cleaning wipes

### **8. Cooking Oil / Grease**

Fats, oils, cooking grease - used or unused

### **9. Condoms**

Condoms and condom wrappers

### **10. Diapers**

Paper or cloth, no matter how dirty, please dispose of in trash

### **11. Tobacco Properties**

Cigarettes - butts, cigars - butts, chews

### **12. Any Animals**

Goldfish, hamsters, mice, others

### **Source of information includes**

Ohio's Water Quality People

[ohiowea.org](http://ohiowea.org) 614.488.5800



## 2017 CORPORATE/GOVERNMENT SPONSORS

The success of the BRWP is directly related to the sponsors and members. Without their support, the BRWP would **not** be able to survive. *Special Thanks* to our 2017 sponsors:

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Findlay Elks Lodge #75



HANCOCK COUNTY FARM BUREAU



Hancock Soil & Water Conservation District



Putnam Soil & Water



### Main Sponsors



Putnam County Commissioners



Stan Doty, DDS



Stateler Family Farms

### Blanchard Cricket Frog \$5,000

- City of Findlay
- Hancock County Commissioners

### Great Blue Heron \$1,000

- Putnam County Commissioners
- Village of Bluffton
- Village of Ottawa
- Whirlpool Corporation

## PHOTO SPOTLIGHT



Maag



### Sunfish \$500

- AE Curbside - Findlay
- Findlay Elks Lodge #75
- Millstream Area Credit Union

### Dragonfly \$250

- Beerco
- Hancock Farm Bureau
- Hancock Park District
- Hancock Soil Water Conservation District
- Hancock Wood Electric Cooperative
- Hempy Water Conditioning - Forest
- Legacy Farmers Coop
- Putnam Soil Water Conservation District
- Stan Doty, DDS
- Stateler Family Farms