

Minutes of the Blanchard River
Watershed Partnership Steering Committee
March 15, 2012, Findlay, OH

T. Brugeman presiding, Bob Connour recording.

Present: T. Brugeman, B. Connour, P. Martin, L. Schroeder, T. Allen, R. Greeno, D. Kozlowski

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 by T. Brugeman

- Phil Martin added a project proposal to the agenda for purchasing from the DNR a permit to collect macroinvertebrates.
- T. Elliott moved to approve the agenda, L. Schroeder seconded, motion was approved unanimously.
- No minutes were presented for approval.

Treasurer's report

- D. Kozlowski reviewed the financial reports for January and February. After some discussion the reports were approved.

Old Business

- T. Brugeman reviewed the leadership retreat. Each person shared their thoughts and the consensus was that it was very good.
- P. Martin mentioned that the email vote to approve \$100 for the Ottawa River clean up was approved 7-0 with 2 people not voting.

New business

- P. Martin reported that D. Kozlowski and he had attended a meeting in Columbus earlier this same day for coordinators.
- P. Martin stated we have applied for a 319 grant through Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District. He stated that he was told we would have heard by now if we were not getting a grant.
- P. Martin stated that he went to a meeting with US EPA and NRCS. He said there could be around \$1.4 million from the GLRI money would come through NRCS.
- P. Martin stated that K. Chapman from Environmental Defense recommended that the BRWP hire D. Reese and D. Tressel as consultants who would report to us and be paid by NRCS. It was stated that this needs more discussion but would give us more help. D. Kozlowski mentioned that it will cost us time and effort. T. Brugeman stressed the importance of really being clear what we are getting involved in.
- P. Martin stated that Western Lake Erie Basin coordinators and others had a conference on an educational grant for our area to do education about phosphorous.
- P. Martin stated there is another 319 grant application due at the end of May.
- Discussions moved to committee meetings. P. Martin stated that the Land use and Resource Management committee was meeting next Friday, March 23rd, and the Education committee next Thursday, May 22nd.
- The Water Supply/Wastewater committee is planning a meeting for March 29 or 30.
- P. Martin stated that he has spoken with people about how to replace the match money we had received from Sea Grant.

- It was stated that the Executive Committee will probably meet sometime in the 3rd week of April.
- P. Martin stated that we need volunteers for the Riley Creek Stream Observation walk from Pandora to the mouth. He stated he would like to work on this during one of the first Saturdays in April.
- P. Martin stated that we are well on our way to finish the action plan that is due by June 1st. He talked about which chapters are done and stated the Carol Elchert is working on others for us. When they are completed he will put them on the website.
- River cleanup- T. Elliott said they have looked at Tawa Run which runs through Ottawa and talked about potential dates. Mailings have went out to landowners asking for permission and so far around 10 have been returned, all giving permission.
- **President's Report-** T. Brugeman stated that the Executive Committee approved the contract with P. Martin and that it is in place. He stated that as this has proceeded numerous details have had to be taken care of but that everything is getting worked out.
- Project proposals- P. Martin suggested that we have a roll call vote whenever we spend money so that we have a record of yes/no votes. It was decided that before any vote we will ask for a roll call vote.
- P. Martin presented project proposal 2012-4 to spend \$500 for a Freshwater Futures Insight grant. T. Allen moved, D. Kozlowski seconded, and it passed unanimously.
- P. Martin presented project proposal 2012-5 for \$100 to renew the membership in Freshwater Futures. T. Allen moved, T. Elliott seconded, and it passed unanimously.
- Chemical testing- P. Martin stated that a Dr. Spiese from Ohio Northern University received a grant that we had supported. The grant was for Chemical testing in the Riley Creek watershed.
- P. Martin stated that we need to get phosphorous and nitrate data collected during high flow. He asked if we would consider allotting \$1200 for chemical testing equipment. L. Schroeder asked who is conducting the testing and taking care of the data. Discussions were had about this and it was stated that if we are going to do it then it must be conducted and managed properly. P. Martin said he would put together a proposal as it is obvious we need more details.

Discussion

- **Events and Issues-** P. Martin presented a thank you note from the Hancock Park District for sponsoring the photo contest.
- T. Allen stated she is going to the Ohio Environmental Council lobby day on March 22nd at the state house.
- L. Schroeder stated that he attended a meeting on agriculture where they discussed phosphorous. He stated that there is much confusion about how dissolved phosphorous works and is measured.
- **Adjournment**
 - T. Allen moved to adjourn, R. Greeno seconded, and it was unanimous.
 - The meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm