

## **SRWC Steering Committee Meeting**

**February 7, 2008 – Tiffin Ag. Center, Tiffin, OH**

Present: Chris Schimpf, Jim Bailey, Cindy Brookes, John Crumrine, Bob Vargo, Kate Siefert, Anne Bishop, Stu Smith, Katie McKibben,

**Welcome/Announcements:** Chris Schimpf called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves. It was noted that due to low attendance, we did not have enough voting members for a quorum and that all motions made this morning would have to be emailed out to the rest of the steering committee for voting action. Stu made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes, John seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.

**Bob Vargo** – Bob needed to leave early due to a conflict in his schedule (Wyandot SWCD planning meeting) and asked if he could speak before the Committee reports and then be excused. Bob announced that the Scenic Rivers program and is about to become part of the Division of Watercraft. They are confident this will benefit the funding of the Scenic Rivers program. Bob's second announcement (from the agenda under New Business) is that the Div. of Coastal Management approached them to do a grant to study the entire Sandusky River in regards to designating the entire Sandusky River as a Scenic River. They will start the study in July. The TMDL is already in place and the Water Lab will provide some data. The Wyandot SWCD is supportive of the designation. Jim Pry is working on getting local support in Crawford County and has a letter of support from the City of Bucyrus. 25 miles of the River in Wyandot Co. is already designated. The River is already designated from Upper Sandusky to Fremont. This would add 30 miles in Crawford County and 18 miles in Wyandot County.

### **Committee Reports**

**Ag** – Cindy – Updated the Broken Sword Grant. Have 300 acres of cover crop. The Producer Self Assessment grant still has money left in it and they will be applying for an extension. The Spring Steering Committee Tour will most likely be at a Hord hog facility while it is empty. The Ag. Committee will continue meeting twice/year (spring & fall).

**Development** – Jim B. – The group met on January 16<sup>th</sup>. John Blakeman has joined the group – John is retired teacher and now designs prairies. They are still working on the database & membership. They discussed organizing a trip to a marsh in Sandusky County as a possibility of getting new members. The next meeting will be April 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Stream Flow & Habitat** – Dr. Baker – The GLPF grant – they have procedure for the tillage surveys and are visiting labs for the soil stratification samples. Last week Dr. Baker was in Corpus Christi for a conference for National project funding (16 projects were represented). During the conference, it was urged that watershed groups work with urban groups and municipalities to address “Smart Growth”. The EPA targeted watershed grant includes studies of biota & invertebrates in ditches since the last “dip out” of the ditch to see how much recovery happens naturally after the dip out. They are still working on the OEPA targeted watershed paperwork.

**Wastewater** – Kate – The next committee meeting will be February 20<sup>th</sup> at the WSOS office in Fremont.

**Water Supply** – Stu – No report at this time.

**Education** – Cindy – They are meeting February 13<sup>th</sup> and need a committee chair. They are reviewing the 1<sup>st</sup> cut of the DVD and will write the “end” after they've finished reviewing it. Cindy has an April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting with the Fostoria Kiwanis. Cindy would like to receive contact names for all the civic organizations (Kiwanis, Lions Club, Rotary, etc) from each county.

**Staff Report** – Cindy – distributed. We did submit a letter of support for Jim Pry for the Regional Tree Farm Award. Jim is hoping to be in the top 3 because that at least brings the judges to the site.

Cindy is working with the Solid Waste districts on a grant regarding the disposal of expired medications. In March Cindy is giving a presentation at Terra Comm. College – if we have any ideas for work for an intern, let her know (update the web site, membership database etc.).

### **Old Business**

**Revised Work Plan for Watershed Coord. Grant** – Has been approved.

**Bucyrus Area Community Foundation Grant** – Waiting on approval.

**ICL Executive Director Program Update** – Funding is not available and Cindy will not be attending.

### **New Business**

**Resignation of Paul Harrison/Nomination for At Large #2 Seat** – We received a resignation letter from Paul due to his retirement from Seneca RPC and in his resignation he encouraged the nomination of Anne Bishop to fill his seat. Jim B. made a motion to accept with regret the resignation of Paul Harrison and to accept the nomination of Anne Bishop. John C. seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.

**River Rally Cornhole Contest** – River Rally is looking for sponsorship of each cornhole board from each watershed. The watersheds could decorate the boards in ways that signify their watershed. The approximate costs should be \$75. Stu made a motion to put together an official Sandusky River Watershed Corn Hole game board as long as costs do not exceed \$200. Dr. Baker seconded. All present voted in favor.

### **Other/Announcements**

The Institute for Conservation Leadership – February 25<sup>th</sup>

River Rally – May 2-5 at Sawmill Creek Resort. Cindy needs approval to attend. Jim B. suggested we have a consensus from the group for Cindy to attend River Rally (approximate costs of \$300)

Dr. Baker distributed a prototype/proposal concept. He asked the steering committee to review and endorse the proposal.

Meeting adjourned.

Addition to notes --- per email from Cindy Brookes 2/15/08 --- I received 2 votes approving the minutes. (Lee and Joe), I received 2 votes in favor of accepting Paul's resignation and Ann to fill. I received 2 votes in favor of the Corn Hole expenditure. Therefore, combined with the votes from the members present, all motions carried.

Next meeting will be March 6, 2008 in Sandusky at the ODNR Coastal Management office.

-notes submitted by Kate Siefert