

## **SRWC Steering Committee Meeting**

**March 6, 2008 – Coastal Management Office, Sandusky, OH**

Present: Chris Schimpf, Jim Bailey, Cindy Brookes, John Crumrine, Dr. Dave Baker, Kate Siefert, Lee Orians, Joe Perry, Bre Hohman

**Welcome:** Chris Schimpf called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves. John C. made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes, Dr. Baker seconded the motion. All in favor, motion approved.

**Announcements:** Cindy – Jim Schumacher is resigning and Crawford County has an open seat. Therefore, there are currently only 12 active seats and we only need 7 voting steering committee members present to have a quorum.

### **Committee Reports**

**Ag** – no report.

**Development** – Jim B. – The next meeting will be April 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm. Tom Kashmer works with the Winous Point Conservancy along the bay and is asking them to host a membership day in August. The City of Bucyrus did a \$1,000 membership and Timken in Bucyrus is also considering membership.

**Stream Flow & Habitat** – Dr. Baker – A study of ditches is included in the OEPA grant application (fact sheet distributed). The study demonstrates the idea of “leave ditches alone” to allow them to recover themselves and to focus on the upland areas with financial incentives to erosion control, nutrient management, buffer strips, etc. Bob Vargo and Cindy have been working on logjam projects (which came up as a major concern at the Wyandot SWCD planning meeting). They have been talking with the Wyandot engineer to look at aerial photos and do the calculations of the impairment. It is hoped to bring in the Army Corp of Engineers in one year to see the “worst case scenarios.”

**Wastewater** – Kate – The committee met February 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss possible projects to pursue with grants. The group discussed a mercury grant (set up locations for people to turn in any mercury they have in their homes and to swap out their mercury thermometers for new digital thermometers). They also discussed the need to provide awareness/education concerning the proper disposal of expired prescriptions and to set up a collection site to help prevent homeowners from flushing medicines down their toilets and entering into the water supplies.

**Water Supply** – Cindy – They are working with OEPA on source water protection plan workshops. The workshop will be good for 5 contact hours and the first one will be April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Education** – Cindy – They met March 3, 2008 and reviewed a draft of the DVD and had a few changes suggested. They are targeting 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms and civic organizations with the DVD.

**Staff Report** – Cindy – distributed. The web domain subscription that runs through WSOS is up for renewal (2 yrs/\$1,998; 3 yrs/\$2,997; 4 yrs/\$3,996; 5 yrs/\$4,895). Jim B. made a motion to renew the website domain for 5 years. John C. seconded the motion. All in favor, motion approved.

### **Old Business**

**Revisit Research Watershed** – The prototype document was distributed. Would like to submit to the Great Lakes Commission for earmarked funds. This had been endorsed several years ago by the SRWC to be a Research Watershed to attract funds for planning and monitoring. Dr. Baker made a motion to reaffirm endorsement to made the Sandusky River a Research Watershed. Bre seconded the motion. Discussion – Lee asked if this would restrict agriculture use and bring on more regulations. Dr. Baker, Cindy and John C. all stated that it is usually the opposite result – if a watershed has the research and implementation active in the watershed it holds off the regulatory action. It usually attracts research farms to develop. Discussion ended -- the group voted all in favor, motion carried.

**Wal-Mart Grant Update** – On March 3<sup>rd</sup> Cindy picked up two checks – each \$1,000 from Wal-Mart. One for the DVD project applied for by the SRWC and one for monitoring at Lake Galion & Lake Mohawk applied for by the Ohio Lake Management Society that will benefit the Sandusky River Watershed. Cindy also received \$25 from Isaac Walton towards the DVD.

**New Business**

**Discuss Water and Antibiotics** – Cindy only received comments from Stu regarding the email she distributed regarding proposed legislation.

**Announcements**

Cindy – Dr. Baker will be honored at the River Rally Banquet as a River Hero. River Rally is May 2-5 at Sawmill Creek Resort.

Meeting adjourned for an educational tour of the Sandusky City Greenhouse.

Next meeting will be April 3, 2008 in Tiffin at the Seneca Co. Ag. Center Conference Room.  
-notes submitted by Kate Siefert