

## **SRWC Steering Committee Meeting**

**September 4, 2008 – Seneca Ag. Center, Tiffin, OH**

Present: Bob Vargo, Cindy Brookes, Chris Schimpf, John Crumrine, Stu Smith, Katie McKibben, Bre Hohman, Ann Bishop, Kate Siefert, Robert McCall, Joe Perry, Jim Bailey, Tia Rice

**Welcome:** Chris Schimpf – called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Minutes:** Jim Bailey noted a correction to the August 2008 meeting minutes in the Old Business section that the proposed committee name should read, “Land Use & Resource Management.” Jim Bailey moved to accept the August minutes as amended, John Crumrine seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.

### **Committee Reports**

**Ag – Cindy –** The Broken Sword Grant has three applications currently. They are meeting on September 5, 2008 to work on the Targeted Watershed grant.

**Development Committee – Jim Bailey –** The met August 23rd for the Hidden Treasures Membership Meeting that started at 7:30am at Winous Point Hunt club with bird banding and then concluded at Green Creek Hunt Club for lunch and two speakers/presentations.

**Stream Flow & Habitat – Cindy –** Dr. Baker shared that the GLPF Grant is moving slow. The fertilizer dealers are not really encouraging it to producers. The Broken Sword Watershed Grant will need the stratified soil sampling so that should increase farmers using the GLPF grant. The input they have received so far is that the fertilizer dealers do not like the “extra time” it takes to do the stratified soil testing. However, the hope is that once the producers start asking for it, the dealers should come around.

**Wastewater – Kate Siefert–** The group met August 7<sup>th</sup> at the Tiffin Wastewater Treatment Plant and viewed the sample DVD on septic maintenance. The group would like to edit the DVD and then distribute to homeowners and new homeowners. Water sampling of the river will take place by OEPA (Katie McKibben) during September as a follow up to the septic system replacement 319 grant. The Medication Take Back grant needs approval from the state board of pharmacy to remain legal. All sites will be drive-thru. Stericycle is doing the disposal. The dates are October 8<sup>th</sup> in Fremont, October 11<sup>th</sup> at Upper Sandusky, and October 18<sup>th</sup> at Fremont.

**Water Supply – Stu Smith –** There is starting to be resistance from the cities to participate in the source water planning workshops. Cindy is setting up meetings with each of the cities and their service safety directors to explain why Ohio EPA is having the workshops is to have these plans in place voluntarily to prevent regulations being needed to be put in place.

**Education – Cindy Brookes –** After hearing the DVD review suggestions, they have added more “pauses” to allow time for answers to the questions. Scott Rabun (Wynford Chemistry teacher) reviewed the DVD for meeting science standards in the classroom. The standards meet Grades 6-11, the focus of the DVD is on grades 6-8. Bob Vargo suggested a viewing of the DVD at the Annual Meeting.

**Staff Report – Cindy Brookes –** distributed. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup> at Franciscan Earth Literacy Center in Tiffin from 6:00-9:00pm and includes a meal. Jim Pry will be the speaker to discuss land, water and trees from his various travels. The tour of Kurt Weaver’s hog farm (Seneca County) has been postponed.

### **Old Business**

**Nomination Committee – Bob Vargo –** They will nominations before the Annual Meeting.

**Annual Meeting Update – Cindy –** September 18<sup>th</sup>, Back Roads Diner will be the caterer.

**USDA - CREES –** Presentation by Joe Bonnell (OSU Extension), Project Director for Watershed Management. The project includes six (6) states. They are trying to see if we can improve the education and outreach about BMP’s for water quality. The Plan Template was

distributed and discussed. Pollutants identified as sediment and nutrients and practices most effective were identified. The group help Joe identify existing resources (events/materials/programs) in the Rock Creek Watershed that address Cover Crops and Soil Testing. The final survey will go out in December 2009. (Increased awareness and education is the anticipated outcome of this project.)

### **New Business**

**Watershed Coordinator Future Funding** – There might be some 319 funding available to fund some of the education towards Cover Crop & Soil Testing. Cindy distributed a 319 proposal for the committee to read and review.

### **Other/Announcements**

Sept 13 – Crawford County River Clean Sweep

Sept 18 – Annual Meeting at Franciscan Earth Literacy Center

Meeting adjourned.

-notes submitted by Kate Siefert