



ROCKY RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

Board of Trustees Meeting

June 29, 2006
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Fortier Park Pavilion
Olmsted Falls, Ohio

Board of Trustees

Steve Hambley
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Michael Durkalec
Vice Chair

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Kathleen Bradley
David Cass
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Elva Edger
Ivan Hack
Keith Kessler
Mark Kolesar
Terri Martincic
John Miller
Lisa White

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Agenda

1. Update on the Upper West Branch Balanced Growth Initiative
2. Discussion of Watershed Action Plan Status
3. Strategic Planning Committee Update
4. Need Volunteers for RR Watershed Festival
5. Review Watershed Stakeholder Survey
6. Member Reports on Activities of Interest
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Public Comment

For more information contact Andy Vidra at (216) 241-2414 Extension 254 or by email avidra@mpo.noaca.org

ROCKY RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

Summary of the Board of Trustees Meeting

June 29, 2006
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Fortier Park Pavilion
Olmsted Falls, Ohio

Attendance: Please see attached attendance sheet. Mayor Robert Blomquist of the host city of Olmsted Falls welcomed the Board to Fortier Park and gave a brief history of the park and its use.

1. Update on the Upper West Branch Balanced Growth Initiative: Mr. Hambley reported that Gary Norcia of the Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District has been named as the interim coordinator of the Balanced Growth Project due to John Watkins's departure. John is now the interim Director of the Lake Erie Coastal Office. The Project has contacted with the Medina County Planning Commission for planning support work. The team is busy preparing criteria for selecting priority conservation and development areas and producing preliminary maps. The intention is to hold a series of public meetings in the fall to solicit input on the selection of the priority areas.

2. Discussion of the Watershed Action Plan Status: Mr. Vidra reported that a revised Watershed Action Plan was submitted to Ohio EPA and ODNR on May 31, 2006 by NOACA. This revision incorporated comments previously received from the State. Jan Volker of ODNR is coordinating the review of the revised document and is forwarding comments to NAOCA as soon as she receives them from the individual members of the review team. This is being done to expedite the review process and the expected endorsement of the Plan.

3. Strategic Plan Committee Update: The Strategic Planning Committee has met eight times with facilitator Tom Romito. The Committee is currently working on the development of the strengths and weaknesses inventory of the Watershed Council. The Committee expects to be able to complete the Strategic Plan by the end of the year.

Ms. Bradley reported on her attendance at a grass roots fund raising workshop sponsored by the Ohio Environmental Council. She stated that the OEC has determined that 70% of the funds available to citizen based watersheds groups comes from membership dues. Ms. Bradley then passed out pledge forms to the members of the Board of Trustees asking them to pledge whatever amount that they felt comfortable giving to the Council to help initiate a membership account. When questioned, Ms. Bradley said that the pledged funds could be used to defray the costs of a mailing to watershed stakeholders asking for their support of the Council or any other

expenses as directed by the Board. Ms. Bradley noted that as a result of her attendance at the workshop, the Council is now eligible for a personal session with the OES staff to review its financial state.

Mr. Vidra passed out copies of the draft slideshow that has been prepared by the Strategic Planning Committee for use in member visits to local watershed communities. This slideshow emphasizes what communities can do to support the Watershed Council and what the Council can do to support local communities as they work to preserve and protect the Rocky River. Members are asked to review the slides and offer suggestions as how to improve the message. A copy of the slides is attached.

4. Need for Volunteers for the Rocky River Watershed Festival: the Festival is to be held on Saturday, September 23, 2006 at the Rocky River Nature Center. Ms. Bradley is working on making job descriptions that can match volunteers with needs. She asks all Festival planners to let her know what jobs they need filled so that she can write and circulate job descriptions in order to recruit volunteers.

On a related note, Ms. Bradley informed the Board that the Burning River Festival has invited the Rocky River Watershed Council to have a display table at their festival on August 12, 2006. The festival site will be Whiskey Island near the mouth of the Cuyahoga River. Mr. Durkalec made a motion that the Council accept this invitation and volunteered to help staff the display. Ms. Edger seconded the motion and it was adopted by a voice vote.

5. Review of Watershed Stakeholder Survey: Mr. Remias was called out of town for business reasons and was unavailable to report on the progress made on developing the survey. Mr. Remias is still soliciting input on questions that might be included on the survey.

6. Member Reports on Activities of Interest: Ms. Bradley informed the Board of an opportunity to help support the West Creek Preservation Committee. A local restaurant is donating the proceeds from all dinners served between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. on July 11 to the Preservation Committee. This is the second year that the restaurant has made this offer.

Ms. Bradley informed the Board that the Tinkers Creek Watershed Festival is going to be held on July 27, 2006.

Mr. Hack stated that he is working with two Councilpersons from North Royalton to apply for an ENRAC Grant to help protect 25 acres along Royalton Road (State Route 82). The City would provide the match for the grant and would assume ownership of the property with the provision that the land remained undeveloped.

Ms. Martincic informed the Board that the surveys of birds in the Rocky River were proceeding. She expects that they will be completed by mid-July. Results to date have been encouraging.

Ms. Bradley relayed a request from the Friends of the Crooked River for a letter of support for the Metroparks Serving Summit County's effort to block a power plant from being built at the Gorge Dam in Cuyahoga Falls along the Cuyahoga River. This plant might generate enough

power to feed 2,000 homes but it would preclude the removal of the dam. Numerous environmental groups have joined with Ohio EPA to oppose this action. Mr. Vidra offered to e-mail the web site of the Summit Metroparks page that provides background on this issue (http://www.summitmetroparks.org/get_involved/friends.shtml). The Board will consider the issue further at its next meeting.

Mr. Blomquist informed the Board that the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission is working to link the Ohio Canal Trail to Whiskey Island. There has been some discussion of Cleveland Metroparks getting involved with managing a park being created on Whiskey Island, but this might remain a county managed project.

Ms. Bradley announced that a teleconference is being organized by the Ohio Environmental Council to garner input on the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The cities of Chicago, Ann Arbor, and Toronto will be participating. The Board will be kept informed as the details are developed.

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET: Rocky River Watershed Council Board of Directors

DATE: June 29, 2006

INITIALS	NAME:	AFFILIATION	EMAIL:	PHONE:	FAX:
WB	Robert Blomquist	City of Olmsted Falls	mavor@olmstedfalls.org	440-235-5550	
KB	Kathleen Bradley	Citizen Representative	Kjb8@juno.com	440-582-1329	
	David Cass	City of Middleburg Heights		440-234-2216	440-234-9093
	Donna Childs	Cuyahoga County Board of Health	dchilds@ccbh.net	216-201-2001 x 1249	216-676-1317
MD	Mike Durkalec	Cleveland Metroparks	md@clevelandmetroparks.com	216-701-7634	
EE	Elva Edger	League of Women Voters	Edger17e@yahoo.com	440-826-0157	
IH	Ivan Hack	Cuyahoga Farm Bureau		440-237-4978	440-582-1784
SH	Steve Hambley	Medina County	StephenHambley@adelphia.net	330-722-9211	330-722-9206
	Keith Kessler	Cleveland Metroparks	kdk@clevelandmetroparks.com	440-333-0788	
	Mark Kolesar	City of Medina	zoolesar@yahoo.com	330-725-6993	
TM	Terri Martincic	Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society	naturenut@wowway.com	440-759-8220	
	John Miller	Baldwin Wallace College	jmiller@bw.edu	440-234-8470	
	George Remias	Citizen Representative	remiasgr@cdm.com	440-409-0019	
	John Watkins	Medina County SWCD	jwatkins@medinaco.org	330-722-2628 x 3	
LW	Lisa White (VAVRO)	Cuyahoga SWCD	lwhite@cuyahogaswcd.org	216-524-6580	216-524-6584
	ANDY UIDRA	NOACA	AUIDRA@MPO.NOACA.ORG	216-241-2414 x 254	216-621-3260

6. How Can You Help?

- **Provide a Letter of Endorsement of WAP (Become a Partner of the RRWC).**
- **Participate in RRWC PIPE events and coordinate local events with RRWC.**
- **Expedite Implementation of NPDES Phase II Storm Water Requirements.**

6. How Can You Help?

- **Participate with partners, including the RRWC, on policy discussions that affect the watershed:**
 - **Low Impact Design.**
 - **Riparian and Wetland Setback and related ordinances.**
 - **Balanced Growth Initiative.**

6. How Can We Help?

- **Provide education to local officials and the electorate to understand sustainability, which includes economic benefits.**
- **Recognize your community's achievements in watershed protection.**

6. How Can We Help?

- **Assist with local PIPE event opportunities:**
 - **Provide watershed identification signage (new idea)**
 - **Stream cleanups**
 - **Stream hikes**
 - **Streamside plantings**
- **Provide watershed-wide PIPE opportunities:**
 - **Watershed festival**
 - **Educational materials**

6. How Can We Help?

- **Sponsor the policy discussions with partners that affect the watershed.**
- **Assist with locating funding and technical assistance for projects (e.g., stream restoration, riparian protection).**

6. How Can We Help?

- **Assist with advocating watershed protection related policies:**
 - **Riparian setback ordinance**
 - **Low-impact design**
 - **Balanced growth initiatives**

• Next Steps for RRWC Road Show Meeting Attendees

- **Develop the Presentation Slides (around the Core message)**
 - **Collect Photos:**
 - **NOACA (photos not organized)**
 - **CCBH (some organized by tributary)**
 - **John Miller, Sharon (TBD)**
 - **Review Photos**
 - **Select Photos for Presentation**
 - **Develop Introduction**
 - **Develop Ending**
 - **Practice Giving the Presentation**
 - **Schedule the Meetings**