

RRWC Board Meeting Summary (March 15, 2007)

Board Roll Call: George Remias, Mike Durkalec, Donna Childs, Jim Kamps, David Cass, Elva Edger, Mark Kolesar, John Miller, Dan Miltner, and Tom Romito were present. (Jared Bartley, Chris Bunch, and Andy Vidra also attended.)

Treasurer's Report : Presently, the RRWC's money is being held by Medina SWCD, with \$898 (and change) earmarked for the Watershed Festival, and \$775 described as "Trust Fund". No one present knew why there were two separate funds.

Watershed Festival: The Board decided to move forward with a Watershed Festival scheduled for September 29th, 2007 at the Rocky River Nature Center, although there was much discussion about details. Donna Childs will call Keith Kessler to schedule a festival sub-committee meeting, and e-mail all Board members with the date. Donna will also draft a letter (for George Remias' signature) to Lane Kessler's employer requesting support for her RRWC Board activities.

Development Committee Report: (Tom Romito, Chair) is seeking grant money to help fund the Watershed Festival. The committee is also looking for a volunteer to chair a membership sub-committee. Discussion ensued about whether or not to charge dues, and what benefits the RRWC can provide to members/donors. Some Board members suggested approaching municipalities in the watershed about providing donations to the RRWC. The personnel responsible for managing municipal stormwater programs were deemed the most logical contact people for this purpose. (Andy Vidra can supply the RRWC with a list of stormwater managers in the watershed cities.) Dan Miltner stressed the importance of obtaining 501-C-3 status before soliciting donors. George Remias said that Mike McNutt is currently waiting for IRS review of his 501-C-3 application for Tinkers Creek Watershed Partners. If this application approval goes smoothly, Mike will do the same for the Rocky River Watershed Council. The Board voted that Mike McNutt should go ahead and submit a 501-C-3 application for the RRWC now, rather than wait.

Conservation Committee Report: (Mike Durkalec, Chair) wants to coordinate RRWC conservation projects with efforts being led by other agencies, but also thinks the RRWC should have at least one annual project of our own, possibly a tree planting project this summer. Mike also wants to organize a river clean-up event to coincide with a National River Clean-up week. He will confirm a date (probably in early June).

Public Education Committee Report: (John Miller, Chair) intends to introduce the RRWC to City Council members in watershed communities in "ten minutes or less". Their presentation will concentrate on three points: 1) Explanation of the watershed concept; 2) Explanation of the RRWC; and 3) Explain what the RRWC can do for the municipality. This third point still needs clarification. In addition to the City Council pitch, this committee is working on a presentation for general audiences (mainly through Miles Reed) which they hope to air on local free cable stations.

Public Involvement Committee (Ivan Hack): No report due to Ivan's absence.

Rocky River Watershed Coordinator's Annual Plan (Jared Bartley): Jared plans to coordinate and develop projects to satisfy the requirements of the Rocky River Watershed Action Plan. His goals include reducing nitrogen loads in the east branch of the Rocky River by increasing/protecting 100 acres of riparian buffers; installing 500 feet of stream restoration; and replacing failing household sewage treatment systems (HSTS). Specific projects to accomplish these goals are yet to be determined.

Western Reserve Land Conservancy (Chris Bunch): The WRLC is the result of a merger between several local land conservancies in a 14 county area. Their focus in the Rocky River watershed includes coordinating with the goals of the Balanced Growth Initiative to acquire properties bordering the West Branch (just north of the City of Medina), and also the acquisition of land in the area surrounding Cleveland Metroparks' Hinckley Reservation on the East Branch.

NEXT RRWC MEETING: 7 P.M.; APRIL 26, 2007 @ MEDINA CITY HALL