

**Middle Cuyahoga Watershed  
January 21, 2010**

**Summary and thoughts on the meeting**

**Partner Activities**

**Public Outreach**

**Progress on the WAP**

**The “Gorgeous” Gorge/Glens Park**

**Funding/other opportunities (Volunteers, Interns, Tree-planting, Comments sought)**

This month I’m trying an approach that may be more efficient. Rather than type everything into an e-mail, I’ll send it as an attachment and also see if we can get it on the website as well.

**January 21 Joint Meeting with Summit PIPE: Green Infrastructure**

This month’s meeting was held jointly with the Summit County Storm water Public Information/Public Education group. Tom Evans and Jay Mosley from URS gave a great presentation on green infrastructure and how it can help communities address flooding and water quality problems. There were many good examples:

- Green streets, where rain gardens are installed on top of existing storm drains to intercept most of the storm water. In one example (Ohio Pyle, PA) the parking lane will be retrofitted with pervious pavement.
- Green roofs, which can substantially reduce the amount of water coming off a site.
- Use of rain gardens and storm water wetlands to treat storm water from new developments or existing campuses. These features are very attractive, as well.
- Restoring floodplain along a section of creek where flooding was a real problem for landowners. In the example, which was somewhat high in the watershed, the neighbors donated 20-30 feet each of easement along their back yard, and the resulting floodplain restoration reduced the flood levels by 2 feet, removing most of the neighbors from the flood zone altogether!
- Use of vacant parcels in Cuyahoga Falls as a rain garden, which has reduced flooding problems for neighbors.
- Green infrastructure can be such a powerful tool that some communities are using it to reduce combined sewer overflow and infiltration problems, in a way that is attractive and improves the appearance of the communities.

Tom pointed out that many of these began in response to flooding problems but address water quality as well. He noted that there are funding sources that can help get these installed because of their water quality benefits, and that if you need to replace a roof or parking lot anyway, why not improve water quality, reduce flooding, and perhaps get some funding to help with the expense? Tom has offered that URS staff are happy to come out and brainstorm with communities to help define potential solutions and even identify (or apply for) potential funding sources.

**Partner Activities:**

- The City of Cuyahoga Falls is expressing interest in targeting Kelsey Creek and its watershed for restoration, improvements, using this year to define the priorities. Sounds like it’ll fit in with the WAP process perfectly! It offers a good opportunity – there are several City parks along the creek, providing good locations for projects and public education. Kelsey Creek through Kennedy Park is incised, and the older suburban

watershed provides an interesting opportunity to consider green infrastructure. The City expects to be working with Summit County, Summit SWCD, and surrounding communities to see what projects/improvements could be undertaken over the next few years. Could trails and greenways be brought into it also? There are funding sources that can help a lot.

- The City of Kent is removing the Plum Creek dam in early spring and will restore the stream using natural channel design. This will restore flow to a nice creek that still has many natural segments. It'll be an interesting project to watch.
- The City of Kent is also installing a dozen signs along the bike-hike path, several of which will focus on watershed issues. The story that will be told by the signs include natural history, cultural history (and pre-history), tied together by water. It looks like a nice addition to the trail system.
- I've had some interesting discussions with the Kent State University biology department faculty concerning nutrients in watershed lakes and streams and the effectiveness of restoration measures in nutrient treatment. These are some of the areas of interest for research, etc., there. Some of the faculty and students at the University of Akron are working with watershed modeling (using BASINS and other programs), monitoring water supply tributaries, and the flow routing aspects of streams. It sounds like there's potential for collaboration with watershed partners in some of these areas.
- Portage County is considering installing a bioswale into the parking lot at Regional Planning.
- The City of Ravenna is investigating riparian setbacks.
- At the Portage Storm Water Task Force meeting in December, we had a great discussion on the value of riparian (and wetland) setbacks. I'd love to continue this one!

Great Work! If anyone is interested or can offer suggestions, let me know, and I'll be happy to put you in touch with the people in charge of these projects.

Also, if any communities want to follow the lead of CF and start thinking about a tributary or topic focus (e.g., green infrastructure, septic systems, agricultural practices, land use), please let me know. We can start targeting subwatersheds/topics as we get comfortable with what's needed, we can start thinking about how to start working on these focal areas this year (or next), and then identify some specific tasks to implement. We want to end the year with a to-do list to carry out over the next few years to get us started. Tom Evans (URS) has offered assistance in brainstorming and has noted there are various funding sources. I'll bet we can also find others willing to help out, as well. It would be great in the next couple of years to get the right handful of people throughout the watershed saying, "Let's get it started."

### **Public Outreach**

- It's not too early to start thinking about Earth Day and River Day activities.
- Dave Herpy, Kent State University Adventure Center, has signed up to lead another kayak clean-up in late September during National Public Lands Day.
- I still like to be invited to communities and groups. (Have powerpoint, will travel.) Some of you I'll be asking for an invite, so we can continue community discussions.

## **Progress on the WAP**

Having run into and overcome some mapping snags, I'm back to finishing some text for editing. I hope to send out some sections in February for review.

We've been looking at hydrology and wetlands – I anticipate we can wrap up looking at the basic hydrology, morphology, riparian corridors in February and then start thinking about specific problems/issues/concerns/opportunities perhaps in March.

## **The “Gorgeous” Gorge/Glens Park**

I've mentioned once or twice, and it was mentioned at the end of the Summit PIPE meeting: The City of Cuyahoga Falls has installed a boardwalk into the Cuyahoga River Gorge on Front Street south of Broad St./the Sheraton. It is easily accessible off Route 8. There is on-street parking, and an arched gateway that says “Glens Park.” This view defines “gorgeous” – a short walk takes you below towering cliffs and puts you above the rushing waters of the rapids. During the winter, the icicles decorate the cliffs. This is a unique view to a hidden secret of our river, and it is a wonderful example of how communities are returning to the river as an attraction, a center of activity. It's definitely worth stopping by if you are in the area.

## **Volunteers/Interns, Funding, and Other Opportunities**

### **Interns:**

It's not too early to start thinking about summer! We have some great opportunities to get assistance and help out future environmental professionals through our local universities. Kent State Biology Department professors have already asked if I could put the word out seeking internships. I have not heard a similar request from University of Akron yet, but it's always worth considering. Students would prefer paid internships but many still appreciate unpaid opportunities to work in their chosen field. At Kent State, please contact Laura Leff, Assistant Chair of the Dept. of Biological Sciences, [lleff@kent.edu](mailto:lleff@kent.edu), and she'll forward your information to the appropriate groups.

## **Activities involving Student volunteers from Kent State Stark: Spring/summer 2010**

**To:** Eric Akin

**Subject:** Re: Kent Stark Students

Hi Eric,

I talked to Penny and she wanted to know if you want to have more meetings at the campus. She needs to make arrangements if you are interested. She may have already emailed you about it.

I would like to know what activities you will be doing during the spring semester so I can determine if there is enough activity to justify allowing my students to participate in Watershed activities instead of writing a paper. I will have the same situation on a smaller, shorter scale in the summer 5 week session. **I would like to let my students know next week (Jan 25-29) if there will be an alternate assignment.**

If I decide to allow the alternate assignment, I would like the students to attend 2 watershed partnership meetings and participate in 2 activities - preferably 1 service type activity (cleanup, tree planting, invasive control, etc.) and one organizational activity (letters of support for a

watershed project they have learned about, writing to politicians, attending a public meeting about a water quality issue, etc.) or educational activity (demonstration or training).

Do you have enough on your schedule to put up to 100 students to work? I will attend any of the functions the students sign up for to oversee them as long as it doesn't conflict with my teaching schedule. It would be great if we could make arrangements to have OEPA do a electroshocking demonstration in the pond on campus. My OEPA contacts are all in SE Ohio and I'm new at Stark so I'm not sure what types of permission I would need but maybe we could work on this together if you have time. I would also like to arrange QHEI demonstrations but I'm not sure if we have the proper access to streams here on campus. Could you also forward this to Maia in case any of the students prefer to participate in the Cuyahoga River Watershed activities? I met Maia at the River Day Festival in Munroe Falls last year, but I'm not sure if she will remember me.

PS. Does your watershed group participate in the Ohio River Sweep sponsored by ORSANCO?

Jacki

### **Tree-planting:**

Don't forget Best Sand in Chardon – they plant thousands of seedlings – native species – each year. I've got contact info.

### **Grants:**

Here are a few grant opportunities that have come across my desk. The SWIF grants will be very competitive, but someone will be successful. The small erosion control grants could be great for some BMPs.

### **Great Lakes Funding – due January 29**

Here are two of the brief e-mails listing where responses to questions may be found and giving information and links to the program.

GreatLakesNews

Due Date for Submissions: Proposals must be received by EPA by noon Central standard time on January 29, 2010.

<http://epa.gov/greatlakes/fund/2010rfp01/index.html>

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: RFP Submission

<http://greatlakesrestoration.us/login.php>

General Instructions for uploading files:

Please make sure to keep the file size at or below 10 MB

Please make sure to not use any special characters in your file name (e.g. no commas, apostrophes or special characters) If you have to upload multiple files for the same category, please merge them as one file and upload.

View an instructional video of the proposal submission process:

<http://greatlakesrestoration.us/?p=384>

[http://epa.gov/greatlakes/live/glri\\_submit/index.html](http://epa.gov/greatlakes/live/glri_submit/index.html)

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Pranas Pranckevicius, CISSP U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes  
National Program Office 77 West Jackson Blvd. G-17J Chicago, IL 60604-3590  
pranckevicius.pranas@epa.gov 312 353-3437 Tel 312 385-5446 Fax  
[www.epa.gov/greatlakes](http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes)

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More of your questions about the Great Lakes Restoration Request for  
Proposals have been answered -  
[http://epa.gov/greatlakes/fund/2010rfp01/2010rfp01\\_qa.html](http://epa.gov/greatlakes/fund/2010rfp01/2010rfp01_qa.html)

Significant clarifications included in this posting include:  
- EPA will respond to any questions received through January 21, 2010. EPA  
cannot guarantee that it will respond to any questions received after January  
21, 2010.  
- Clarification that activities in support of land acquisition would only be  
eligible if and to the extent the overall purpose of the proposed project met  
the requirements for a program activity under the Request for Proposals.

Read all about the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Request for Proposals -  
<http://epa.gov/greatlakes/fund/2010rfp01/index.html>

Submit your proposals on-line at <http://greatlakesrestoration.us/login.php>

Proposals must be received by EPA by noon Central standard time on January 29,  
2010

**New One: River Network and MillerCoors Watershed Grant for Ag Projects – Due Feb 8,  
2010**

***River Network and MillerCoors to award \$50,000 in watershed protection grants-  
focused on agriculture/water***

River Network is partnering with MillerCoors to award \$50,000 in watershed protection  
grants!

Projects that are eligible for funding will be focused on agricultural and water issues.  
**This may include working with agriculture organizations, individual farmers, Soil  
& Water Conservation Districts or others involved with the farming  
community.** Projects will be expected to provide long-term benefits to water quality,  
quantity and/or public education. Funds are available for projects currently underway.  
There are no geographic restrictions.

This is a contest program with direct public involvement deciding final awardees.

From the pool of submitted proposals, eight finalists will be chosen by committee. The eight chosen proposals will be posted on River Network's website, and the public encouraged to vote for their favorite project.

The top vote-getting proposal will receive \$25,000.  
The 2nd place vote-recipient will receive \$15,000.  
The 3rd place vote recipient will receive \$5,000.  
The 4th - 8th vote-recipients will each receive \$1,000.

## Timeline

February 8, 2010

\* Proposals Due by 5:00 PM Pacific Time

February 18, 2010

\* Finalists notified

February 22, 2010

\* Online voting begins

March 19, 2010

\* Online voting ends 5:00 PM Pacific Time

March 24, 2010

\* Awardees Announced

April 2010 - December 2010

\* Projects implemented

For more information and to download the Request for Proposals, visit

<http://www.rivernetwork.org/news/rivernetwork-millercoors-50000grantsRFP-2010>

## **2 Great Lakes Basin Program Grants, due March:**

Dear [Keeping It On the Land](#) subscribers:

Tim Eder, Executive Director of the Great Lakes Commission, has just [announced the new 2010 Request for Proposals](#) for **Watershed-size erosion and sediment reduction** projects under the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. (<http://glc.org/basin/apps/announcelatter.pdf>) Up to \$800,000 per project will be available to state and local agencies and organizations to implement soil erosion and sediment control practices in priority watersheds.

The Watershed Scale program, funded with Great Lakes Restoration Initiative money from USDA, offers four year grants of up to \$800,000 to provide technical assistance and implementation funds to watershed groups with plans to virtually eliminate erosion and sedimentation in a sub-watershed area through soil conservation. The deadline for applications

to this program is **March 2, 2010**.

Please visit our website, <http://glc.org/basin/funding.html>, for more information and to apply.

Additionally, there is an RFP open for **Small Scale** projects.

Small Scale grants of up to \$30,000 per project will be awarded by the Great Lakes Basin Program to projects demonstrating best management practices for soil erosion and sediment control; and grants of up to \$10,000 are available for information/education projects. The application deadline for these grants is **March 16, 2010**.

Please visit our website, <http://glc.org/basin/reports/app10.html>, for more information and to apply.

Gary Overmier  
Senior Project Manager  
Great Lakes Commission  
2805 S. Industrial Hwy  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-971-9135

#### **SWIF Grants and Mini-grant for storm water training:**

Good Morning,

Please find attached information about three different grants. Dan Bogoevski asked me to send you the first two attachments with the following message.

*The Ohio EPA is pleased to announce the availability of grant monies through the Surface Water Improvement Fund. The grant can be used to fund the construction **of innovative storm water BMPs on public properties**. This would include low-impact and green infrastructure BMPs. Money is available for new construction or redevelopment projects such as retrofitting a street or parking lot with bioretention cells and sections of permeable pavement, converting an old detention basin designed for flood control into a stormwater wetland with extended detention, or installing a green roof on a city building. In addition to this statewide grant, there are additional monies available for projects located in Cuyahoga County. Do not pass up this opportunity to install BMPs that help you comply with your MS4 permit.*

*Thank you!!  
Dan*

The third attachment is from John Matthews and came with the following message.

*Please see the attached flyer for a grant opportunity that will support **local or regional stormwater training within the Lake Erie watershed** (in Ohio).*

*Grants are limited to **\$500 for a single entity or \$1500 for collaborating entities**. Apply by **February 12, 2010** and receive notification of awards by March 1. Funding is being provided through the Ohio Coastal Training Program with federal funds (NOAA) and support by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Divisions of Wildlife and Soil and Water Resources. Funds are limited and will be offered to applicants which best meet the grant guidelines and objectives.*

*This is a great opportunity, if you have training events that you've been planning. If you have any questions, please send me an email.*

*John Mathews  
Ohio Dept of Natural Resources - Division of Soil and Water Resources  
2045 Morse Road  
Building B-3  
Columbus, Ohio 43229*

*Phone 614-265-6685*

*Fax 614-262-2064*

*<<mailto:john.mathews@dnr.state.oh.us>> [john.mathews@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:john.mathews@dnr.state.oh.us)*

Hope you have a great day, Adrienne La Favre, OEPA, OCAPP

### **Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Due Feb 16**

GreatLakesNews

The NOAA Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program is soliciting applications for Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Projects under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

<http://greatlakesrestoration.us/?p=373>

Federal Register / Vol. 75, No. 11 / Tuesday, January 19, 2010 Funding Opportunity Number: NOAA-NMFS-HCPO-2010-2002236 The full announcement may be found at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) Applications must be postmarked, provided to a delivery service, or received by [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) by 11:59 PM EST on February 16, 2010.

NOAA seeks to support projects that will result in on-the-ground restoration of Great Lakes coastal habitat. Projects must be within the Great Lakes basin.

Priority consideration will be provided to those project proposals that:

- Work towards identified delisting targets for habitat-related Beneficial Use Impairments within Areas of Concern

(<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc/>) including loss of fish and wildlife populations, degradation of fish and wildlife habitat, and degradation of benthos;

- Restore coastal wetlands, through shoreline restoration or hydrological reconnection;

- Seek to address the problem of marine debris accumulation in coastal habitats;

- Benefit native diadromous fish and their habitat, particularly projects that remove in-stream migration barriers or create/restore habitats limiting productivity;

- Identify the project as a regional/local priority based on specific recovery planning goals or on publicly vetted restoration plans, watershed assessments, or other priority setting planning documents such as the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy with appropriate ecological performance metrics and measures;

- Can be completed within 18-24 months;

- Propose sufficient, cost-effective monitoring appropriate to the scope and scale of the project to evaluate a project's benefits;

- Request funds primarily to implement physical, on-the-ground coastal habitat restoration (as opposed to funds for land acquisition, general program support, overhead and travel).

Applications selected for funding through this solicitation will be implemented through a grant or cooperative agreement, with awards dependent upon the amount of funds made available to NOAA for this purpose by the Environmental Protection Agency. NOAA anticipates up to \$10 million may be available for Great Lakes coastal habitat restoration; typical awards are expected to range between \$1 million to \$1.5 million. Funds will be administered by NOAA's Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program (GLHRP).

For additional information please contact: Jenni.Wallace@noaa.gov or Terry.Heatlie@noaa.gov

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### **The January 8, 2010 version of the Interagency Funding Guide is now available.**

Note:

The January 6, 2010 version of the funding guide contained inaccuracies which have been corrected in the January 8, 2010 version which is now available

<http://greatlakesrestoration.us/action/?p=161>

We're sorry for the inconvenience.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative's Interagency Funding Guide provides one-stop-shopping for applicants interested in applying for over \$250 million in grants and project agreements available through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. These grants and project agreements are intended to jump-start achievement of the Initiative's long term goals: safely eating the fish and swimming at our beaches, assuring safe drinking water, and providing a healthy ecosystem for fish and wildlife. The Interagency Funding Guide also includes status information on offerings which are open (offerings from EPA and Fish and Wildlife) and those which have closed (offerings from NOAA and through Sustain Our Great Lakes).

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### **Opportunities to Comment**

#### **Opportunity to Comment on Storm water Rules:**

Update on Conference Line and Webcast for EPA's Listening Sessions on Proposed Stormwater Rulemaking

EPA has announced plans to initiate national rulemaking to strengthen its stormwater program. In order to seek stakeholder input to help EPA shape this proposed rule, EPA will be holding a

series of public listening sessions the last two weeks of January. Specific information, including locations and dates, is available in a Federal Register Notice available at [www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/rulemaking](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/rulemaking). For individuals who cannot attend a specific listening session, EPA will make a "listen only" conference call line available. Please contact Amber Marriott ([amber.marriott@tetrattech.com](mailto:amber.marriott@tetrattech.com)) for the conference call information.

EPA is also announcing a webcast as a virtual listening session on February 3, 2010 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm Eastern time. This webcast will be similar to the five listening sessions, and is intended for anyone who cannot participate in the on-site listening sessions. Registration information for the listening sessions and webcast is available at [www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/rulemaking](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/rulemaking).

Written comments must be submitted on or before February 26, 2010 to the address specified in the Federal Register notice.

What to expect:

EPA will give a brief presentation at the beginning of each listening session, but the intent of these listening sessions is to receive feedback from the public. The focus of the listening sessions is on the following preliminary rulemaking considerations as described in the Federal Register Notice:

- Redefine the area subject to federal stormwater regulations
- Establish specific requirements to control stormwater discharges from new development and redevelopment
- Develop a single set of consistent stormwater requirements for all MS4s
- Require MS4s to address stormwater discharges in areas of existing development through retrofitting the sewer system or drainage area with improved stormwater control measures
- Explore specific stormwater provisions to protect sensitive areas

Please note that these listening sessions are not intended to solicit comments on the recently finalized Construction and Development Effluent Limitation Guidelines (<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/guide/construction/>) nor the Construction General Permit (<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/cgp.cfm#final2008cgp>).

We look forward to receiving your comments. A factsheet on the listening sessions is available at [www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/rulemaking](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/rulemaking).

### **Accepting Comments on Great Lakes Governance**

GreatLakesNews

Comments are now being accepted by the Canadian and United States Governments on Governance issues as input to the binational negotiations to amend the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA).

In addition to the comments already provided through the 2006-7 Review of the GLWQA, we invite you to provide new ideas or suggestions concerning the issue of Governance within the context of binational cooperation in the Great Lakes basin. If you would like to provide additional input, please submit your comments in writing using the

comment feature at [http://binational.net/glwqa\\_2010\\_e.html](http://binational.net/glwqa_2010_e.html)

If you are unfamiliar with the findings and recommendations of the 2006-7 Review process, we encourage you to consult the key reference reports online at [http://binational.net/glwqa\\_2007\\_e.html](http://binational.net/glwqa_2007_e.html).

Additional comments on Governance are due no later than February 14, 2010

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