

**Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners
Meeting Summary
July 20, 2004**

I. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting Attendees: Eric Akin- NEFCO; Jan Lukens – Farmers & Marlboro Township; Pam Feagler – Earth Action Partnership; Rebecca Haymond - Court of Common Pleas; Ray Shanabrunch - Building Industry Association; Sandy Humphrey - Citizen; Todd Paulus - Stark County Health Department.

II. Nimishillen Creek LEAP

- The Core Committee reviewed the progress of planning for the Creek clean-up on September 18 to be held at Thurman Munson Memorial Stadium and Esmont Park.
- Eric said that we have 2 first aid kits, 2 50 ft. sections of rope, 8 hard rakes, 4 shovels, 4 pairs of waders, hand sanitizer, and used work gloves from last year's event. He said that he has posted the event information on their website (http://www.uptuscwatershed.org/LEAP_2004.htm).
- The group said the following things were still needed: Signs for the day of the event, name tags, tables (rent), new work gloves (~50 pairs), additional wader (4), disposable waterproof cameras (2 or 3), industrial garbage bags (Canton Chamber of Commerce), dumpsters, food (Subway), drinks (Lion's Club), wheel barrels (Eric and Pam will bring), and pickup hooks (4).
- Eric and Sandy said they would update last years flyers and get them out to the Committee and other individuals to post. Possible locations to post the flyer include libraries, local stores, restaurant, outdoor sports stores / outfitters, bicycle shops, gas stations, churches, high schools, and canoe liveries.
- Ray said he thought that we might attract more groups to the Creek LEAP if we offered separate clean-up areas limited to one group. That is, organizations that already have a community service-type program could be included in the clean-up, yet have their own area just for their people. Eric said he would identify a couple of areas near the main clean-up site for this purpose in case it is needed. Eric asked to the rest of the Core Committee members to think of groups that might be interested in a program like this.
- Eric said he would work on a press release and mail it to all the local newspapers about 2 or 3 weeks prior to the event. Other publications that could promote the clean-up include SWCD Newsletter, Mr. Thrifty, Farm and Dairy, Stark Parks website, health departments, and Chamber of Commerce (Keep Canton Clean Program). Sandy said she would post the event information on the Canton Repository's community calendar section.
- The Committee plans on again handing out educational packets to all volunteers. We will plan on producing 50 packets again this year. Possible sources of educational information: NEFCO, Ohio Environmental Council, Nature Conservancy, Health Department, Stark Parks, Keep Canton Clean, Stark County Drainage Task Force, SWCD/NRCS, Canton's WPCC, and OSU Extension. Members were asked to start

gathering information for the packets.

- The Core Committee agreed to pursue adding interactive educational activities after the event for the volunteers. Eric said he would contact Ohio EPA to see if they would like to demonstrate fish sampling, Pam said she would contact Stark Parks about various demonstration projects including the storm water table. Eric also said he could do a macroinvertebrate sampling demonstration. Other ideas included a demonstration project showing the leachate from cigarette butts.
- Eric also said that due to generous support and sponsorship of the last two Creek LEAPs, there is some money to purchase a "Thank You" gift for the volunteers that would also double as a promotion for the Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners and the Creek LEAP. The Group decided to look into the cost of purchasing either T-shirts or coffee mugs for the volunteers.

III. Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners Meeting & Elections

- The Core Committee decided to hold the new Core Committee elections on the evening of Tuesday, September 28, 2004. All were in agreement that it should be an evening meeting. Committee members will look into possible meeting locations including areas in Canton and North Canton.
- The Core Committee started a list of possible candidates to serve on the Core Committee. The list includes:

Residents: Sandy Humphreys, Dean England, and Jan Lukens

Non-Residents: Ray Shanabrunch - BIA; Darrin Petkco - Stark Parks; Tracy Mills - Canton WPC; Brian Klink - Hoover; Todd Paulus - Stark County Health Department; Pam Feagler - Earth Action Partnership; Conrad Moeller - Sanitary Engineer; and Mike Miller - City of North Canton.

- The members agreed to inquire to see if other residents and agency / organization employees would be interested in serving on the Core Committee
- The Core Committee lastly discussed the possible need to switch Core Committee meetings to the evening in order to attract more resident members. Todd Paulus said maybe we should consider rotating the meetings between afternoon and evenings in order to serve both residents and agency people. The members agreed to continue this discussion at the next meeting.

IV. Next Meeting Date and Adjourn

- The next meeting was set for Tuesday, August 17 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Canton Water Pollution Control Center. The primary topic for this meeting will be finalizing plans for the Creek LEAP and the Election Meeting, both to be held in September.