

**Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners  
Meeting Summary  
June 29, 2004**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Meeting Attendees: Eric Akin- NEFCO; Michael Miller – City of North Canton; Jan Lukens – Farmers & Marlboro Township; Darrin Petko – Stark County Parks; Pam Feagler – Earth Action Partnership; Joe Underwood – Stark County Regional Planning; Conrad Moeller – Star County Sanitary Engineers Department; Tracy Mills – City of Canton; Brian Klink – Hoover Company; and Mark Bergman – Ohio EPA

**II. Nimishillen Watershed Partners Overview**

- Eric Akin presented brief history of Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners (NCWP), its structure, goals, and accomplishments.
- NCWP accomplishments to date included: 3 public meetings, 2 Nimishillen Creek Clean-ups, and 2 grant proposals submitted to Ohio EPA

**III. Bylaws Summary**

- Eric Akin gave a brief summary on the need for bylaws and some of the key sections in the bylaws. Eric said this is the next logical step in the evolution of the Watershed Partners.
- Bylaw highlights include: A 15 member Core Committee to direct the Partners actions; a watershed resident must serve as the Core Committee Chair; Core Committee members are elected to 4 year terms; Officers include a Chairperson, Vice-Chair, and Secretary; Officers are elected to 2 year terms; and a majority vote of the Core Committee is required to pass all motions.

**IV. Bylaws Work Session**

- No changes or additions were discussed. The bylaws remained unchanged from when they were mailed out to the Watershed Partners in draft form.
- The attendees set a date of September 27, 2004 to elect the first officers and Core Committee member of NCWP. The meeting will be held in the evening to encourage greater participation from watershed residents. The location of the meeting is still to be determined.

**V. Voting**

- Joe Underwood moved to adopt the bylaws without modifications at this time. Motion seconded by Tracy Mills, approved by unanimous vote.

**VI. Nimishillen Creek LEAP**

- Location of clean-up will be conducted at Thurman Munson Stadium and Esmont Park on Mill Ave as was done last year. Logistics have been worked out, all we need are possible sponsors and donations of tools. Eric invited additional clean-up sites if anyone knows of some. Louisville and North Canton are possible sites.

- The next meeting will primarily focus on the Creek LEAP. Items that still need to be finalized include dumpsters, promotion of the event, volunteer recruitment, and education materials and demonstrations. Eric said he would contact Ohio EPA and see if he could schedule a fish shocking demonstration. Another possible educational activity is macroinvertebrate sampling.

#### **Miscellaneous Discussion:**

**Nimishillen Creek Watershed Plan:** Eric has received comments from the Ohio EPA and Ohio Department of Natural Resources review of the watershed plan. He is revising the plan and changing some of the format according to their comments. He plans to have the revision complete before the end of August. Newly elected NCWP officers and Core Committee will review the revised plan by late fall so Eric can re-submit it to the EPA in time for the next Section 319 grant cycle.

**Nimishillen Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Study:** The Ohio EPA is again stalled on conducting water sampling for TMDL data due to excessive high water and flooding in Stark County. The only way to have the TMDL completed this summer is if we enter a dry spell and the creeks stay at a normal to low flows for an extended period. If we do not get EPA TMDL data for the 319 Grant, Tom Holmes will work with Eric to estimate reduction numbers for water quality goals.

**Ohio EPA Section 319 Grants:** Mark Bergman said that any management practice that is part of an NPDES Storm Water Phase II Plan does not qualify for Section 319 Grant funding. Eric called for 319 project ideas from communities for the Jan/Feb 2005 grant cycle.

319 Grant requires either a TMDL report or a completed watershed plan to be eligible for funding. If our plan is approved we would become eligible for funding despite the delay in the TMDL report.

Other funding options are available if we do not qualify for 319 next year. The Watershed Action Plan outlines activities and possible funding options for each.

**Obtaining Nimishillen Creek Watershed Information:** The web address for the NCWP is [www.uptuswatershed.org/nimishillen\\_partners.html](http://www.uptuswatershed.org/nimishillen_partners.html). EPA reports and the watershed plan are linked to the web site

**Questions:** Brian Klink suggested we look at other watershed groups to model our program after. Eric indicated we are already looking at other groups for what does and doesn't work. Our new bylaws were pulled from existing groups and tailored to fit our local needs.

Question was asked how the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) could help our local efforts. Eric answered that MWCD is currently reviewing a plan to assess a fee for landowners in the watershed. The funds collected would be used to maintain the dams and reservoirs, but some funding may become available to headwater locations for projects that eliminate sediment and pollution from creeks before the water reaches the reservoirs.

Concern was also expressed that water quality issues be as important as water quantity when dealing with storm water run-off.

**VII. Next Meeting Date and Adjourn**

- The next Core Committee meeting was set **July 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Canton Water Pollution Control Center.**
  
- Meeting adjourned.