

**Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners  
Core Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, May 11, 2004**

**Meeting Summary**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

**Meeting Attendees:** Eric Akin - NEFCO; Gary Zink - Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce; Pam Feagler - Earth Action Partnership; Ray Shanabruch - BIA Stark County; Todd Paulus - Stark County Health Department; Tracy Mills - City of Canton WPCC; and Sandy Humphrey - Citizen.

**II. Nimishillen Creek LEAP**

- Gary Zinc from the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce's Keep Canton Clean Committee attended to talk about possibly combining the efforts of our two groups. He said that their committee organizes three clean-up events around Canton every year. He said the difficult part of organizing their clean-ups is recruiting volunteers, but they have had success working with existing groups like the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, area business, and neighborhood groups. He invited all of our Committee members to their next meeting on June 1 at 8:30 am at the Chamber offices. Eric and Pam said that they would attend the meeting.
- The Committee set the date for the next Nimishillen Creek LEAP for Saturday, September 18 at the same location (Thurman Munson Stadium & Esmont Park) as last year's event. The Committee believed there was plenty of trash remaining to be cleaned up, including litter in the stream and along the banks on the opposite side of the stadium. Neither of those areas was touched at last year event.
- The Committee decided to incorporate education and demonstration activities at this year's event. Suggested activities included fish shocking by Ohio EPA, macroinvertebrate (bug) sampling, and a poster contest. Eric said he would contact Ohio EPA about a possible fish shocking demonstration and he could do a macroinvertebrate sampling demonstration.
- Eric emphasized that the Watershed Partners can have a Creek LEAP anywhere in the watershed, but Canton has been an ideal location because of the City's support of the event and public access to stream.
- The Committee decided to start compiling a list of possible groups who can help out with the clean-up. Eric asked to members to either contact the groups themselves or bring the name to the next meeting so another member could call them.

**III. Organizational Structure**

- The Core Committee members went over and changed (where needed) the Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners draft bylaws. A copy of the draft bylaws has been attached. Basically, the bylaws state that the maximum number of Core Committee members is 15 with at least 5 members representing the residential sector, 5 members representing the non-

residential sector, and 5 members representing either sector.

- The officers of the Watershed Partners will consist of a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. All officers will serve two-year terms.
- **Please note:** Three sections (2.6, 5.3, 6.5, & 6.6) were added to the bylaws after the meeting. Section 2.6 addresses the term length for elected Core Committee members, and Section 5.3 sets a minimum number of meetings per year for the Core Committee. Section 6.5 deals with the removal of an officer or Core Committee members, and Section 6.6 allows for the resignation of an officer or Core Committee member. **Please review these sections and provide feedback because they can be changed if needed.**
- The attendees decided to vote on the bylaws at our next meeting on **June 29 at the Canton Water Pollution Control Center from 2:00 to 4:00 pm**. All the Watershed Partner members will be invited to this meeting. For those who can not attend, a mail-in vote on the bylaws will be accepted. NEFCO will send out a meeting announcement, a copy of the draft bylaws, and an absentee voting form to all the members by the first week of June.
- The Core Committee agreed only to pass the by-laws on June 29 and not elect the new Core Committee members or officers at that time. That will likely occur in the fall.

#### **IV. Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners Meeting**

- The next public meeting will be held on June 29 at the Canton Water Pollution Control Center from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at which time the members will discuss and vote on the bylaws.
- The Committee discussed making future public meetings more entertaining or less technical in order to appeal to all watershed residents. Some committee members thought the meeting last July was too technical for most people.
- The Core Committee decided to hold the elections for the Officers and the new Core Committee members in the fall after the Nimishillen Creek LEAP. This will give the Committee time to promote the meeting and identify potential Core Committee members. No specific date was set for these elections.

#### **V. Next Meeting Date and Adjourn**

- Next Meeting: June 29 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the Canton Water Pollution Control Center.