

Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners
Core Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 30, 2005
2:00 p.m.

Louisville City Hall
215 South Mill Street
Louisville, OH 44641

Meeting Summary

I. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting Attendees: Eric Akin – NEFCO; Ray Shanabruch – BIA Stark County; Todd Paulus – Stark County Health Department; Pam Feagler – Earth Action Partnership; Jan Lukens – Marlboro Township; Sandy Humphrey – Citizen; Dean England – Citizen; Debroah Sanborn and Tom Ault – City of Louisville

II. Nimishillen Creek LEAP

- **Location:** The primary clean-up location was determined to be along the East Branch from S.R. 44/Chapel Ave. to Main Street in the City of Louisville. The volunteers will start at opposite ends of the creek and work towards a meeting point in the middle.

- **Event Plan:** The start time was moved from 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. because there is always a delay in starting due to volunteers filling out waiver forms. Volunteers will meet at the Constitution Center on Main St. to sign up, pick up equipment, receive instructions, and disperse. Coffee and perhaps some breakfast food will be available for the volunteers. Local EMS and police will be notified by Louisville of the event. The dumpsters will be provided by the Joint Solid Waste District and will be located on Jude France's property adjacent to the stream. Eric Akin is handling the drop-off and pick-up of the dumpsters. The City of Louisville will contact local eateries to try to get lunch for the volunteers donated or provided at cost. Downed trees will be removed where possible, but not at the risk to the safety of any volunteers. Dean England will provide his front loader to aid in debris removal. Equipment to be purchased includes waders, rakes, garbage bags, 3-prong hooks, a first aid kit, and water for the volunteers. Anyone with a wheel barrel is asked to bring to help transport trash from the Creek to collection points. A free lunch will follow the event back at the Constitution Center.

- **Insurance:** Earth Action Partnership is going to provide insurance for the event. Earth Action Partnership will purchase a one day event policy to cover injuries or liabilities. Also, the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 covers individual volunteers from any liability issues related to the event. This has not been a problem in the past as there have been no injuries or property damage during the previous LEAPs, but a policy was needed

since the Natural Resources Conservation Service decide not to provide insurance for this year's clean-up.

- **Promotion:** Louisville plans to send out press releases to all the local news papers. NEFCO will mail-out information to previous clean-up participants and those that have attended Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners meetings. The mail-out will include event information and a flyer. NEFCO will also send out press-release to newspapers outside the Louisville area, since the event has attracted volunteers from as far away as Cleveland and Alliance. Information will also be sent to local high schools. An email announcement will be sent out by NEFCO to a statewide list server that reaches individuals interested in watershed issues. Lastly, committee members were asked to copy and post clean-up flyers at work and public places to promote the event.
- **Sponsors:** Marathon Petroleum Company is the primary sponsor of the event and part of its money will be used to secure insurance for the event. The Stark-Tusc.-Wayne Joint Solid Waste District will be covering the costs (up to \$800) for trash and tire removal. Stark Parks will have personnel at the event. City of Louisville is helping organize the event, providing a meeting location, securing food for lunch, and perhaps providing some personnel for the clean-up. Dean England is providing a front loader to help remove debris. K.W. Zellers and Sons and the Building Industry Association are also contributing money to help cover clean-up costs.
- **Education Materials and T-Shirts:** 50 education folders will be made for the volunteers. The packets will include information on the watershed partners, litter education, recycling, and other information related to the clean-up. Each volunteer will also receive a free T-shirt (up to 50) as a "thank you" gift.

III. Increasing Public Involvement

- **Update on Nimishillen Creek Flyer:** Pam Feagler distributed the final draft of the Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners flyer. After a few comments and corrections are made, Pam will make several copies and the Partners will begin distributing the flyer to watershed residents. They will also be included in the education packet to Creek LEAP volunteers and posted on the Partner's webpage.
- **Watershed Tour Update:** Eric Akin informed the group that a watershed tour would be eligible for an Ohio EPA Environmental Education Fund Grant. Unfortunately, the Partners just missed the deadline for submitting an application (July 1), so we will have to wait until January for the next round of grants.

V. Next Meeting Date and Adjourn

- The next meeting will be the Nimishillen Creek LEAP on Saturday, September 24 at the Louisville Constitution Center.