

**Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners
Core Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, January 11, 2005
2:00 p.m.

NEW LOCATION!!!

North Canton City Hall
145 N. Main Street
North Canton, OH 44720

Meeting Summary

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Meeting Attendees: Eric Akin - NEFCO, Sandra Humphrey - Nimishillen Twp. Citizen, Joe Underwood - Stark County RPC, Ray Shanabruch - Building Industry Association, Michael Miller - North Canton, Dean England - Marlboro Twp. Citizen, Jan Lukens - Marlboro Twp. Citizen

II. Nimishillen Creek Action Plan Update - Eric Akin

- Eric is in the middle of updating the Nimishillen Creek Watershed Action Plan because new requirements were added by Ohio EPA and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) since the completion of the original plan. He also indicated that he is updating sections with more up-to-date information
- An outline of the new plan was handed out and discussed. The major difference in the new format is that it will break out 6 subwatershed areas into separate action plan sections instead of lumping them all in section like in the current Action Plan format. That is each subwatershed will almost have a stand alone action plan from which to work.
- Eric handed out a map of the 6 subwatershed the action plan will use. The subwatershed are the Nimishillen Creek Mainstem, West Branch, Middle Branch, East Branch, Hurford Run, and Sherrick Run.
- He reminded the group that various funding sources are tied to the plan's endorsement by Ohio EPA and ODNR.
- A draft of the new revised plan should be ready for the groups review at the next meeting.

III. Strategic Planning - Group Discussion

- The Core Committee members were asked to come to the meeting with ideas about possible watershed improvement projects and/or possible funding sources for watershed projects.
- Mr. Miller said that there is a possible wetland restoration and storm water treatment project located at Strausser Park in North Canton. He said the area is located behind Windsor Medical Center and the problems occur during rain storms. When it rains the area drains poorly creating a swampy area in neighboring yards. The city owns a poorly functioning retention basin in the area that needs to be redesigned. He would like to see a retrofit of the area to

include a properly functioning retention basin and possibly a treatment wetland before the water is discharged the creek. Joe Underwood said he would look at the problem and do some preliminary design work. He will update the Committee on his progress at the next meeting. Eric mentioned that the more water quality improvement components that are incorporated into the design, the better the chances of the project receiving outside funding.

- Expansion of the Nimishillen Creek LEAP clean-ups was discussed. Several members thought that this was a very important event and the Core Committee should look to expand this activity. Others believed that one event a year is enough and we should focus our efforts on other worthy projects. Mr. Shanabruch and Mr. England volunteered to discuss with the County Commissioners of including funding for 3 to 5 Creek LEAPs in the annual county storm water/ditching program budget.
- Ms. Humphreys mentioned several education measures she would like to see implemented by the Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners. These included working with local school districts to include more water quality education into the curriculum. It was suggested that Stark Parks might be a good partner for this since they already have a education program and work with local school districts. Also mentioned was a vernal pool education workshop that the Ohio Environmental Council provides as another education option. Another possible education topic was holding a workshop for planners and construction firms on better site designs for water protection. It was suggested talking to the Soil and Water Conservation District about this option since they already work with construction companies on site design requirements. Ms. Humphrey said she would look into organizing a vernal pool monitoring program.
- Other ideas and project were discussed like conducting meetings on stream stewardship, tree dead fall removal, erosion control, and other topics. Eric mentioned that Stark Parks would like to get more citizens involved with removal of non-native, invasive plants from along the banks of Nimishillen Creek. However, the Committee decided to focus on the Strausser Park project, increasing the number of Creek LEAPs, and vernal pool training.

IV. Next Meeting Date and Adjourn

- The next meeting will be held on February 15, 2:00 p.m. at North Canton's City Hall and will include the following:
 - Review of the Nimishillen Creek Watershed Action Plan draft report.
 - Update on the Strausser Park project, expansion of the Nimishillen Creek LEAPs, and vernal pool training.
- Eric said he would send out a meeting notice and directions the first week in February.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Submitted by: Eric Akin, Secretary