

Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners
Core Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 19, 2005
2:00 p.m.

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

Meeting Summary

I. Welcome and Introductions

- **Meeting Attendees:** Eric Akin – NEFCO; Ray Shanabruch – BIA Stark County; Todd Paulus – Stark County Health Department; Darrin Petko – Stark Parks; Pam Feagler – Earth Action Partnership; Michael Miller – North Canton; Jan Lukens – Marlboro Township

II. Nimishillen Creek LEAP

- **Event Promotion:** Eric said that Louisville officials were excited about the Watershed Partners holding the 2005 Nimishillen Creek LEAP in their town. Eric volunteered to edit last year's flyers for this year's clean-up. The Core Committee agreed to start promoting the event approximately one month prior to the clean-up and to focus the promotional efforts in the Louisville area. Eric said Louisville included information about the event in its town flyer. NEFCO will send out press releases to all the local TV stations, radio stations, and newspapers. Pam Feagler volunteered to promote the event on local radio, if needed. The Committee decided to make an effort to contact local high schools to try to increase student turnout at this year's event. Eric said that he will be representing the Watershed Partners at the Stark County Health Department's exposition on Sept. 10 at "The Strip" and will promote the Creek LEAP.
- **Education Material:** Folders from last year's Creek LEAP were past around to meeting attendees to review and they agreed to continue distributing this type of information to volunteers. To Committee decided to make 50 folders for this year's LEAP, and Eric asked the group to start gathering educational materials to include in the folders. The folders will also have the new Watershed Partners' newsletter currently being produced by Pam with assistance from the Core Committee. The group also agreed to have T-shirts made for this year's clean-up, if the budget permits. Eric said that if T-shirts are made, then the reserve fund for the Creek LEAPs will likely be depleted leaving more money to raise for next year's event.

- **Insurance:** Eric said he is still looking into event insurance for the Creek LEAP. He wants to talk with Louisville to see if the event may be covered under their insurance policy. However, his contact person for the City is currently on vacation, but will be back at the end of the week. Pam said that she is looking for a new insurance provider for her organization and it might be able help out with events like this.

III. **Increasing Public Involvement**

- **Update on Nimishillen Creek Flyer:** Pam circulated a draft copy of the Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners flyer based on the articles submitted by members of the Core Committee. The flyer includes a map of Stark County's watersheds along with articles coving topics like watershed stewardship and flooding. Pam thought the flyer would be done in a few weeks. Additional information that the Committee agreed should be added to the flyer includes the watershed's area/size, population, and the amount of water discharging during flood events. Eric said that he will post the flyer on the website once it is completed. Pam also said that there is still some room for articles in this or future flyers, so she asked that the Core Committee keep submitting information to her. Lastly, the attendees created a list of possible topics for future Watershed Partners' flyers.
- **Watershed Tour:** Eric said that he and Todd discussed conducting a bus tour of watershed sites and projects for the Township Association or other elected officials. Todd contacted both the Township Association and RPC's zoning inspector's council about having the Watershed Partners speak at their regular meetings. At that time it was mentioned that the Township Association might be interested in a bus-type tour of the area. Todd did some preliminary investigations and said the costs would be minimal if we used SARTA buses. The group agreed to pursue funding for such an event. Eric said he would check with the Ohio EPA Environmental Education Fund to see if this type of event qualifies.

IV. **Watershed Projects - Update**

1. **Strausser Park:** Michael Miller said that the park project has had some problems west of Walsh Ave. and there is no new progress to report.
2. **Vernal Pool Monitoring Program:** The Core Committee decided to table this project until after the Creek LEAP. Darrin indicated that a monitoring program couldn't be started until next spring anyhow. The Committee agreed to review the program this winter.
3. **Other Updates:** Eric said the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District is proceeding with plans to enact an assessment for all parcels of

land within the Muskingum Basin. This includes the Tuscarawas River, Nimishillen Creek, Sugar Creek, and Sandy Creek watersheds. He said the assessment would go towards repairing flood control dams and reducing sediment entering their reservoirs. He said some of the assessment money would likely be used for sediment reduction projects in Stark County. Eric believed that the Conservancy District was planning on holding a meeting on Aug. 18th in Stark County, but he had not seen an official announcement. Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District is the only district out of the 21 in Ohio that does not have an assessment.

V. Next Meeting Date and Adjourn

- Eric said he would contact Louisville and see if they wanted to host the next Core Committee meeting in August since the entire meeting will focus on planning for the Nimishillen Creek LEAP. He said he would email everyone the date and location of the next meeting once determined.

- Meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.