

Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners
Core Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 14, 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; Dean England – Marlboro Twp. Citizen; Ray Shanabruch – BIA Stark County; Todd Paulus – Stark County Health Department

II. Nimishillen Creek LEAP

- **Clean-up Location:** Eric said that he had concerns with the initial location selected along Zimber Ditch by Whipple Ave. for the Creek LEAP because the area is on private property, the banks are very steep and vegetated, and the overall area is small for 40-60 volunteers to work. He said that he has looked at other possible sites and Louisville (East Branch) and the area adjacent to Canton's Water Pollution Control Center (Mainstem) are the two best alternative sites. The Committee members advised that he contact Louisville and gauge their interest in a clean-up. Dean asked the Committee if they would like him to approach Nimishillen Township about hosting the LEAP and the Committee agreed it was a good idea.
- **Event Insurance:** The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) no longer wants to be involved with the Nimishillen Creek LEAP because it doesn't fit into any of their work programs. Therefore, the event insurance through their Earth Team program will not be used this year. Eric has been investigating event insurance options for the Creek LEAP. He said that many of the options he has found require a larger policy for the Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners before we could take out an event policy. He has found some insurance options in the \$200 to \$500 range, but he is currently looking to see if he can "piggyback" on an existing insurance policy with an established group.

Ray said that depending on where the clean-up is, we might be able to use the insurance coverage of the township, county, or municipality where we are conducting the clean-up. Eric said he will look into that option as soon as the clean-up location is determined. Lastly, he said that Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 provides immunity for individuals from accidents and harm caused by volunteers while at the clean-up (as

long as action wasn't criminal or from gross misconduct). Insurance hasn't been an issue in the past because nobody has ever been injured at a Nimishillen Creek LEAP, but Eric said he just wants to cover all possibilities.

- **Sponsors:** The Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners received a \$500 donation from Ashland Marathon Petroleum LLC to help sponsor the Creek LEAP. The donation was given to Earth Action Partnership because of their 501(c) 3 status as a non-profit, but all of the money will be used for the event. Eric said the Timken Company also expressed interest, but he hasn't heard back from them.
- **Promotion and Volunteers:** Once the location is chosen the Watershed Partners can start promoting the event. It is expected that flyers and information will be available by late July, giving Committee members two months to promote the clean-up. Eric said that he will also notify the local media about the event. The Core Committee decided to focus on event promotion at the next meeting. Todd said that the event can be promoted at the Health Department's event on September 9th and 10th at the STRIP.

III. Increasing Public Involvement

- **Update on Nimishillen Creek Flyer:** Eric said Pam Feagler from Earth Action Partnership is working on the flyer and it should be completed by late July. He said if any Core Committee members have information to include in the flyer that they should email it to Pam (execdir@earthactionpartnership.org).

IV. Watershed Projects - Update

1. **Strausser Park** – No Update
2. **Vernal Pool Monitoring Program** – No Update
3. **Other Updates** – Eric said that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources has not yet looked into the acid mine drainage problem along Sherrick Run, but it is still on their list for investigation. However, because of the delay at looking at the site, Eric will not be able to submit an Ohio EPA grant application to address the problem this grant cycle because the deadline is June 24.

V. Next Meeting Date and Adjourn

- Next Meeting:** A date was not set due to attendance. Eric will email the members to set a July meeting date.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:15 p.m.