

**Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners
Core Committee Meeting**
Tuesday, March 15, 2005
2:00 p.m.

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

Summary

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Meeting Attendees: Eric Akin – NEFCO; Jan Lukens – Marlboro Township Citizen; Pam Feagler – Earth Action Partnership; Darrin Petko – Stark Parks; Joe Underwood – Stark County RPC; Michael Miller – North Canton; Dean England – Marlboro Twp. Citizen; Ray Shanabruch – BIA Stark County; Todd Paulus – Stark County Health Department

II. Nimishillen Creek Macroinvertebrate Survey – Eric Akin

- Eric gave a brief presentation of the third macroinvertebrate survey funded by the City of Canton and conducted by NEFCO.
- 17 sites were sampled throughout the watershed. None scored “Excellent”, 6 were “Good”, 6 scored “Fair”, and 5 were “Poor”. The average score for the entire watershed was “Fair”. He said possible reasons for low scores at some site could be the result of significant flooding that occurred in the watershed in 2003 and 2004, especially sites that lacked an active floodplain.
- Sites with good substrates were chosen to minimize the variations caused by poor habitat, suggesting that in-stream habitat is not a limiting factor in macroinvertebrate scores.
- This was the third survey conducted at most of these sites and it is allowing NEFCO and Canton officials to gain a better picture of the general health of Nimishillen Creek and its tributaries. However, he cautioned that there is not enough data available to determine water quality trends at each site.
- Sherrick Run was the lowest scoring subwatershed with all four site scoring “Poor”. Water from an old abandoned mine is likely the primary source of pollution in the stream. Eric said the Ohio Department of Natural Resources is investigating the site to see what can be done to abate the problem.

- Eric showed photos of a site along the East Branch at the intersection of Georgetown and Trump Ave. that was filled with 2 to 2.5 feet of sediment from an adjacent gravel/slag operation since it was last sampled in 2002. The Soil and Water Conservation District and local government officials have been made aware of the problem.
- Lastly, NEFCO made recommendation for future work including continuing regular macroinvertebrate monitoring and photo documentation, continuing creek clean-ups, supporting riparian restoration and protection, and adding upstream and headwater monitoring sites.

III. Watershed Projects - Update

1. Strausser Park

- Joe Underwood presented work he has completed on the storm water retention basin project. Looking at the original plans, the basin was not built to original specs. If it was built as designed then the basin would have a capacity of 223,000 cubic feet, good for a 10 year storm event. The limiting factor at the site today is the 15" pipe that drains basin.
- The main problems with the site are that the basin was only built for a 10 year storm event (he would prefer a 100 year event design), the rear of 8 lots adjacent to the site should have been filled to a higher elevation, there is no emergency spillway or bypass, the 15" pipe is corrugated metal (short life span), and the slope of the pipe is only 0.2%.
- Cost estimates were prepared to renovate the detention basin on the property owned by North Canton. Assuming that on-site dirt can be excavated to construct the embankment, the preliminary cost estimate is nearly \$130,000. This cost does not include landscaping or plant material.
- Darrin Petko and Pam Feagler presented a habitat enhancement plan for the proposed basin site. The plan includes planting river birch, swamp white oak, and a tall prairie flower and grass seed mix outside of the basin. In the basin they recommend a wet meadow seed mix. Cost estimates were not provided because they didn't know the total size of the project area when they were drawing up the preliminary plans.
- Michael Miller said that Windsor Medical Center does not intend to sell the adjacent property to North Canton, so plans should only include the city owned land in Strausser Park. He said that city workers could truck in soil from other city project sites to build the embankment if on-

site soils are not adequate. Lastly, he said a site survey and soil samples would be needed to determine the next step.

2. Nimishillen Creek LEAP Expansion

- Ray Shanabruch has a lunch scheduled with Commissioner Vignos for the following Monday and will discuss providing funding to townships to help fund Creek LEAPs in the watershed. He will provide an update at the next meeting.

3. Vernal Pool Monitoring Program

- According to Eric, Sandy Humphrey who is heading up this program was unable to attend the meeting due to conflicts with her current job. However, Sandy is leaving her job at the end of March and should be able to attend future meetings. Pam Feagler also talked briefly with Sandy the day before a vernal pool monitoring workshop in Cleveland, so she should have some good information to present the group the next time she can make the meeting.

IV. Nimishillen Creek Action Plan Update – Eric Akin

- Eric distributed a handout outlining issues and impairments for each of the six Nimishillen Creek subwatersheds. He then displayed new maps of each subwatershed with the goal of working with the Core Committee members to identify, rank, and map sources and cause of water pollution in each area. Time prevented starting this task, but the Committee agreed to make this the first agenda item at the next meeting. Eric said he would email the members copies of the maps he presented.

V. Next Meeting Date and Adjourn

- The group decided to move the next meeting to the evening so members with conflict during the day could attend.
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 12, 6:00 p.m. at the North Canton Civic Center (845 West Maple Ave.)