

Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners
Core Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 10, 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; Pam Feagler – Earth Action Partnership; Michael Miller – North Canton; Ray Shanabruch – BIA Stark County; Todd Paulus – Stark County Health Department, Jan Lukens – Marlboro Township, Darrin Petko – Stark Parks

II. Nimishillen Creek LEAP

- Location: The committee decided to investigate cleaning up a section of the West Branch of Nimishillen Creek near Everhard and Whipple Roads. This is a section of creek near both residential and business areas, and because of its location there is an abundance of trash in the creek. Other sites considered included the Mainstem adjacent to Canton's Water Pollution Control Center and the Middle Branch on Stark Park property in Plain Township.
- Eric said he would contact the owner of a retail property adjacent to the proposed clean-up site for permission. He just need contact information of the owner.
- The preliminary date was set for September 24 with the rain date the following weekend, October 1. Committee members were going to agree to check their calendars for possible conflicts with the event.
- The Committee agreed that the T-shirt given to volunteers at last years event was a big success and will provide T-shirts again if money is available. Also, Subway will be contacted to see if they can provide lunch again for the volunteers.
- The Committee agreed to contact the Rebecca Haymond of the Common Pleas Court to continue using the County Court's community service program for clean-ups.

- Local schools and business should be contacted to get them involved with the clean-up. Schools mentioned were Malone College, Stark State, Hoover High School, and Glen Oaks High School.
- The Committee also agreed to contact the City of Canton to see if they would be interested in participating in the LEAP again. Metro Railroad will also be contacted since they have a rail line adjacent to the clean-up site. Mike Miller suggested having the City of Canton approach Metro if the City wants to be involved with the LEAP.

III. Increasing Public Involvement

- The Core Committee discussed how to get the public more involved with the Watershed Partners' activities. The group talked about putting together information or holding seminars on hot topics like West Nile Virus and drainage laws.
- Jan Lukens said that he will be talking at Quail Hollow State Park later this year and will include the Watershed Partners in his presentation.
- It was suggested that the group schedule speaking engagements with organizations that already have regular meetings. Groups or organizations mentioned included Stark County Regional Planning, Building Industry Association, and the Township Trustees Meetings.
- The Committee determined that a tri-fold brochure, similar to the North Canton brochure distributed by Mike Miller, should be produced for the Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners. It can include not only information about the partners, but articles on various hot topic issues like West Nile Virus and flooding. Eric said he has both a mailing and email list of everyone who has attended a Watershed Partners' event and can send out the brochure. Pam volunteered to produce the brochure, but needs content contributions from the members. Eric said he will forward some articles on flooding he wrote for the Stark County Drainage Task Force. He also said a lot of information is already present on the website and Pam could pick and choose what she wanted to use for the brochure. It was agreed that the first brochure should be out by August so it could help promote the September Creek LEAP.

IV. Watershed Projects - Update

1. Strausser Park – Mike Miller said that there was nothing new to report on the project.
2. Vernal Pool Monitoring Program
 - Darrin said Stark Parks in looking into conducting an inventory of wetland and vernal pool areas for their park lands. He said more

information is needed in the Nimishillen Creek watershed to find good monitoring sites. Eric said he should contact the Summit County MetroParks because they completed a county-wide wetland survey a few years ago. Darrin also said that John Mack from Ohio EPA is a good contact for wetland ecology in Ohio.

3. Other Updates

- Eric said that Ohio EPA is requesting proposals for Section 319 grants to address nonpoint source pollution problems. He said the only project NEFCO is considering in the Nimishillen Creek watershed is the acid mine drainage problem along Sherrick Run. However, this is not likely since ODNR has not completed their assessment of the problem, and it will not likely be completed before the June 24 application deadline.

V. Next Meeting Date and Adjourn

- The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 14 at North Canton City Hall.
- Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm