

MEMORANDUM

TO: Terry Gram, District Supervisor, Stark SWCD
Jim Halter, District Supervisor, Stark SWCD
Wilbur Lingehoel, District Supervisor, Stark SWCD
Ray Shammo, District Supervisor, Stark SWCD
Becky Thompson, District Supervisor, Stark SWCD

FROM: Amy Reichlin, Environmental Planner
Claude Custer, Water Quality Planner

DATE: March 3, 2000

SUBJECT: Nimishillen Creek CWMP draft report

The Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO) received funding from the Ohio EPA (through USEPA) to undertake activities geared towards protecting the water quality of the Nimishillen Creek. In December, 1999 NEFCO initiated this task by conducting a diagnostic study of the Nimishillen Creek, the first steps of a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP). The purpose of the plan was to gain insight into the existing conditions and to identify threats or problems in maintaining the character of the streams within the watershed. This study involved producing detailed maps of the watershed; conducting an inventory of major land uses; identifying point and nonpoint sources in the watershed, and characterizing their impact; completing a riparian habitat inventory of major streams and tributaries; and assembling existing water quality data. The above products were compiled into a draft report, the Nimishillen Creek Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) - Phase I. Since then, NEFCO has received comments and change recommendations from the Ohio EPA, which are reflected in the enclosed draft report. This draft report was submitted to the Ohio EPA in June of 1999. Barry Cavanna of NRCS suggested that we send a copy of our draft report for your review.

NEFCO's efforts also included forming a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). During the development of Phase I of the CWMP the TAC met once in December, 1998 and again in May, 1999. The TAC is reconvening on March 16, 2000 to discuss the findings and conclusions of the Nimishillen Creek CWMP Phase I draft report (see enclosed meeting announcement and agenda for more details regarding the upcoming planning meeting). NEFCO will also discuss Phase II of the Nimishillen Creek CWMP in which we will oversee the development of an Action Plan. The Action Plan will reflect input from local governments, residents, and agencies to arrive at recommendations that are the best fit for the watershed. More details regarding the Action Plan can be found in the enclosed meeting announcement.

If you have any questions regarding the report or the upcoming meeting, please contact Amy Reichlin or Claude Custer at NEFCO (330)836-5731 or e-mail at nefco@att.net.