

## Euclid Creek Watershed Draft Council Minutes

Thursday, October 8, 2020

Hosted Virtually on Zoom

In Attendance: Chris Vild (Chair), Mayor Roche (Vice Chair), Brian Belfiore, Andy Blackley, Mayor DiCicco, Jeff Filarski, Jennifer Heard, Meg Hennessey, Elizabeth Hiser, Mayor Holzheimer Gail, Commissioner Lowery, Mayor Ward, Laura Travers

Voting Members: Andy Blackley, Brian Belfiore, Mayor DiCicco, Mayor Gail, Commissioner Lowery, Mayor Roche, Chris Vild, Mayor Ward

The Watershed Program Manager welcomed everyone and provided instructions for how to use the Zoom platform, votes were placed using the reactions yes and no tool. The meeting was recorded.

Before the official meeting, an icebreaker activity with introductions and most common watershed or stormwater inquiries from residents was held.

- E. Hiser, Cuyahoga SWCD – Drainage Issues
- M. Hennessey, Cuyahoga SWCD – What are the common pollutants?
- C. Vild, Chair, Beachwood – Basement flooding
- Mayor Ward, Lyndhurst – Drainage, creek maintenance requests
- Commissioner R. Lowery, Cleveland WPC – Difference between NEORS/WPC, who is responsible for drains, basement flooding
- Mayor Roche, Vice Chair, Richmond Heights – Invasive plants in tree planting and green infrastructure
- A. Blackley, South Euclid – Basement flooding, laterals on private property clogged or not located (City will clean sanitary for \$100), house cross connections (Title 3 compliance reporting – Heights Hilltops)
- Mayor DiCicco, Mayfield Heights – 2 significant flooding – 2 areas of City – Infiltration and cross connections (city council approved study)
- Mayor Gail, Euclid – Trees – Treelawn maintenance needed, Flooding.
- J. Heard, Cleveland WPC – Basement flooding (almost daily basis) – pocketed areas that suffer from flooding more than others, conducting sewer system evaluation survey – leading to projects – budget on hold due to pandemic, limited as to what can be implemented.
- B. Belfiore, Highland Heights – Backyard drainage, ponding in backyard, who is responsible? Engineer, service staff, drainage committee working to assist
- J. Filarski, Lyndhurst – Yard ponding
- L. Travers, Euclid – Trees, Basement backups, yard flooding, downspout disconnections (requested due to basement backups)

The meeting was called to order - Moved, Mayor Ward, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mayor Roche – All approved

The chair reviewed and proposed the use of a consent agenda for remote meetings to streamline the routine, procedural, informational and self-explanatory non-controversial items on the agenda. All consent agenda items were presented to council in a single motion for an up or down vote after allowing anyone to request that a specific item be moved to the full agenda for individual attention. Other items, particularly those requiring strategic thought, decision making or action, are handled as usual.

The chair proposed the use of one motion and vote for the following items during the meeting:  
Approval of the April 2020 Minutes, Approval of the 2020 Work Plan, and PIPE program Updates

Mayor Ward: Moved to approve the use of a consent agenda for these items during this meeting,  
Seconded by Mayor Roche – All approved

Chair Chris Vild introduced the next item, Soil & Water Conservation District Updates

Ms. Hiser went over program highlights starting with a reminder that 2020 is the last year of the current Euclid Creek Watershed Council MOU. Ms. Hiser thanked the communities that have put the MOU renewal for 2021-24 through their city council process. Ms. Hiser offered to attend community council meetings and give a watershed council update per request. The MOU was drafted by the Watershed Program Manager and given to council members in April for each communities council to review and approve continuation of the \$3,000 a year commitment to the Euclid Creek Watershed Council Program for another 4 years. This service can be paid for with your community cost share funding from the NEORSD. This is separate from our agreement to perform stormwater education and involvement services. That agreement is renewed annually for \$6,000 and is reimbursed by the NEORSD.

Ms. Hiser reviewed the application for the NEORSD 2021 Watershed Program Service Application for \$40,000 in partnership with Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP) and Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC). For the second year in a row CRWP will be serving as the fiscal agent for the grant to reduce the financial burden to FOEC which is an all-volunteer group. Ms. Hiser drafted letters of support for each community and requested a signed copy on city letterhead by the 12<sup>th</sup> for the application.

Ms. Hiser reviewed activity on grant management projects in the work plan. \$30,000 of work has been completed on the 2020 NEORSD WPSA grant including the newsletter, targeted mailings, water quality monitoring equipment and the master rain garden program. The WRLC/Dominion grant to FOEC for \$3,000 was managed by Cuyahoga SWCD, all supplies have been purchased and the final plantings are scheduled for November at the Dusty Goldenrod Preserve. The Mayfield Campus Stream Restoration Design project kicked off in early 2020 with the advisory committee choosing Enviroscience, Inc. The consultant did all the survey work and 30% design was just submitted. The project is for 100% design for three phases along the West Branch of Euclid Creek on the golf course. Cuyahoga SWCD staff are managing the project and assisting with habitat monitoring. No construction funding has been awarded for the project, but the hope is that with 100% design in hand the project will be more competitive in future grant applications.

Ms. Hiser highlighted FOEC activities at the Dusty Goldenrod Preserve including monitoring, invasive plant management, and virtual tours.

Ms. Hiser discussed a Richmond Heights Swale Retrofit project awarded from Ohio EPA as part of a Supplemental Environmental Project to mitigate County sanitary discharges in the watershed. The city will be leading the project design and construction to add stormwater retention, reduce erosion, and add trees in the Richmond Heights Community Park.

Ms. Hiser reviewed grant applications made in 2020. In partnership with Lake SWCD and CRWP, The William Bingham Foundation awarded \$35,000 to continue the Master Rain Gardener (MRG) Program efforts. Cuyahoga SWCD was awarded \$2,500 from the WRLC/Dominion Watershed Mini Grant program for the installation of public rain gardens and native gardens. Ms. Hennessey assisted FOEC in receiving a WRLC/Dominion grant for \$1,500 to support their watershed program marketing and purchase an EnviroScape table for educational tabling efforts. Mayfield Village, Richmond Heights, and Lyndhurst will all be receiving funds for tree planting and invasive plant management efforts as part of a CRWP/CLEB led grant from USFS for \$215,933.

Ms. Hiser reviewed the PIPE services for the year which included 14 involvement events and 6 education events. With COVID-19, the event focus was shifted to virtual content after April with some limited capacity outdoor events. Virtual programs are available for promotion to residents on Green Yards Healthy Homes, Rain Barrels, Tree Care, Rain Gardens, Water Quality Monitoring – all of these have surveys for tracking involvement. After COVID-19, limited capacity outdoor events were offered for stream cleanups and green infrastructure maintenance and invasive treatment. Two SWCD Master Rain Gardener programs were hosted online with 65 attendees, 11 of which are Euclid Creek Watershed Residents. Since program inception, the four regional partners offering this program have helped to get 59 rain gardens installed, 5 professionals certified, and 6 graduates adopting public rain gardens. Let Ms. Hiser know if you have a rain garden that needs adopted. Despite offering capacity limited outdoor events, we realize that some communities are not comfortable with offering in person events at this time. If that is the case, SWCD is offering pledges that community staff, residents or contractors can take and receive a small “prize” that has educational messaging on it to make sure the community is in compliance for their involvement activities.

Ms. Hiser offered to host a technical committee/educational program and suggested some possible programming topics.

Vild – If someone is interested in MRG who should they contact?

Hiser – Contact me or Laura Bonnell depending on which agency is leading the program.

Vild – Is there a class forming as we speak?

Hiser – Next class formally scheduled is in April, but we will be having a winter online class that is not yet scheduled. We have also added a self-paced recorded option.

Vild – Thanked Elizabeth for the hard work. Knows it is challenging getting things done with the current COVID-19 situation. Thinks SWCD staff is doing a great job.

Vild announced the next agenda topic: Ohio EPA MS4 Permit Update Discussion

Ms. Hiser talked about the proposed changes to the NPDES Permit No.: OHQ000004 and walked through the items for each minimum control measure (MCM). If these changes are adopted, they will have an effect on all of the Euclid Creek Watershed Communities. SWCD staff will adapt to make sure that your community stays in compliance. Many of the proposed changes are tied to the number of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in an MS4. The communities with Chagrin River and Euclid Creek will have an increased number (4 TMDLs), those with just Euclid Creek (1 TMDL).

MCM1 – Public Education – Two themes or messages tied to each TMDL, still a minimum of 5 messages. In the past we tracked the number of attendees at a community event, and it was ok if we reached the goal number, but not all participants were from the community holding the event. The proposed changes now direct that the target goal should be for community residents. This new requirement is the same for MCM 2.

Vild – will you and the other watershed coordinators be helping?

Hiser – Yes, we will work with NEOPIPE to make sure that regionally we tackle all these issues together.

MCM 2 – Public Involvement - Same as MCM1. Two involvement activities for each TMDL.

Filarski – Is targeting going to be specific to each watershed or can it be community wide? For example in Beachwood which has 6 watersheds does messaging have to vary by watershed.

Hiser – Good question. I'm not positive, but I would say it would be best to target the whole community even if an area doesn't have that specific TMDL. Public comment has just ended, and Ohio EPA is reviewing input. I am sure some of these items may change, but there was a definite focus on addressing TMDLs in a measurable way.

Heard – New requirement on MCM 3 – Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) - am I reading the slide correctly that now all outfalls have to be inspected annually instead of over the course of the permit? Cleveland has 52 outfalls on record, I would like a little more clarity as we update our map.

Hiser – Yes or a maximum of 1,000 per year. One of the new proposed requirements is also that outfall maps must be updated annually now.

They have added quite a bit of work to the permit, especially for MCM 3 - IDDE has quite a few more requirements, even more than the other MCMs, They are asking communities with Nutrient, E.coli, bacteria, or dissolved oxygen TMDLs to have annual employee training which includes IDDE training, they want water quality testing of all observed dry-weather flows, unless a source is known, there is also a new emphasis on salt storage ordinance requirements.

Vild – Training would be targeted for IDDE specifically?

Hiser – My understanding is it would be for IDDE and not just your general Good Housekeeping training

MCM 4 – Construction Sites – For construction sites with TSS and Nutrient TMDLs, construction inspections have to occur every 14 calendar days for sites that aren't in compliance rather than 30 days. Cuyahoga SWCD does offer construction site inspections services and SWPPP services. Euclid Creek Communities that partner with Cuyahoga SWCD for those services include Cleveland, Euclid, Mayfield Village, Mayfield Heights. If you are interested in those services, I can connect you with Brent Eysenbach, our Stormwater Program Manager.

For both construction and post construction they want a more formalized way to show inspections, like a form or mobile application. SWCD has mobile inspections forms, Ms. Hiser uses those applications to inspect Euclid Creek stream restoration and green infrastructure sites. The platform SWCD uses is called fulcrum and SWCD has created templates for the construction inspections, post construction inspections, and SWPPP reviews.

MCM 5 – Post Construction – The major change for MCM 5 is that communities will have to provide an educational opportunity to contractors, SWPPP designers, and or employees on post construction practices.

For communities with TSS/Nutrients TMDLs a choice of three performance standards have been suggested:

Retrofit a peak-discharge basin, restore a channelized stream, update facility design requirements to require OHC000005 Table 4b practices.

They have also added a provision to address SCM ownership changes, to require at least one inspection per permit cycle on every SCM, and to include the SCM type in your mapping.

SWCD offers a post construction inspection program, a lot of our program elements address these added requirements. We do education training and emails, we have an updated map of all SCMs each year, and we hold transition meetings as construction sites transfer to ownership where we go out with the contractor and new site owner to make sure SCMs were installed correctly and inform the owner of required long term maintenance. If interested, I can connect you with Carla Regener in our office. Euclid Creek communities that currently partner with SWCD and this service include: Beachwood, Cleveland, Euclid, Mayfield Village, and Mayfield Heights.

Blackley – Are they expecting communities to go on private property to update older BMPs?

Hiser – My understanding is that yes it would be an option to offer to retrofit a private basin if a site was on board.

Blackley – That raises the issue of spending public money on private money. I doubt private owners are going to want to spend their own money to update a practice they thought was complete when it was installed.

Hiser – Yes that is definitely an issue. In several of our communities like Beachwood and Highland Heights have city basins – perhaps that could be a low hanging fruit for retrofits. In our watershed plan we do have basin retrofits as a goal, but it is unclear if we could go after federal funding for retrofits if it became a state permitted requirement. The Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative (CLEB) just received a 319 grant for a consultant to create a basin retrofit screening tool with basin retrofit concepts and costs to help local watershed coordinators prioritize basin retrofits. That may help us to help communities decide if a project like this is cost effective or if perhaps one of the other options might be better.

MCM 6 – Good Housekeeping – They have added three options to choose from to address TMDLs: Start a street sweeping program, a proactive catch basin program, or a leaf/yard waste collection program.

I wanted to make sure you were aware that this was out there, that SWCD is working in the background on how we would adapt our programs to keep our community partners in compliance if these are adopted.

Vild – Are there any questions? With no questions is there any additional business communities would like to bring up at this point?

Hennessey – How involved are the various communities with the MS4 permit update process? Did it seem to come out of nowhere?

Vild – Beachwood did not weigh in. In the past we have trusted our watershed partners to voice our concerns or give our two cents.

Heard – Can you repeat your question?

Hennessey – How involved have communities been in the process of the MS4 permit updates?

Heard – Not much, when OEPA had the Northeast Ohio Stormwater Training Council, they would typically have workshops where you could go and voice your concerns directly in an open forum. Due to the pandemic that has changed. It had been easier for us to voice concerns or ask questions in the past. Brent Eysenbach (SWCD) and I have internally talk about concerns, I am not sure if he submitted those formally to OEPA or not. I think the pandemic is making it more challenging for communities to reach out.

Hennessey – Training workshops were a much more useful tool?

Heard – Yes

Hennessey – Thank you

Hiser – Meg during additional business we typically include a FOEC update. Did Kelly Butauski have anything she would like to share with council?

Hennessey - FOEC Update – We are wrapping up the NEORS D grant deliverables. This included a riparian mailing to the streamside residents with notepads and educational information. Currently planning end of year activities. If anyone has ideas for recruiting your specific residents, especially ones near the creek that would be useful. Just keeping up your social engagement so FOEC can be another contact for some of your watershed issues. FOEC has struggled to hold engagement events due to COVID. Had a few good speakers including a Master student who did a water quality study on Euclid Creek. Just trying like everyone else to keep interested parties engaged. They have a new president this year, so the group is going through a transition. They have new wind in their sails and are very motivated.

Vild – The next item on our agenda is to schedule the next meeting, Ms. Hiser had some ideas so I will let her present.

Hiser – In the past our 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting is typically an in-person summit. I wanted to gauge your interest in hosting a virtual summit where each partner could give brief updates that we could host in mid-December.

Mayor Roche – My two cents, an evening would help get the community involved more. I think timing could be similar to our in-person summit, but virtual. Would be good to have a bit more community outreach and information sharing.

Vild – I agree with Mayor Roche, if evening works good for Mayors I am in favor of that as well.

Hiser – I don't think we will be able to schedule today. Sounds like an evening will work. I will reach out to the Mayors departments to get the process started

Mayor Roche – More and more people are coming to council than before 30-65 because they are online and able to do that from their home. So maybe this is an opportunity to reach out to more residents. We certainly can all have more multimedia outreach to advertise more on our social media before and after the program to reach a wider audience.

Mayor Ward – I would echo that, we have had a lot of attendees with our council meetings on facebook live. You can also record and post on everyone's facebook page after the fact. So you could broaden the breadth of outreach and education.

Mayor Roche – That would increase our numbers. We had a Memorial Day event with almost 1500 views by putting it online.

Lowery – I concur on the event, and promotion. I also like the proposed line up to have partners and then communities talk about projects.

Vild – Elizabeth do you want to survey the members to narrow down a date?

Hiser – Yes I will coordinate with Mayors and then send a doodle poll to partners.

Vild – Any other comments?

Mr. Vild asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Mayor Ward, seconded Mayor Roche

Meeting adjourned.

Vild – Thanks again for attending, I know all of you are very busy, we appreciate you taking the time and for participating in our watershed council efforts.

Hiser- Thanks Chris, Thanks Mayor Roche

Mayor Roche - Thanks Elizabeth, Great programs this year

Minutes compiled by Elizabeth Hiser, Watershed Program Manager

Reference:

Watershed Council Meeting was recorded and video is available for viewing at this link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/6863569808717198851>