

Euclid Creek PIPE Committee Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2016 9:00 am – 11:00 am Richmond Heights City Hall

Present:

Kelly Butauski, Euclid; Judy Dearden, Highland Heights; Mary K. Evans, South Euclid; Bob Gorentz, Highland Heights; Susan Jerome, Mayfield Village; Chris Hartman, Lyndhurst; Patrick Henry, Euclid; Gary Leinweber, Euclid; Ken Messinger Rapport, Highland Heights; Yalinda Moore, Cleveland WPC; Joe Newman, Mayfield Heights; Claire Posius, Cuyahoga SWCD; Mayor David Roche, Richmond Heights; Chris Vild, Beachwood; and, Marilyn and Don Wilson.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am

- 1. November 2015 Watershed Summit meeting minutes & 2016 Board Roster.** The Watershed Coordinator discussed the first item in the handouts, the [November 15 Watershed Summit meeting minutes*](#), and asked the PIPE Committee members let her know if they have edits. No changes were discussed. Ms. Posius next discussed the 2016 PIPE Committee Roster* and asked if there were any edits, and no changes were noted.
- 2. 2015 PIPE Reports / 2015 Program Accomplishments.** The Watershed Coordinator updated the Committee that the PIPE Annual reports for Ohio EPA are due April 1 and that she will have reports to communities by the end of the month as in years past. She then gave the Committee the [2015 PIPE Committee's annual work plan/report](#) highlighting program successes for the year and she went over any events that happened since the July 2015 update*. Ms. Posius then presented a powerpoint of several past and upcoming watershed projects.
- 3. 2016 Outreach Strategy / 2016 Work Plan Review and Approval.** The Watershed Coordinator then discussed the 2016 Outreach Strategy with the Committee discussing the annual theme of 'Lake Erie Starts Here'. The 2016 outreach strategy must tie to Total Maximum Daily Load report pollutants identified in watersheds with these plans. So the Watershed Coordinator is compiling this revised outreach strategy. Ms. Posius will send out the draft reports to the Committee when they are ready for review/edit.

The Coordinator then went through the Event Series which is the [2016 PIPE Work Plan*](#). Additions to the work plan include: for the Wildwood Cleanups Mr. Vild suggested focusing on ensuring tree survival by pruning out competing weeds/plants; Ms. Dearden said she'd be interested in collaborating on a Green Cleaning Workshop with HHGTF this year in Highland Heights and the Community Day date was confirmed (7/23); for Mayfield Heights, run a rain barrel workshop by the Mayor and Mr. Newman said he'd like to volunteer at the Rockwell Automation booth again this spring.

Other comments and program ideas include:

- Ms. Dearden said she's had better luck tabling booths when people stand in front of table instead of behind;
- Ms. Jerome said that a mailing targeted to landscapers would be helpful, to which Ms. Posius said that's a goal in 2016 to reach out to that business sector;
- Ms. Wilson suggested doing a demonstration project in a neighborhood and then hosting a neighborhood coffee to discuss with neighbors (e.g. a retrofit of a cul de sac island to native plantings or could do a retrofit of a portion of lawn at a South Euclid pocket park);
- Mr. Henry suggested promoting native plants on the website more prominently;
- Ms. Moore suggested people plant native plants gradually to help keep costs down and to see how they like the plants incrementally adding plants to existing garden beds;
- Mr. Vild suggested selling seeds, but having an expert there to answer questions like Cleveland Botanic Garden;
- another suggestion was to give native seeds to donors of FOEC;
- Mr. Henry suggested having a table outside a Giant Eagle, Garden Center, or Target with FOEC information as companies have big social programs;

- Mr. Newman suggested having banners at a key intersection in each watershed council community with watershed messages, cost was the only issue brought up as banners need to be professionally designed and are usually around \$150-300 per banner, and coordination could get tricky;
- When discussing the watershed friendly stream maintenance program, it was asked if NEORSD would help promote our program – for streams under 300 acres, call CSWCD; and,
- Mr. Hartman suggested a charity car wash in the watershed.

The Committee verbally approved the 2016 Work Plan for the Watershed Coordinator to implement.

4. **Monthly Stormwater Tips, Euclid Creek Newsletter and Website.** The Coordinator quickly discussed with the Committee that we are back to quarterly articles in 2016 related to the ‘Lake Erie Starts Here’ theme. The newsletter will be issued three times in 2016, so let the Coordinator know if you have article ideas. Ms. Posius created a [Twitter Account for FOEC](#) in 2015 and is posting somewhat regularly, and Ms. Moore said that she would re-tweet FOEC posts to spread the word and get more visibility to the tweets.
5. **Euclid Creek Watershed Action Plan – 2016 update.** The Coordinator then updated the Committee on the need to update the Euclid Creek WAP in 2016 to be eligible for OEPA/USEPA grant funding, so she will be working on that this year which will have a public outreach component associated with it.
6. **Other Activities/Interest.** One question that arose at the meeting was if NEORSD is going to roll out a downspout disconnect program like Toronto has to help reduce the total impact of stormwater runoff. This will be posed to Jeff Jowett, Watershed Team Leader at NEORSD after the meeting.

When asked for ideas on a more catchy education slogan than ‘turf reduction or cutting corners’, Mr. Hartman suggested a Medina SWCD slogan *Mow No Mo*’ as a catchy phrase we could borrow from Medina.

7. **Watershed Summit 2016 Planning / Ideas.** The group had lots of positive feedback about the 2015 first combined program meeting and thought an annual meeting would be great in 2016. Ms. Posius asked if people had suggestions for speakers. Ms. Dearden recommended Sam Mason a plastics pollution expert from New York; Mr. Gorentz suggested a speaker to build off of water concerns in the wake of the Flint, Michigan crisis; Mr. Hartman suggested tailoring the invite list of future meetings to the speaker (e.g. large lot owners, streamside, small lots and speakers with topics related to target audience) and another suggestion was to have a speaker talk about the Cuyahoga River dredge issue and why they’re proposing to dump toxic sludge in Lake Erie. Mr. Hartman also suggested doing a 5 minute demo at each summit – make a rain barrel to show people what that entails – or make a green cleaning product.

Initial ideas are to have the Summit on Thursday, October 6 at the new Mayfield Village Community Center around 5:30-7:30pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10am

Minutes prepared by Claire Posius, Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator

*All meeting handouts and presentations are available upon request (you can email or call the Watershed Coordinator with your information request); also, some meeting materials are on the program website at www.EuclidCreekWatershed.org under the ‘About Us’, ‘Euclid Creek Watershed Council’ page.