

Big Walnut Watershed Planning Partnership
Steering Committee
Wednesday, January 19, 2011
Westerville Public Library
126 S. State St.
Westerville, OH 43081
Meeting Summary

Attendees:

Bill Dorman, Village of New Albany
Stacy Boumis, Village of Obetz
Steve Morris, Village of Groveport
Ryan Edwards, Lick County Planning Commission
Allison Shaw, Metro Parks
Scott Sanders, Delaware County Regional Planning

MORPC Staff:

Erin Grushon
Brandi Whetstone

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Erin provided an overview of the meeting agenda and next steps in the Balanced Growth Planning process. The goal of this meeting is to discuss and recommend criteria for each priority area. Erin presented the priority area definitions that were approved by the full partnership at the December meeting. There were no further comments or revisions to the definitions.

Next, the Steering Committee started a discussion of proposed criteria for Priority Conservation Areas. Erin noted that archeological sites needed to be removed from the list of criteria because we are lacking a usable data source. There was extensive discussion about establishing buffers in addition to considering the 100-year floodplain. The group agreed on buffers based on two stream types – one for intermittent and one for perennial streams.

There was also a discussion about conservation easements and whether or not some of the other criteria on the list would cover those areas. We do not have a consistent data source across the watershed for conservation easements, and the information does not distinguish between agricultural easements and natural areas. A participant suggested including

conservation easements in the report as an implementation tool for Priority Conservation and Priority Agricultural Areas. After the group agreed upon criteria for Priority Conservation Areas, they assigned a weight to each criterion.

The criteria for Priority Development Areas were discussed next. The role of sewer service in development was discussed, and there was also discussion about proximity to arterials, connectors, public transit, and rail. The group highlighted the importance of existing community plans regarding development and redevelopment efforts, and added criteria that includes locally designated development (TIFs, JEDDs, EZs, etc). After agreeing upon the criteria, the group assigned weights to each.

The final discussion focused on Priority Agriculture Area criteria. In order to create a consistent and meaningful analysis, Erin suggested that the group move away from parcel based criteria because we do not have digitized parcel data for Morrow county. The group agreed to the criteria, with the understanding that we will look into this further for other possible data we can use in this analysis. A meeting participant suggested that we try to get agricultural easements from the Ohio Department of Agriculture to identify areas adjacent to easements (easements are already protected but we may want to consider the areas surrounding them).

The steering committee meeting adjourned at 4pm, and the next meeting of the full partnership will take place on Feb. 17, 4-6pm at the New Albany Public Library.