

Big Walnut Watershed Planning Partnership
Steering Committee
November 17, 2010
Westerville Public Library, Meeting Room B
126 S. State St.
Westerville, OH 43081
Meeting Summary

Steering Committee Attendees:

Partner Communities

Steve Morris, Groveport
Jeanna Burrell, Galena
Bill Dorman, New Albany
Charles McCroskey, Jefferson Township

Stakeholders

Allison Shaw, Metro Parks
Scott Sanders, Delaware County
Ryan Edwards, Licking County

MORPC Staff

Erin Grushon, Associate Planner

For the most up to date information including the next meeting date, time and location, previous meeting slides and minutes, please visit our website at <http://balancedgrowthplanning.morpc.org> and click on your watershed.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. Erin welcomed the Big Walnut Steering Committee. The group proceeded with introductions and reviewed the draft agenda.

Erin began the meeting by discussing the tasks that needed to be accomplished at this meeting and upcoming tasks for the full partnership. She explained that the Steering Committee would be developing draft Priority Area definitions and, if time permitted, begin discussing criteria. Then, the full partnership will meet in December to review, discuss and finalize the Priority Area definitions. At that meeting, Erin will also present some information about criteria and ask participants to provide preliminary input and feedback regarding potential Priority Area criteria. The Steering Committee will meet again in January to develop draft criteria and weighting for each of the Priority Areas. Finally, the full partnership will meet in February to review, discuss and finalize the criteria list.

After the review of upcoming tasks, the Big Walnut Steering Committee began developing draft Priority Area definitions. The BWPP Steering Committee reviewed Priority Conservation Area (PCA), Priority Development Area (PDA), and Priority Agricultural Area (PAA) definitions

from past Balanced Growth Plans in addition to draft working definitions. The Priority Areas can be generally described as follows:

- Priority Conservation Areas (PCA): An area the local community designates to preserve, conserve, or restore.
- Priority Development Areas (PDA): An area the local community targets for potential future development or redevelopment
- Priority Agricultural Area (PAA): An area the local community designates as prime agricultural or farmland.

Erin invited the Steering Committee to begin creating the Priority Conservation Area definitions. One of the participants commented that they liked the definition that the Olentangy Watershed Planning Partnership (OWPP) partnership used which defines a Priority Conservation Area as “an area designated by local jurisdictions for protection, conservation, or restoration because of its ecological, cultural, recreational, or historical value and for the significant role these areas play in maintaining the integrity of the watershed.”

Ms. Burrell noted that all of the definitions include language that indicates the areas are locally designated. Others agreed and decided that the Big Walnut definition should also note that these are locally designated areas. A committee member pointed out that some of the past definitions refer to “communities” while others refer to “jurisdictions.” The group agreed to use “communities” in their definitions.

The group developed the following PCA definition:

Areas designated by local communities for protection, conservation, or restoration because of their ecological, cultural, recreational, or historical value and for the significant role these areas play in water quality, stormwater management, and general quality of life.

The discussion turned next to defining Priority Development Areas (PDA). The committee discussed what they liked about the previous plans’ definitions. Group members thought it was important to include something in the definition regarding the efficient use of infrastructure.

One committee member mentioned that they liked the Walnut Creek definition, which states, “An area designated by local communities as a prime focus for development or redevelopment based on efficient use of infrastructure and the area’s ability to accommodate development with minimal impact on the watershed.”

The group decided to include “revitalization” in the beginning of the draft definition and to rework the last part of the definition. Group members were divided as to whether the phrase “that are favorable” and the word “redevelopment” should be in the definition and decided to keep them in for now to allow the full partnership to provide feedback at the December meeting.

The Steering Committee drafted the following PDA definition:

Areas designated by local communities that are favorable for development, redevelopment, and revitalization based upon efficient use of infrastructure and limited negative environmental impacts.

The group proceeded to define Priority Agricultural Areas. A couple of the group members agreed that they liked the Olentangy definition. The Olentangy definition describes a Priority Agricultural Area as “a locally designated area targeted for continued, expanded and/or intensified agricultural activities due to historical, cultural, natural or human-created traits which make it conducive to agriculture and related activities.”

One of the Steering Committee members, Matt Brown, was unable to attend the meeting but sent in draft Priority Area language for the group to consider. A meeting attendee commented that they liked the draft PAA definition that Matt had submitted, defining a PAA as “an area designated by local jurisdictions for continued, expanded or intensified agricultural activities. These areas are conducive to agriculture and related activities due to historical, cultural, natural or human-created traits and maintain a quality watershed.”

The group members in attendance worked from these two definitions to shape their own draft Priority Agricultural Area definition. Group members were divided as to whether the phrase “due to historical, cultural, natural or man-made features” should be in the definition and decided to keep it in for now to allow the full partnership to provide feedback at the December meeting.

The Steering Committee drafted the following definition for PAA definition:

Areas designated by local communities which, due to historical, cultural, natural or man-made features, are conducive to agricultural activities and associated practices consistent with a quality watershed.

At the next BWPP meeting (**December 16 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. at the Blendon Township Senior Center**), partners will finalize the Priority Area definitions and begin discussing the criteria that will be used to create initial Priority Area maps.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.