

**Big Walnut Watershed Planning Partnership
Meeting of Wednesday, September 22, 2010
Westerville Public Library, Meeting Room A
126 South State Street
Westerville, OH 43081
Meeting Summary**

Attendees:

Partner Communities

Steven Lowe, City of Columbus
Stew Flaherty, Blendon Township
Matt Hansen, City of Reynoldsburg
Steve Morris, City of Groveport
Bill Dorman, Village of New Albany
Christie Ward, Village of Lockbourne
Steve Volpe, Kingston Township
Bruce Langner, City of Bexley

Stakeholders

Scott Sanders, Delaware County RPC
Ryan Pilewski, Franklin SWCD
Will Kopp, Columbus State Community College
Matt Brown, Franklin County EDP
Michael Hooper, Westerville Parks and Recreation
Allison Shaw, Metro Parks

MORPC Staff

Jerry Tinianow, Director of the Center for Energy and Environment
Joseph Kitchen, Associate Planner
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 4:05 p.m. There were no comments on the draft agenda and the agenda was approved.

Erin began the meeting by presenting draft ground rules for partnership meetings with the Big Walnut Planning Partnership (BWPP) and welcomed feedback and suggestions from the partnership. The partnership approved the draft ground rules as the BWPP ground rules and Erin welcomed the partnership to revisit the rules in the future if needed.

Erin reviewed the overarching tentative schedule for the development of the Big Walnut Balanced Growth Plan and reviewed the process and components of Balanced Growth Planning. She pointed out that there was some flexibility in the schedule but the final deadline for plan completion is firm.

Erin reviewed what Balanced Growth Planning is and explained the significance of regional planning. She reviewed the two main components of the final plan, the Priority Area maps and the implementation toolbox. She then reviewed the past four endorsed balanced growth plans and showed the goals and definitions they adopted for their Balanced Growth Plans.

Erin then reviewed what the Olentangy Watershed Planning Partnership has accomplished thus far in their Balanced Growth Planning efforts. She shared the Priority Area criteria list developed by a well-rounded technical committee and stated that the Big Walnut Watershed Planning Partnership would have the opportunity to work from this initial criteria list to tailor it to the needs of the Big Walnut Watershed and to make any necessary additions if there is a watershed-wide data source available.

Erin explained that the first tasks the BWPP would need to accomplish would be to develop goals if they would like to have them, to define Priority Areas, and to develop draft Priority Area criteria lists.

Next, Erin explained two potential models for how the partnership could operate throughout the planning process. In the first model, the partnership would form a steering committee that had the power to make some decisions (goals, definitions, etc.), allowing the full partnership to meet less frequently. In the second model, the partnership would form a steering committee that could only make recommendations, requiring the full partnership to continue meeting regularly throughout the process. Erin noted that, in either case, anyone could volunteer to serve on the steering committee and all voting members would still vote on the final maps and final Balanced Growth Plan.

The meeting attendees discussed the two models and decided to proceed as follows:

The partnership decided that they would like to start with developing BWPP Balanced Growth Plan goals first and then to break the partnership down into a steering committee with decision making power. The partnership would be composed of volunteers from the full BWPP.

The BWPP stated that they would like to gather community goals already in place across the watershed. Erin suggested that the BWPP use a goals survey to analyze common community goal themes in plans across the Big Walnut Watershed. The Partnership agreed and Erin said she will send out the survey with a post-meeting follow up email.

Several BWPP partners supported the idea of having one or more Balanced Growth Plan goals that are “short and sweet” like those of the Chagrin River Watershed plan. The BWPP agreed to proceed with creating and adopting one or more “short” goals for the BWPP Plan.

Erin asked the partnership whether the time and location works well for the meeting attendees. The partnership agrees that the 4-6pm time frame works well for their partnership meetings to allow the maximum number of people to attend.

The BWPP agreed to form a steering committee at the next meeting of the full BWPP to develop Priority Area definitions and a draft Priority Area criteria list for the Big Walnut Balanced Growth plan in the near term in accordance with the overarching tentative schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm by tornado warning.