

**Olentangy Watershed Planning Partnership  
Meeting of Thursday, July 1, 2010  
The Willis Building  
2079 U.S. Highway 23 N  
Delaware, Ohio 43015  
Meeting Summary**

Attendees:

*Partner Communities*

Jim Hatten, Oxford Township  
Terry Lively, City of Marion  
Brian McComb, City of Delaware  
Beth Hugh, Orange Township  
Harold Clase, Marlboro Township  
Lynda Bitar, City of Worthington  
Linda L. Jarrett, Sharon Township  
John H. Carter, City of Columbus  
David Efland, City of Delaware  
David Hull, City of Columbus  
Mark Wilson, Pleasant Township  
David Anderson, Liberty Township

*Stakeholders*

Natalie Pirvu, Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Matt Trokan, Sierra Club  
Malcolm Porter, BIA  
Scott Sanders, Delaware County Regional Planning Commission  
David White, Ohio EPA  
Barb Lubberger, Ohio EPA

*MORPC Staff*

Jerry Tinianow, Director of the Center for Energy and Environment  
Joseph Kitchen, Planner  
Erin Grushon, Planner  
Annie McCabe, GIS Specialist  
Andy Taylor, Planning Coordinator  
Brandi Whetstone, Outreach Specialist

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. There were no comments on the draft agenda and the agenda was approved.

Joe Kitchen welcomed the group, reviewed the OWPP goal and informed meeting attendees that we need to adopt the criteria list by August 1, 2010.

Joe then discussed the OWPP's decision on May 13, 2010 to form a Technical Committee and summarized the June 9, 2010 meeting of the Technical Committee.

At the meeting, the Technical Committee reviewed the results of the OWPP Criteria Features Straw Poll. The full OWPP was invited to cast their vote in the Criteria Features Straw Poll. The Committee considered the top 4 vote earners for each Priority Area as they discussed and shaped their recommended list of projected Priority Area criteria. The Technical Committee met for 3 hours and created a list of recommended criteria, but did not have time to fully define the criteria.

After summarizing the June 9<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee meeting, Joe and Erin presented the recommended criteria lists that the Technical Committee came up with for each Priority Area and also highlighted key discussions that occurred during the meeting.

#### **Proposed PDA Criteria –**

- Sewer systems
  - Current & projected
  - Not septic systems
- Proximity to major highways/intersections
  - Not in conflict w/ riparian corridors
- Proximity to Public transit
- Railways
- Current and Future Land Use (Industrial, Commercial, high density residential)
- Urbanized Areas/ Incorporated Areas
  - Population Density
- Enterprise Zones and Community Reinvestment Areas

Key discussion(s) from the Technical Committee's conversation about PDA criteria included:

- The potential for there to be overlap between roadway buffers and riparian areas. The Technical Committee noted that this could be an issue because Highway 315 runs along the Olentangy River.

#### **Proposed PCA Criteria -**

- Floodplain
  - 100 Year flood plain
- Erodibility
  - Slope
  - Soil permeability
  - Distance to river
  - Lack of Tree cover
- Natural Land Cover Data Set
  - Woodlands
  - Wetlands
  - Other habitats
- Soil
  - Hydric
- Drinking water (groundwater and upland intakes)

Key discussion(s) from the Technical Committee's conversation about PCA criteria included:

- A discussion of riparian areas and buffers. The committee did not think that a uniform buffer was the best criteria because there are different needs for riparian areas at different parts of the river based on a number of different factors including slope, soil permeability, distance to river, and tree cover. The committee suggested that we look at each of these features that can contribute to erosion.

#### **Proposed PAA Criteria -**

- Prime farmland
  - Soil type
    - Hydric and artificially drained
- Locally important farmland
  - Current and future land use (agriculture)
- Contiguous farmland
- Agricultural District
  - As defined by Ohio Revised Code
- Access to Agricultural inputs
  - Within 30 miles of grain elevator

Key discussion(s) from the Technical Committee’s conversation about PAA criteria included:

- A conversation about “prime” and “locally important” farmland. The Technical Committee decided that these are actually two different things and separated them into two recommended criteria.
- A discussion of how to determine if farmland is locally important. The committee decided that the best way to determine that is to consider the future land use data that MORPC is putting together.

The OWPP asked for an explanation regarding the use of grain elevators as a criterion and Mark Wilson explained that the recommended criterion does not need to be grain elevators, but that the Technical Committee was trying to find a way to use access to markets as a criterion.

After presenting the recommended criteria, Erin and Joe discussed the local review process, using specific examples from the endorsed Balanced Growth Plans. These examples from the Chagrin River, Rocky River and Swan Creek Plans demonstrated that the local communities will have the opportunity to make adjustments to the initial Priority Area maps before they are finalized and voted on by the OWPP.

The OWPP then discussed the overall timeline for the Olentangy River Balanced Growth Plan. Joe noted that the criteria needed to be defined and buffers established by August 1<sup>st</sup> and asked the Partnership when they would like to meet again in order to accomplish this.

The partnership discussed how much work was still needed in order to refine and finalize the criteria and also expressed an interest in seeing more preliminary maps before finalizing the list.

Jerry mentioned that it may be possible to adjust the project calendar to overlap some of the

mapping work with the identification of implementation tools. Doing this would allow some more time to finalize the criteria, but it would require approval from the OWRC. The Partnership expressed an interest in this idea and asked MORPC to pursue it with the OWRC.

The OWPP decided that the Technical Committee would meet again within 2 weeks to finalize Priority Area Criteria recommendations. Then, MORPC staff would create more preliminary maps based on the recommended criteria and buffers and make these maps available to the full partnership for review by approximately July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The full partnership would have approximately 1 week to review the maps and comment. The OWPP will then meet again on Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup> to move forward with finalizing the criteria list. Once the Priority Area criteria list is finalized and adopted, initial priority maps will be created and MORPC staff will begin taking the maps out to watershed communities for necessary revisions.

Brandi briefly discussed upcoming educational opportunities. A representative from Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District will be showing examples of what farmers are doing with USDA conservation funding. There will also be another educational opportunity in August about Urban Development and Planning in the watershed.