

**Olentangy Watershed Planning Partnership  
Meeting of Thursday, April 29, 2010  
Northwest Branch Library, Columbus  
Meeting Summary**

Attendees:

*Partner Communities*

Warren Zachman, Richland Township  
John Carter, City of Columbus  
Lynda Bitar, City of Worthington  
David Hull, City of Columbus  
Jim Hatten, Oxford Township  
Jay Shoup, City of Marion  
Brian McCombs, City of Delaware  
Janet Brown, Village of Riverlea  
Rex Strine, Claridon Township  
Mary Jo Cusack, Village of Riverlea  
John Peacock, Pleasant Township  
Dick Rasmussen, Marion Township  
Beth Hugh, Orange Township  
John Coneglio, Clinton Township  
David Anderson, Liberty Township  
David Efland, City of Delaware

*Stakeholders*

Dan Stewart, Marion County Regional Planning Commission  
Amy Dutt, Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed  
Laura Shinn, Ohio State University  
Natalie Pirvu, Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
David White, Ohio EPA  
Barb Lubberger, Ohio EPA

*MORPC Staff*

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

The meeting was called to order by Jerry Tinianow at 4:02 p.m. After a round of introductions, Jerry announced the release of the MORPC Local Food Plan, mentioned the new Downtown Strategic Plan and its impact on the river, and reminded members that the MORPC State of the Region meeting is next week.

Joe Kitchen reviewed the overall process and timeline for developing the Olentangy Watershed Planning Partnership's (OWPP's) Balanced Growth Plan and reviewed the results of the straw poll that members participated in prior to the meeting.

Straw Poll results:

*Does the OWPP want to adopt goals?* 13-0 in favor

*Does the OWPP want to designate Priority Agricultural Areas (PAAs)?* 11-1 in favor

*Does the OWPP want MORPC to draft goals, definitions, and criteria?* 13-1 in favor

John Peacock moved for the partnership to adopt goals. Matt Shad seconded the motion. The partnership unanimously voted in favor of adopting one or more overall goal statements.

The partnership briefly discussed the relevance of Priority Agricultural Areas (PAAs) in the Olentangy Watershed and several members shared information about the predominance of agriculture in their jurisdictions. Warren Zachman moved for the partnership to designate PAAs. Jim Hatten seconded the motion. The partnership unanimously voted in favor of designating PAAs.

MORPC staff presented draft goal language and the City of Columbus edits to the draft goals to the partnership. Key points and questions raised during the discussion of OWPP goal(s) included the following:

David Hull from the City of Columbus explained that the intention of the edits was to simplify the language and remove strategies from the goal statements.

Brian McCombs proposed adopting one overarching goal and Dave Efland provided the following draft language:

*Unite the local jurisdictions with the Olentangy watershed along commonly shared planning goals to ensure economic, environmental and agricultural vitality by encouraging development, conservation and agriculture in appropriate areas while recognizing the importance of the Olentangy River and its important tributaries as assets to our communities.*

Beth Hugh agreed with Brian and Dave Efland's suggestion to have one goal and expressed concern that the original draft goals were too specific and could be binding.

Mary Jo Cusack expressed concern that the draft goals did not relate to Riverlea.

Amy Dutt wanted to see a vision stated and the suggestion was made that the partnership could have a separate vision statement in its plan.

Jay Shoup commented that most of the people participating the goal(s) discussion were from jurisdictions south of the Delaware dam and that communities to the north may not be facing the same issues. John Peacock seconded Jay's comment and responded that it is important for their communities to be part of this process because change could always happen in the future.

The partnership shaped the following goal statement together:

***The goal of the Olentangy Watershed Balanced Growth Plan is to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance the Olentangy River, its tributary system and areas that serve natural functions by encouraging conservation, development and agriculture in appropriate areas while recognizing the importance of the Watershed as an asset and respecting the uniqueness of our communities.***

David Hull moved for acceptance of the above statement as the OWPP goal. Janet Brown seconded the motion. The partnership unanimously voted in favor of adopting the above statement as the goal.

Joe Kitchen provided a general review of priority areas and the partnership decided to work together to create and choose priority area definitions. MORPC staff presented draft priority area definitions to the partnership. The partnership discussed the draft language and worked together to shape the following Priority Conservation Area (PCA) definition:

***Priority Conservation Area (PCA): 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.***

Matt Shad moved for acceptance of the above statement as the OWPP definition of Priority Conservation Areas. Dave Efland seconded the motion. The partnership voted unanimously in favor of adopting the above language as its Priority Conservation Area definition.

The partnership discussed the draft language and worked together to shape the following Priority Development Area (PDA) definition:

***Priority Development Area (PDA): A locally designated area defined by its potential for development or redevelopment in accordance with the area's infrastructure, development, or plan and the area's ability to accommodate development in a manner consistent with our goal.***

Dave Efland moved for acceptance of the above statement as the OWPP definition of Priority Development Areas. David Anderson seconded the motion. The partnership voted unanimously in favor of adopting the above language as its Priority Development Area definition.

Jerry mentioned that there is a possibility to extend our project timeline by 2 months because we did not receive our contract until March 2010. Jerry proposed meeting again in 2 weeks to complete the task of defining Priority Agricultural Areas and to establish a process and a timeline for the selection of priority area criteria. The Partnership agreed that the next meeting would be held on May 13, 2010 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at a location to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.