

Upper Scioto Watershed Planning Partnership
Steering Committee
Meeting of Wednesday, November 3, 2010
Dublin Library Meeting Room
75 North High Street
Dublin, OH 43017
Meeting Summary

Steering Committee Attendees:

Partner Communities

Larry Crile, Village of Ostrander
Tammy Penhorwood, City of Marysville
Yvonne Clippinger, Village of Shawnee Hills
Justin Goodwin, City of Dublin
Kathleen Crowley, Jerome Township
Kyle Rauch, City of Grove City/Jackson Township

Stakeholders

Jenny Snapp, LUC Regional Planning
Bill Narducci, Union County Engineering
Weston Dodds, LUC Regional Planning
Alex Silbajoris, Friends of the Scioto River

MORPC Staff

Chester Jourdan, Executive Director
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 Upper Scioto Planning Partnership (USPP) Steering Committee is composed of volunteers from communities and stakeholders in the Upper Scioto watershed that are a part of the Upper Scioto Planning Partnership. Prior to this meeting, MORPC sent invites to every community in the watershed and many stakeholders to solicit volunteers to serve on the Steering Committee. Each partner community and stakeholder in the Upper Scioto watershed was reminded that the USPP Steering Committee meetings are open to anyone to attend and they could visit our website (see above) for the most up to date meeting times, dates, and locations if they should wish to attend any future Steering Committee meetings.

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. Joe welcomed the USPP Steering Committee and other attendees and introduced Chester Jourdan, Executive Director of the Mid-Ohio

Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). Chester spoke on the benefits of regionalism and efforts such as the Balanced Growth Planning process and the importance of water as a resource and an asset to our region. The group proceeded with introductions. The USPP Steering Committee reviewed the draft agenda.

Joe reminded the group that the full Upper Scioto Planning Partnership decided at the September meeting that they would form the USPP Steering Committee composed of volunteers from the full partnership. Everyone from the full partnership and the general public would be welcome to attend the Steering Committee meetings as they see fit to provide input. The partnership decided that the Steering Committee would have decision making power, but Joe urged the Steering Committee to remember that the plan should be representative of the diversity of the communities in the Upper Scioto watershed.

Joe began the meeting by briefly reviewing the Balanced Growth Planning Process and reviewing the materials presented at two previous Balanced Growth Planning meetings held for the Upper Scioto Balanced Growth plan that all communities were invited to attend in July and September of 2010. The attendees were reminded that Balanced Growth Planning is a community directed process that is voluntary and incentive-based.

Joe thanked the group for attending the first USPP Steering Committee meeting and reminded the group that there are two main tasks to accomplish at the meeting.

- Develop and adopt USPP Balanced Growth Plan goal statement(s)
- Develop and adopt Priority Area definitions for Priority Conservation Areas, Priority Development Areas, and Priority Agricultural Areas. The emphasis here is on “priority” areas, areas targeted for the respective Priority Area designation.

The Steering Committee was reminded that a “goals survey” was sent to all the communities in the Upper Scioto watershed to gather common goals from communities. These responses and common goal language from central Ohio plans were compiled for the Steering Committee to review prior to the meeting to influence the development of goal statements for the USPP Balanced Growth Plan.

Joe introduced goal statements from previous Balanced Growth Plans, a list of 5 common goal themes derived from the goals survey submitted by the Upper Scioto watershed communities, and some draft working goal statements to aid the Steering Committee in developing the goal language for the plan.

The USPP Steering Committee was welcomed to decide whether to create one goal statement or elect to create multiple goal statements.

Ms. Clippinger suggested the number of goals submitted under each theme from the goal survey analysis could guide the order of the goals.

Mr. Silbajoris commented that one of the goal themes relates to the mission of the Friends of the Scioto River to “protect river & promote public enjoyment of it.”

Mr. Goodwin said that the working draft goal statements seemed reasonable and that he could support them.

In reference to one of the goal statements, Ms. Snapp indicated that “invest” may not be the best term to use and indicated a preference for saying “maximize efficient use of infrastructure” instead.

Mr. Silbajoris highlighted the fact that one of the draft goal statements evokes the efforts of the greenways program, to “monitor & connect w/ other local planning initiatives”.

Joe asked the Steering Committee to decide on whether to create one goal or several goals. A group member expressed a preference for the shorter goal statements. The partnership decided to develop multiple goal statements with an introductory preamble.

Utilizing the common goal themes, draft goal language, and original language introduced by partners, the partnership Steering Committee developed and adopted goal statements. The following goals were finalized and adopted by the Upper Scioto Planning Partnership (USPP) Steering Committee on November 3, 2010 for the Upper Scioto Planning Partnership Balanced Growth Plan:

Upper Scioto Planning Partnership Goal Statements:

Work together as a watershed partnership to achieve common planning goals and to address shared social, economic, and environmental concerns.

- Protect, preserve, restore, and enhance the environment, the Upper Scioto river, open space, recreation areas, and areas that serve natural functions in the watershed. Improve access to these areas where appropriate.
- Preserve and enhance the unique characteristics of communities within the watershed, whether they are rural, urban, agricultural, suburban, or old town centers.
- Plan for sustainable growth by maximizing efficient use of infrastructure to promote economic development and to achieve a healthy balance between land uses in the watershed and in the relationship between the natural and built environments

A Steering Committee partner motioned to adopt the above goal statements. The motion was seconded. All were in favor of adopting the goals, none were against. The motion passed.

The USPP Steering Committee moved on to the next main tasks of the meeting to develop Priority Area definitions. Joe welcomed input from the Steering Committee on whether or not to include Priority Agricultural Area (PAA) designation. Priority Conservation and Priority Development Area designation is required for an endorsed Balanced Growth Plan while PAA designation is optional. The Olentangy Watershed partnership and two of the past four endorsed Balanced Growth Plans from northern Ohio included PAAs but two did not include the designation. Because of the predominance of agricultural land use in the Upper Scioto Planning Partnership and based on initial feedback at the September 2010 meeting, the Steering Committee decided to include Priority Agricultural Area designation for the Upper Scioto Balanced Growth Plan.

The USPP Steering Committee reviewed Priority Conservation Area (PCA), Priority Development Area (PDA) and Priority Agricultural Area (PAA) definitions from several past Balanced Growth Planning efforts 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 farm land.

Joe welcomed the Steering Committee to begin creating the Priority Conservation Area definitions.

Mr. Goodwin expressed concerns about how specific one of the draft Priority Conservation Area definitions was.

Ms. Snapp liked the use of “agricultural” in PCA definition. She also suggested including the phrase “negative impacts due to land use change” in the definition.

Mr. Crile suggested keeping the definitions short and to the point and to put a period after “restoration” in the drafted PCA definition.

The group developed the following PCA definition and decided to place the clause at the end in parentheses to see what the non-present Steering Committee members thought:

Priority Conservation Area (PCA): An area designated by local communities for its unique ecological, agricultural, cultural, or historical value and targeted for preservation and restoration (because of the potential for impacts due to land use or development.)

The Steering Committee resolved to make a final decision on the PCA definition at the beginning of the next meeting. The discussion turned next to defining Priority Development Areas (PDA).

Ms. Snapp adjusted one of the draft definitions and proposed a new draft PDA definition which was generally well-received by the rest of the Steering Committee.

Ms. Crowley wanted to include “planned” infrastructure in addition to existing infrastructure in the PDA definition.

The USPP Steering Committee created and finalized the following definition for PDA:

Priority Development Area (PDA): An area targeted for future development or redevelopment where the local communities will promote use of the land, community

services, and existing or planned infrastructure with maximum efficiency while minimizing the impact on the watershed.

The USPP Steering Committee moved to adopt the above definition as the definition for Priority Development Area. The motion passed. The group proceeded to define Priority Agricultural Areas.

Ms. Crowley voiced a preference for the Olentangy Watershed Planning Partnership's definition of PAAs.

Ms. Snapp indicated that she liked Swan Creek's use of phrase "while minimizing impacts" in the PAA definition.

Mr. Crile indicated that he thought the definition should stop at "activities."

Ms. Crowley believed that including "historical, cultural, etc" in the definition was very important.

The group decided to send out 3 different definition options that they drafted to the non-present Steering Committee members to get their feedback before making a final decision:

- 1.) **Priority Agricultural Area (PAA):** A locally designated area targeted for continued, expanded and/or intensified agricultural activities.
- 2.) **Priority Agricultural Area (PAA):** 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 while minimizing the impact on the watershed.
- 3.) **Priority Agricultural Area (PAA):** A locally designated area which exhibits natural characteristics such as prime or well-drained soils or built characteristics that lend themselves to productive and viable agricultural operations while minimizing the impact on the watershed.

The Upper Scioto Planning Partnership (USPP) Steering Committee requested input from Steering Committee members who were unable to attend this meeting. The Steering Committee will consider the options above prior to the next meeting. Approximately 10 minutes at that meeting will be allotted to finalize and adopt the PCA and PDA definitions.

Joe closed by reminding the USPP Steering Committee of the next steps in the Balanced Growth Planning Process. We are asking each community who wishes to participate in the Upper Scioto Planning Partnership to please pass a resolution to join by the deadline of November 25, 2010. Communities are welcome to remain on the full partnership and attend any future meetings as they see fit (the dates, times, and locations of which will be posted on our website at <http://balancedgrowthplanning.morpc.org>) or they are welcome to assign someone to the USPP Steering Committee by contacting Joe Kitchen (jkitchen@morpc.org) at 614-233-4124.

Joe said that he would send out a scheduling assistant to find a date that works best for the greatest number of USPP Steering Committee members to meet for the next meeting.

At the next USPP Steering Committee meeting (**November 30 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Dublin Branch Library Meeting Room**) partners will develop a draft Priority Area criteria list to aid in the creation of the Priority Area maps.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.