

Walnut Creek Watershed Planning Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting
Meeting of Tuesday, October 26, 2010
Canal Winchester Community Center
22 South Trine Street
Canal Winchester, OH 43110
Meeting Summary

Steering Committee Attendees:

Partner Communities

Eric Sandine, Village of Lithopolis
Kelly Sarko, Violet Township
Marsha Hall, Village of Baltimore
Stephen Moore, Village of Groveport
Matt Brown, Franklin County
Franklin Christman, Village of Ashville

Stakeholders

Gary Bumpus, CW Street Tree Advisory Board
Chris Yoder, ODOT
Perry Orndorff, Fairfield SWCD
Jill Snyder, Metro Parks
Judy White, Southeast Community Coalition
David Schacht, Schacht Farm
Kelly Thiel, Division of Surface Water

MORPC Staff

Joseph Kitchen, Associate Planner
Brandi Whetstone, Outreach Specialist

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 Walnut Creek Planning Partnership (WCPP) Steering Committee is composed of volunteers from communities and stakeholders in the Walnut Creek watershed that are a part of the Walnut Creek 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 Walnut Creek watershed was reminded that the WCPP 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. The Walnut Creek Planning Partnership (WCPP) Steering Committee reviewed the draft agenda. The group proceeded with introductions.

Joe welcomed the WCPP Steering Committee and other attendees. He reminded the group that the full Walnut Creek Planning Partnership decided at the September meeting that they would form the WCPP Steering Committee composed of volunteers from the full WCPP partnership. Everyone from the full partnership and the general public would be welcome to attend the Steering Committee meetings as they see fit. Those who are unable to attend are welcome to send substitutes.

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 Walnut Creek 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.

Brandi re-introduced herself to the group as the outreach specialist working with the Balanced Growth Planning partners and reminded the group that there would be valuable educational opportunities available to all partners in the Walnut Creek Planning Partnership. She welcomed the partners to contact her with any ideas for field trips or educational opportunities.

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

- Develop and adopt WCPP Balanced Growth Plan goal statement(s)
- Develop and adopt Priority Area definitions for Priority Conservation Areas, Priority Development Areas, and Priority Agricultural Areas

The Steering Committee was reminded that a “goals survey” was sent to communities in the Walnut Creek 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 and prior to developing the goal statements for the WCPP Balanced Growth Plan.

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

The Steering Committee was welcomed to decide whether to create one goal statement or elect to create multiple goal statements. They 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 and Priority Definitions were developed and adopted by the Walnut Creek

Planning Partnership (WCPP) Steering Committee on October 26, 2010 for the Walnut Creek Planning Partnership Balanced Growth Plan:

Walnut Creek Planning Partnership Goal Statements

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

- Protecting environmental resources and improving access to green spaces, recreation, and natural areas where appropriate.
- Preserving the unique character of communities within the Walnut Creek watershed
- Maximizing efficient use of infrastructure to promote economic development
- Preserving prime agricultural land within the watershed

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 WCPP 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 Walnut Creek Planning Partnership and based on initial feedback at the September 2010 meeting, the Steering Committee decided to include Priority Agricultural Area designation for the Walnut Creek Balanced Growth Plan.

The WCPP 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.

The WCPP Steering Committee developed the following original definitions for each of the three Priority Areas:

Walnut Creek Planning Partnership Priority Area Definitions

- *Priority Conservation Area (PCA):* An area designated by local communities for its ecological, cultural, recreational, or historical value and for the significant role these areas play in maintaining the integrity of the watershed. These areas are the focus of partnership efforts to protect, conserve, or restore because of the potential for negative impacts to the watershed due to land use change.
- *Priority Development Area (PDA):* 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.
- *Priority Agricultural Area (PAA):* An area designated by local communities targeted for continued, expanded and/or intensified agricultural activities due to historical, cultural, natural or human-created traits which make it conducive to agricultural activities and associated practices that are in harmony with a quality watershed.

A WCPP Steering Committee partner motioned to adopt the above Priority Area definitions for the WCPP Balanced Growth Plan. The motion was seconded. All were in favor of adopting the definitions, none were against. The motion passed.

Joe closed by reminding the WCPP Steering Committee of the next steps in the Balanced Growth Planning Process. We are asking each community who wishes to participate in the Walnut Creek 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 WCPP Steering Committee by contacting Joe Kitchen (jkitchen@morpc.org) at 614-233-4124. At the next Steering Committee meeting (December 8, 2010 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.) partners will develop a draft Priority Area criteria list to aid in the creation of the Priority Area maps.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.