

Walnut Creek Watershed Planning Partnership
Meeting of Thursday, September 23, 2010
Canal Winchester Community Center
22 S. Trine St.
Canal Winchester, OH 43110
Meeting Summary

Attendees:

Partner Communities

Joseph Smith, Bloom Township
John Reef, Greenfield Township
Brian Baker, Madison Township (Pickaway County)
Franklin Christman, Ashville
Stephen Moore, Village of Groveport
Kelly Sarko, Violet Township
William Yapple, Violet Township
Joy David, Violet Township
Dick Miller, Canal Winchester

Stakeholders

James Mako, Fairfield County Regional Planning
Jan Rice, Ohio EPA
Kelly Thiel, Ohio EPA
Chris Yoder, ODOT – District 5
Gary Bumpus, Street Tree Advisory Board
Matt Brown, Franklin County Economic Development & Planning
Judy White, Southeast Community Coalition

MORPC Staff

Jerry Tinianow, Director of the Center for Energy and Environment
Laura Koprowski, Director of Public and Government Affairs
Joseph Kitchen, Associate Planner
Erin Grushon, Associate Planner

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 began the meeting by working with the Walnut Creek Planning Partnership (WCPP) to establish ground rules for partnership meetings. The partnership offered suggestions for ground rules and adopted a draft list of rules.

Then, Joe reviewed the overarching tentative schedule for the development of the Walnut Creek Balanced Growth Plan and reviewed the process and components of Balanced Growth Planning.

Following the review, Joe reminded the WCPP that all communities that wish to participate in the Balanced Growth Planning project must adopt a resolution indicating they are joining by **Thanksgiving (November 25, 2010)** in order to participate and provided communities with a draft [resolution](#). A partner asked Joe if a list of communities that adopted the resolutions would be uploaded to MORPC's Balanced Growth Planning website. Joe responded that it was a good idea and indicated that we would post them on the [website](#).

Next, Joe 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. Joe 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. Anyone on the full partnership would also be welcome to attend the steering committee meetings, the dates, times, and locations of which would be posted on the website. The meeting attendees discussed the two models and raised the following questions:

Q: Who is in the full partnership? Who can be a stakeholder?

A: The full partnership includes all voting members (1 for each community physically located within the watershed) and stakeholders. Both voting members and stakeholders can participate in meetings and/ or volunteer for the steering committee, but only voting members will be able to vote to participate in official votes (approval of Priority Area maps, approval of final Balanced Growth Plan, etc.). Participation as a stakeholder is open to anyone.

Q: Could a community that chose not to participate decide in the future that they wanted to adopt the Balanced Growth Plans and be eligible for incentives?

A: We don't have an official answer to that question. We would need to check with the Ohio Water Resources Council (OWRC). Our suspicion is that the state would say no because it is important to participate in the process.

Q: What types of incentives will be available?

A: There will be some incentives tied to state programs. For example, you may be eligible for extra points on applications for state grant programs or more favorable terms on state loans. MORPC is also considering incorporating incentives for Balanced Growth Plan communities into its transportation project funding process. There are also the soft incentives of preserving land, enhancing recreational space, and encouraging good development practices.

Q: Is a steering committee really needed? There are only about 18 people at this meeting.

A: There are other communities in the partnership who aren't at this meeting. They may be more likely to participate if they know in advance that the time commitment for the full partnership will be less. Anyone who wants to and is able to be consistently involved can join the steering committee.

Q: Would there be meetings every month?

A: No. The full partnership could meet less if the steering committee is able to make decisions.

Q: Do the meetings have to happen in person?

A: Some business, like straw polls, can be conducted online but we prefer face to face meetings.

The partnership then decided that they preferred the model where the steering committee is able to make decisions. They asked that the full partnership be informed of and invited to all steering committee meetings. We agreed to post all future meeting dates, times and locations for the Steering Committee meetings on the [website](#). It is the responsibility of the full partnership to check the website if they would like to attend the steering committee meetings. Joe agreed and said that he would send out a request asking for volunteers to serve on the steering committee.

Joe suggested that the meeting attendees begin brainstorming ideas for goals with the time remaining. Then, the steering committee would have some input from the full partnership when they meet in October to finalize the goals. A partner suggested collecting the goals that are already out there in existing community plans. Other attendees agreed with this idea. Joe agreed and said that he would send out a survey regarding goals to the partner communities. Joe pulled up a list of potential draft goal statements and the partnership discussed them. There was generally a positive response to most of the draft goal statements and it was decided that the steering committee would use both the draft goal statements and the results of the goals survey when they meet in October to finalize the goals and Priority Area definitions.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.