

VII. Evaluation

To ensure that the Watershed Action Plan recommendations provide water resource quality improvements, evaluation of the progress will be evaluated on two levels of reporting. These levels include:

1. Long Term – Water Quality Resource Improvements
Programmatic Success
 2. Short Term – Performance Indicator Success
1. Long Term – Water Quality Resource Improvements
Evaluating the progress to meet the long-term goals will be determined through the establishment of a local monitoring program and assistance from agencies such as Ohio EPA, NEORS and County Board of Health for sampling to determine if the watershed is reaching these long-term goals.

Long Term Goals:

- Full attainment of watershed
- Phosphorous load reductions
- QHEI scores of 60.

The goals will be evaluated on an annual basis or as determined by the monitoring program to assess the progress being made.

The monitoring program will include the establishment of the Volunteer Monitoring Program through the Monitoring Sub-Committee formed in 2005. The evaluation of data will be with the committee on an annual basis with Ohio EPA and the Watershed Council. In addition the monitoring by local agencies every five years where budgets allow will gauge progress or decline with these recommendations in place.

The database will be developed by the Monitoring Committee. The work plan for the monitoring will be developed in 2006 including a Quality Assurance Plan Procedure.

Programmatic Progress

The Euclid Creek program and its sustainability will be essential to reaching the goals of water resource quality to ensure it is effective for the watershed communities and reaching the goals of the watershed plan recommendations.

Programmatic elements include staffing of the watershed coordinator, funding, scope of work and tasks. These elements will be evaluated on an annual basis and evaluation through the DNR Area Assistance Team, Euclid Creek Watershed Council and Friends of Euclid Creek.

2. Short-Term – Performance Indicator Success
As presented in Chapter 5 performance indicators are outlined to evaluate the success of the watershed recommendations and their implementation. For example, the goal of protection riparian corridors is measured by the goal of five conservation easements by 2008. These performance indicators will be

evaluated on an annual basis through the review of the previous years work plan and accomplishments and the development of annual work plan. As part of this evaluation, a tracking database will be developed for each recommendation to measure progress and if it's meeting the performance indicators.

The combination of load reduction, restoration and conservation actions can provide the infrastructure for the watershed to bring the stream into attainment. This strategy to reach attainment has not been proven in Ohio to date. However, numerous urban streams in Ohio and around the country are implementing similar strategies. Based upon this strategy as an emerging trend in urbanized watersheds, measuring progress and adapting appropriately will be essential.

The establishment of a monitoring program, annual work plan and evaluation process will identify the advantages and challenges of these recommendations as implementation begins. These products will be produced by the Euclid Creek Monitoring Committee, Technical Committee with support from the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District. This will provide an evaluation process to ensure the progress toward achievement of the Watershed as well as document measurable results for water resource quality in Euclid Creek.

VIII. Plan Update/Revision

Distribution list for plan

The Plan will be distributed to all nine Euclid Creek Watershed Council communities, Friends of Euclid Creek and one for the South Euclid –Lyndhurst Library and Cleveland Nottingham Library.

The Plan will also be available via the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District's website to download for printing and viewing at www.cuyahogawcd.org

The plan will be reviewed and revised as more information becomes available to further refine the recommendations and priorities for the watershed through the Euclid Creek Watershed Council and Friends of Euclid Creek.

IX. Conclusion

Euclid Creek stands at a crossroads of watershed stewardship unlike any other watershed along the Lake Erie coastline. The threshold to withstand additional stresses on its system can prohibit its return to a viable healthy water body within the Lake Erie basin. On the other side, instituting change today can catapult this resource to a self-sustaining treasure within the urban landscape it travels through.

Urban stream restoration both from a physical and a biological/chemical point of view can be very challenging. Changing human influence for the next 20 years can have a profound effect in Euclid Creek as well as the numerous small Lake Erie tributaries that feed into its ecosystem.

To realize this change, the efforts in Euclid Creek will require an unprecedented collaboration of local communities, residents, businesses and agency support. The momentum has begun in Euclid Creek. Now is the time to see how far these efforts can go while further enhancing the great communities located within the watershed as we position the region for its future.

