

Euclid Creek Watershed Council Minutes
June 16, 2011, Highland Heights Community Center

Present: Andrew Blackley (South Euclid); Thom Evans (Highland Heights); Chris Hartman (Lyndhurst); David H. Roche (Richmond Heights); Jim Kastelic (Cleveland Metroparks); Tom Kreczko (Beachwood); Claire Posius (Watershed Coordinator); Babette Oestreicher (Watershed Intern); Betsy Yingling (NEORS); Stephen Love (Euclid Beach, Adopt-A-Beach); **Mayor Georgine Welo, Council President** (South Euclid)

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 am.

The Chair called the meeting to order and moved to approve the minutes from the February 2011 Council meeting and Mr. Kobunski seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the Council.

Betsy Yingling of NEORS presented on behalf of Doug Gabriel on the Euclid Creek Storage Tunnel project. The Euclid Creek Storage project is one of seven projects to be completed by NEORS in the efforts to greatly reduce CSO occurrences within their service area. These projects include a system of tunnels constructed to capture and divert the CSO from the Lake to treatment facilities. A more complete project outline can be found in the Euclid Creek Tunnel powerpoint presentation which is available upon request. Q&A occurred after the presentation.

- Ms. Welo asked if NEORS is hiring local crews. Ms. Yingling said that she believed the mining company was from out of town but that local workers would be hired under SBE regulations. [\[Betsy Yingling emailed on 6/17 that the tunneling contractor is McNally-Kiewitt joint venture\].](#)
- Mr. Blackley asked if NEORS will be providing support to the communities outside of Cleveland to meet their Community Discharge Permits (CDP) because most are exceeding their limits. Ms. Yingling replied that once the sanitary sewer program was up and running that they would look at revamping the community permit program.
- Ms. Welo said that this was a very interesting presentation and would Betsy talk to other groups about the project. Ms. Yingling said to call the NEORS and ask for the Speaker's Bureau to request a speaker/topic.
- Mr. Kastelic asked where the shale spoils from the tunnel would be taken? Ms. Yingling said she did not know and would be back to the group on that. [\[Ms. Yingling emailed on 6/17 that the permit for disposal of the dredge spoils has not been granted yet, but they are pursuing the use of the spoils for fill on the extension of Transportation Blvd. in Garfield Heights. It's the contractor's responsibility to get the permit for spoils disposal.\]](#)
- Mr. Hartman asked for an update on the Stormwater Management Program. Ms. Yingling informed the Council that court had ruled that NEORS does have the authority to implement its Stormwater Management Program with the exception of a few issues raised by communities. This includes that seven of the eleven Summit County communities are not considered to be "Member Communities" because they had contracted for services only, but not formally joined the District and therefore the District did not have implementing authority with them. Also, several provisions were struck down which dealt with the District's enforcement ability. There is a hearing to be held in September on fees. Fitzgerald has facilitated mediation with the communities that has been occurring with the hope that an agreement be met to negate the need to go to trial over the fees.
- Ms. Posius asked if the District was paring Green Infrastructure projects with projects in the headwaters of Euclid Creek. Ms. Yingling said that green infrastructure projects will happen within the CSO area, which is in Cleveland; but that the Stormwater Program would address projects in the upper watershed once it begins.
- Mr. Hartman asked if the District is promoting water conservation. Ms. Yingling said no, because the CSO issues do not arise during dry weather and that water consumption on a whole is down so it makes more sense to focus on wet weather events and the issues dealing with that.
- Ms. Oestreicher asked if the green infrastructure projects will involve the communities in the planting and planning of projects like had been done in Philadelphia. Ms. Yingling said that the Philadelphia storm water project is managed by the City which has the power to make pass

protocols that the District does not, so that the District cannot do all the programming that Philadelphia has for communities.

- Ms. Posius expressed interest in having the ECWC go on a tour of the facility at some point in the project construction.

Ms. Posius next introduced Mr. Love, with Euclid Beach Adopt-A-Beach Team who explained some of the efforts that he has been leading with the group including monthly beach clean ups and events at Euclid Beach such as the Euclid Beach Blast on July 16th (visit www.artscollinwood.org for more information). He also discussed the anti-litter campaign funded by a \$5,000 ODNR Grant that he and Ms. Oestreicher have been working on, including public education signage and flyers, and garbage, recycling and cigarette receptacles. Mr. Love mentioned that communities could help by spreading the word about beach clean ups and events and any possible financial assistance. He also mentioned the District's Small-Scale Stormwater Demonstration Projects Grant where he applied for funds to plant a rain garden at Euclid Beach. Ms. Yingling mentioned that there were 30 applicants and \$50,000 to be awarded this year.

Ms. Posius introduced Babette Oestreicher, Euclid Creek Watershed's first intern. Ms. Oestreicher discussed several projects that she is aiding Ms. Posius in completing including the Watershed Fact Sheets for each PIPE community. Ms. Oestreicher explained that the fact sheets are to help the community understand what a watershed is and what watershed(s) they live in to give them more ownership and awareness about their actions and the importance of their community's actions in storm water management practices. She mentioned one interesting element in creating the fact sheet was verifying the illegal dumping phone numbers that each community is required to have for the MS4 permit requirements. Ms. Oestreicher called the numbers provided by Ms. Posius and for those where numbers were missing, called the Service Departments. She found that some community representatives knew exactly what number to call, while others did not know what illegal dumping meant. Ms. Oestreicher stressed the importance of passing along information on illegal dumping to those representing each community to make sure that the information reaches the correct department so that the manner can be handled in an effective and efficient manner.

The Watershed Coordinator provided an update to the Council on PIPE program activities and she went over the Involvement Events scheduled in each community (detailed in the 2011 Events Series handout) as well as the 2011 Work Plan Status Report/Project Update. Ms. Posius gave details on the East Branch Dam removal celebration event and damage from the February 28th storm; and gave an update on Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Lacustrine wetland project, including the selection of RiverWorks (see handout and project website for more information). Ms. Posius discussed the status of the City of Cleveland WPC Building Storm water Management Improvements which are scheduled to be completed in 2011. She also updated the group on the Mayfield Heights Green Infrastructure Demonstration project which is under construction by Ohio Paving & Construction Inc with URS providing oversight. This 4 month construction project will help to minimize the storm water inputs from the City Hall and will be monitored for overall effectiveness by the EPA. Ms. Posius reviewed and provided feedback on the signage for the project. Ms. Posius informed the Council that she has added both of these projects to the Euclid Creek website. Ms. Posius also mentioned the ReLEAF grant and that the first year will encompass ordinance research and recommendations with the following year (2012) including presentations and outreach to communities.

Ms. Posius went over the status of grants that have been submitted. Water Resources Restoration Sponsor Program, 2011 Proposals applied for Mayfair Lake. The project made the list but ranked low on the list, so Ms. Posius is going to defer it for one year with new covenant requirements which make the project deadlines unrealistic for 2011. Ms. Posius would like to hold a public meeting this Fall/Winter to gauge support before applying for WRRSP 2012 funding. Ms. Yingling said that there is a similar project in Chagrin where a pond was returned to a stream that shows a positive end product which may be helpful. Ms. Posius asked Mr. Blackley about a grant they applied for to create a pathway to the Nine Mile overlook area. Mr. Blackley said that South Euclid also submitted an application to the District's Small-Scale Stormwater Demonstration Projects Grant program for this project. Ms. Posius mentioned that the only other funding opportunities that she knew as out there was the Alternative Stormwater

Infrastructure Loan program through the Ohio Dept. of Development. The program provides low-interest loans (up to 5 million dollars) for the construction of alternative storm water infrastructure projects.

Ms. Posius commented that many trainings have been held this year, negating the need for a Technical Committee meeting. If any Council member would like to hold a meeting about a topic or proposed development, call Ms. Posius to schedule.

Ms. Posius mentioned that some of the city's ordinances (updates to MCM's 4&5) were due in the month of June and asked how the communities were doing on updating the ordinances. Both Mr. Blackley and Mr. Evans said that South Euclid's and Highland Heights' respectively, were in committee right now. Ms. Posius said that Beachwood was not due until September and Richmond Heights was not until October.

Ms. Posius asked if there were any project or event updates to report. Ms. Welo suggested that it may be interesting to have someone speak to the council about the Oakwood redevelopment project on Nine Mile Creek and the potential daylighting of a portion of Nine Mile. Mr. Kastelic brought up the news that the City of Cleveland has budgeted \$2.2 million to create the trail connector from Wildwood to Euclid Creek Reservation (the Cleveland portion) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

The next Watershed Council meeting was scheduled for October 13, 2010 at South Euclid at the Sanctuary on the Green which overlooks the Nine Mile Wetlands project. [\[Meeting changed to September 22nd at Sanctuary on Green\]](#).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 am.

Minutes compiled by Babette Oestreicher, Watershed Intern