

Euclid Creek Watershed Council Minutes

February 2, 2017 - Mayfield Heights City Hall

Present: Andy Blackley (South Euclid); Meiring Borchers (Lyndhurst); Tom Cappello (Mayfield Village); Chris Cheraso (Cleveland Metroparks); **Mayor Anthony DiCicco** (Mayfield Heights); Thom Evans (Highland Heights); Dan Gerson (Mayfield Heights); Brian Mader (Highland Heights); Doug Metzung (Mayfield Village); Claire Posius (Watershed Coordinator); **Mayor David Roche** (FOEC, Richmond Heights), **Vice Council Chair**; Susan Sabetta (Mayfield Heights Councilwoman); Charles Sawyer (Lyndhurst); Chris Vild, **Council Chair** (Beachwood); **Mayor Patrick Ward** (Lyndhurst); **Mayor Georgine Welo** (South Euclid); Rachid Zoghaib (Commissioner, Cleveland WPC)

The meeting was called to order at 7:59am.

The Chair called the meeting to order. Mayor Ward then moved to approve the minutes from the October 6 Watershed Summit meeting as is, and Mayor Welo seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the Council.

The Watershed Coordinator next discussed the revised Euclid Creek Program MOU since the previous MOU, which expired at the end of 2016, had to be modified due to a programmatic change. Ms. Posius discussed the new regional PIPE program being paid through NEORS that necessitated removing PIPE services from the Watershed Council MOU. In modifying the MOU, Ms. Posius expounded upon watershed services CSWCD provides and details watershed outreach efforts. She discussed how the program will be primarily the same, except that there will now be two separate agreements. While the overall program fee increased from \$5,500 to \$8,500 after no increase of program fees the previous 8 years, \$5,500 is for the new PIPE program and is reimbursable by NEORS (through NEORS's US EPA Consent Decree money Mr. Borchers clarified) and the \$3,000 Watershed Program cost is an eligible cost that could be paid through NEORS's community cost share application (communities can apply for multiple projects with one application Mr. Borchers clarified). Ms. Posius went through services provided by both the PIPE program and the Watershed program ([detailed in presentation here](#)). Mr. Evans expressed concern at the program cost increase, but appreciated the presentation showing the value added. Ms. Posius stressed that program costs had not increased in 8 years due to the economic downturn and the desire of CSWCD to not burden communities. With the opportunity to have the program fees paid for through NEORS, the opportunity presented itself to raise program fees to reflect 8 years of inflation and to more accurately match the cost of the program. Ms. Posius also stressed that the program has the value added of an entire CSWCD staff of stormwater, natural resource, education and stream experts available to communities, in addition to the recent hire of an education specialist who will be working with schools to help them with education programs that will qualify for the NEORS schools fee credit. Mayor Welo and Mr. Vild expressed their full support of the revised MOU and the program overall.

Ms. Posius made the following changes at the request of Watershed Council members to the Watershed MOU:

- added a clause under the Program Appropriation indicating that the watershed program cost is eligible for reimbursement through the NEORS's Community Cost Share Program (p. 2);
- the clause 'not to exceed \$3,000' was changed to 'a cost of \$3,000' (p. 2);
- in *Attachment B* the clause 'and for the Euclid Creek Watershed Program' was added to the first sentence (p. 21).

The Council Chair requested a vote to approve the Euclid Creek Program MOU for 2017-2020 with the edits above proposed. The request would allow the Coordinator and Cuyahoga SWCD to seek this program renewal request to the communities individually in 2017. *Mayor Welo made a motion to approve the revised MOU and this action. Mayor Ward seconded the motion. The Council unanimously approved the action.* The Coordinator outlined the next steps as updating the language in the MOU, sending communities both the final version of the MOU and a version highlighting additions to the MOU, and with the presentation detailing the program changes. Once communities get the MOU through their Council processes and submit the signature page to Ms. Posius, she will send the final document back to the communities.

The nomination of the 2017 Council Chair was conducted. Mr. Vild offered to remain as current chair and the group concurred and thanked him for Beachwood's 3 years of service and for offering to Chair a 4th year. *Mayor Ward made a motion for the nomination and Mayor Welo seconded the motion. All voted yes for Chris Vild to serve his fourth term as Chair.*

The nomination of the 2017 Vice Council Chair was conducted after thanking Mayor Roche for serving the past 2 years as Vice Chair. *Mayor Roche made a motion to nominate himself for the Vice Chair position, and Mayor Ward seconded the motion. Nominations were closed and the Council voted unanimously for Mayor Roche to serve as the Vice Chair of the ECWC for a third term.*

The Watershed Coordinator next provided an annual report to the Council for the 2016 PIPE Program Accomplishments and she went over a few highlight events for the year ([annual work plan summary available here](#)). Ms. Posius then updated the group that the Annual 2016 PIPE Reports will be delivered to all 9 communities with the 2017 Outreach Strategy by March 1. In 2017, the PIPE Committee will be expanded to include 5 communities surrounding the Euclid Creek (East Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, University Heights, Pepper Pike and Gates Mills) and will be called the Northeast Cuyahoga County (NECC) PIPE Committee. When discussing the new geography, Mr. Blackley asked if the Watershed Council should consider expanding to the same borders as the new NECC PIPE Committee for consistency sake. Ms. Posius said this was a great suggestion, worthy of discussion at a future meeting. She then went over the PIPE Committee proposed draft 2017 PIPE Program Work Plan, which will be vetted by the Committee at its March 10 meeting in South Euclid. Ms. Posius and Mr. Vild strongly encouraged the Council to attend this year's Day in the Life of Euclid Creek event – the highlight event in the watershed.

Ms. Posius discussed the 2016 Watershed Council annual work plan summary ([click here for link](#)) in attendees' packets, and she went over project highlights from 2016. Mr. Cheraso updated the group on the Acacia Reservation restoration work that started this past fall, and the Wildwood Park green infrastructure project which will be constructed this summer.

The Watershed Coordinator presented the 2017 work plan to the Council and went over changes to the work plan or updates noted in blue text ([work plan link here](#)). When discussing the Watershed Collaboration and the two staffpeople hired to help existing and under-represented watershed groups, Ms. Posius let communities know that they would be evaluating communities' existing Ordinances to see if they allow for stormwater BMPs. Mayor Ward said that Lyndhurst allows for parking 'banking' so that required parking is held as a set aside in greenspace if businesses don't think they'll need the full amount of parking required. Then if parking seems to be short, they can add parking later once demand is understood. Once recommendations are made, Posius and the watershed collaboration staff will present findings to the community to see if there's interest in modifying ordinances moving forward. When discussing the watershed projects, Mr. Borchers encouraged communities to utilize their community cost share as local match for restoration projects. When discussing the Wildwood Green Infrastructure project, Mr. Cheraso mentioned that the Merwin's Wharf planting was a volunteer-led effort which could be the same with the Wildwood project. When discussing the invasives treatment costs associated with conservation projects, Mr. Vild stressed that money needs to be set aside when doing these projects for management issues post conservation/restoration. Mr. Zoghaib then discussed the spillway project access issues and downstream dredging project in Cleveland. When discussing the Mayfair project and it being a potential mitigation project, Mayor Roche said the airport may have other impacts that might need mitigation, and Mr. Borchers told the group that West Creek Conservancy is working with ACE to see if they could be a mitigation bank holder for our urban region in order to keep mitigation within the watershed impacted. Ms. Posius encouraged communities to keep her in the loop on projects they are applying for for community cost share funding, especially those that improve water quality or reduce stormwater runoff, so she can keep updated on the improvements. *Mr. Vild made a motion to approve the 2017 ECWC Annual Work Plan as proposed and Mayor Ward seconded the motion. All members accepted the 2017 work plan.*

The Watershed Summit was briefly discussed and Mr. Vild and attendees agreed that the second Summit was a great way to get partners together and should be continued. The date of November 9 at Lyndhurst community Center from 5-7 was selected for the summit if that works for the City (which it does). Mr. Vild is going to approach the Oxbow Engineering Please provide any suggestions you have for the summit to Ms. Posius.

The next Watershed Council meeting is scheduled for June 15 in Highland Heights.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 am.

Minutes compiled by Claire Posius, Watershed Coordinator