

## Euclid Creek Watershed Council Minutes

April 5, 2018 – Richmond Heights City Hall

Present: Chris Cheraso (Cleveland Metroparks); Tony Fatica (Mayfield Heights); Jeff Filarski (Lyndhurst); Tony Fioritto (Lyndhurst); Joe Fornaro (Mayfield Heights); Jennifer Heard (Cleveland); Elizabeth Hiser (Cuyahoga SWCD); Ken Messinger Rapport (FOEC / Highland Heights); Doug Metzung (Mayfield Village); Claire Posius (Watershed Program Manager); **Mayor David Roche, Vice Council Chair (Richmond Heights)**; Jan Rybka (Cuyahoga SWCD); Laura Travers (Euclid); **Chris Vild, Council Chair** (Beachwood); Mayor Patrick Ward (Lyndhurst), Mayor Georgine Welo (South Euclid); Chuck Zibbel (Highland Heights), and Rachid Zoghaib (Cleveland).

The meeting was called to order at 8:07 am.

The Chair called the meeting to order. Mayor Ward then moved to approve the minutes from the November 9 Watershed Summit meeting as is, and Mayor Roche seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the Council.

The nomination of the 2018 Council Chair was conducted. *Mayor Ward made a motion to nominate Chris Vild for the Chair position and Mayor Welo seconded the motion. All voted yes for Chris Vild to serve his fifth term as Chair.* Ms. Posius congratulated Mr. Vild and thanked him for his past 4 years of service.

The nomination of the 2018 Vice Council Chair was conducted after thanking Mayor Roche for serving the past three years as Vice Chair. *Mayor Ward made a motion to nominate Mayor Roche for the Vice Chair position, and Mayor Welo 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 fourth term.*

Ms. Posius announced to the Council that after much careful and difficult consideration, that she has accepted a job at the NEORS and will be leaving her position as Euclid Creek Watershed Program Manager on April 21, after 10 years of service. The group discussed next steps for replacing Ms. Posius and the numerous successes of the program for the next Coordinator to build on.

Next, Dr. Larick, Watershed Coordinator for the Bluestone Heights watersheds gave a presentation on his watershed work in the Lake Erie direct watersheds surrounding Euclid Creek to the east and west. Dr. Larick first discussed his work in the Euclid watersheds categorizing and prioritizing wetlands for protection and restoration. He then discussed Green Creek, the watershed directly west of Euclid Creek and his plan to outreach to property owners about runoff affecting the ravine. He also conducted a tree inventory in this ravine and attached a value to the trees of 360 tons of carbon sequestered and 7 million gallons of stormwater storage roughly – to show the ecological, monetary and health value these trees provide to the community.

The Watershed Program Manager provided an annual report to the Council for the 2017 PIPE Program Accomplishments and she went over a few highlight events for the year ([handout available here](#)). She then went over the PIPE Committee approved 2018 PIPE Program Work Plan highlighting the 2018 theme and several watershed wide activities planned ([link to work plan here](#)). Mayor Welo updated the group that the South Euclid Harvest Fest will be on September 8.

Ms. Posius went over the 2017 Euclid Creek Watershed Council Work Plan Annual highlights ([link to work plan here](#)). Mr. Cheraso provided more detail on the Cleveland Green Infrastructure project at Wildwood Park and the Acacia Reservation restoration project. When discussing the Mayfield Village CRWP-led Green Infrastructure pilot project assessing barriers to installing GI, Mr. Metzung said that several businesses have expressed interest in the effort. Mr. Messinger-Rapport discussed Friends of Euclid Creek's recent agreement with Chagrin River Watershed Partners to receive administrative, bookkeeping and email assistance to reduce the burden on

the FOEC all-volunteer staff. And Mr. Vild corroborated that funders want to see these types of collaborations when providing funds to groups.

The Watershed Program Manager next went over the draft 2018 Euclid Creek Watershed Council Work Plan. Priority projects for 2018 include the Willoughby-Eastlake School of Innovation restoration project which will mostly be completed by the end of 2018; the Community Christian Church in Euclid Tree Planting this fall with Dominion/WRLC funds; and trying to fund two projects at the Cleveland Clinic-Lyndhurst Campus, as well as implementing top priorities from the Dusty Goldenrod Preserve ecological management plan; keeping updated on the E. 185<sup>th</sup> Street Spillway fish passage feasibility study; and completing the last year 5 of monitoring for the Wildwood stream and wetland restoration project at Wildwood Park. When discussing the challenges of keeping projects maintained, the group commiserated on early rain garden and bioretention gardens that now look wild and unkempt and the need to replant some to be more low maintenance for communities. Mayor Welo agreed saying that the Quarry North bioretention area is very hard to maintain, and that the City planted over 100 trees at the Oakwood Golf Course in 2017. *Mayor Welo made a motion to approve the 2018 ECWC Annual Work Plan as proposed and Mayor Ward seconded the motion. All members accepted the 2018 work plan ([work plan link here](#)).*

The Watershed Summit was discussed and Mr. Vild talked about the speaker from the Cleveland Water Alliance and positive feedback he received. The 2018 Watershed Summit will be combined with the Cuyahoga SWCD's Annual meeting and will be held in the City of Euclid at the Senior Center **on Thursday, October 18**. Ideas discussed were to showcase projects in Euclid from the Pier at Sims Park and the soon to be constructed lakefront trail, to the possibility of a Dr. Larick tour of one of the ravine or wetland areas, discussing commonalities with the Euclid Creek East Branch ravines. Ms. Rybka likes the idea of an afternoon open house type event so school aged children can participate. If you have ideas for the meeting contact Jan Rybka or Chris Vild in the upcoming months.

Additional Business Discussed: Ms. Rybka thanked the Council for supporting the Watershed Program over the past 17 years and thanked Ms. Posius for her hard work over the past 10 years. Mr. Messinger Rapport and Vild discussed the upcoming Plastics Program Dr. Sherri Mason is presenting in August and encouraged everyone to help us promote the event and attend the presentation. Mayor Roche updated the group on a property the City of Richmond Heights closed on recently to keep this sensitive land protected – the City has protected close to 50 acres of steep sloped riparian area in the City to prevent development on these slippage prone soils.

The next Watershed Council meeting is scheduled for **June 26 in South Euclid** with a presentation on Harmful Algal Blooms. And the summit is scheduled for Thursday, October 18 in the late afternoon/early evening in the City of Euclid.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 am.

Minutes compiled by Claire Posius, Watershed Coordinator