

## Euclid Creek Watershed Council

Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, June 15, 2022  
9:00 am – 10:00 am

Lyndhurst Community Center  
1341 Parkview Drive  
Lyndhurst, OH 44124

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### MISSION

*To address common environmental, stormwater,  
and development concerns in the Euclid Creek watershed*

### MEMBERS

#### PRESENT

*Cuyahoga SWCD*

**Jared Bartley**, Cuyahoga SWCD

**Kate Chapel**, Cuyahoga SWCD

**Meg Hennessey**, Cuyahoga SWCD

*Board*

**Ramona Lowery**, Commissioner, City of Cleveland  
Division of Water Pollution Control

**Laura Travers**, City of Euclid

**Chris Vild**, City of Beachwood

**Patrick Ward**, Mayor, City of Lyndhurst

*Guests*

**Kaylee Acres**, Chagrin River Watershed Partners

**Esther Trepal**, Friends of Euclid Creek

ABSENT

**Justin Berns**, Mayor, City of Beachwood

**Brenda Bodnar**, Mayor, Village of Mayfield

**Chuck Brunello**, Mayor, City of Highland Heights

**Anthony DiCicco**, Mayor, City of Mayfield Heights

**Kirsten Holzheimer Gail**, Mayor, City of Euclid

**Kim Thomas**, Mayor, City of Richmond Heights

**Georgine Welo**, Mayor, City of South Euclid

### MINUTES

#### Welcome and Introductions

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves with their name, title, community, years with the watershed council, and favorite local park. Kate Chapel introduced herself as the new watershed coordinator for Euclid Creek (bio and contact information included on the Cuyahoga SWCD website).

Jared thanked everyone for their continued support of the Euclid Creek Watershed Program and reviewed the goals and missions of the program. Jared also gave a brief history of the Council: The Watershed Council formed in the early 2000's in response to flooding and stormwater issues in the Euclid Creek watershed. The nine communities have been actively involved in the Watershed Council since then. The Council generally meets 2-3 times a year to discuss the Euclid Creek Watershed Program Work Plan, the PIPE Work Plan, and other topics. The members of the Council sign an MOU with Cuyahoga SWCD to perform the services described in the Work Plan. The current MOU runs from 2021 to 2024.

#### Nominations for 2022 Chair and Vice Chair

The meeting did not have a quorum, so no vote could be held on the roles of Chair and Vice Chair. Current Chair, Chris Vild explained that the main responsibilities of the Chair were to run the formal parts of the Council meetings like presiding over votes. The Vice Chair assumes these responsibilities if the Chair cannot be present. Chris let the attendees know that the Chair position is made easy because of the coordination that Cuyahoga SWCD provide to set up meetings, create presentations, and plan logistics.

### Approve December 2021 Minutes

This document was provided via email and hard copy at the meeting. The meeting did not have a quorum, so no vote could be held on the December 2021 Minutes. There were no questions or corrections, so these can be voted on at the next meeting easily.

### Presentation 2022 ECWP Work Plan

This document was provided via email and hard copy at the meeting. Jared Bartley explained the sections of ECWP Work Plan to the Council. Highlighting a few actions from section 1, Jared let folks know that the Euclid Creek NPS-IS Plan was updated and submitted to OEPA as Version 1.3 in February and that Cuyahoga SWCD staff are reviewing the edits and feedback currently. He anticipates returning an updated file to OEPA for approval by the end of summer. Jared also let folks know that there was a tree planting in Richmond Heights on Friday, June 10 as part of a USFS GLRI grant. There was also a riparian planting along Claribel Creek by a contractor here. Mayfield Heights is also a site for this grant.

Meg Hennessey reviewed section 2 of the Plan which includes PIPE activities, other public outreach, etc. These actions and tasks can be used on communities' MS4 permit annual report. Some of the watershed outreach includes the annual Euclid Creek Newsletter, monthly E-news, website and social media postings, and targeted mailings. The Council can expect to see that Annual Newsletter sometime in late summer.

One program that will include outreach and a targeted mailing is the Lake Erie Stormwater Rebate Program (Pilot). Kate explained:

The pilot year of the Lake Erie Stormwater Stewardship Rebate Program is being offered in partnership between the City of South Euclid, CRWP, Cuyahoga SWCD, Bluestone Heights (funded by South Euclid, George Gund Foundation, OEPA 319) to offer rebates to homeowners who install stormwater control measures on their property. Stormwater control measures currently eligible for rebates include rain barrels and rain gardens that meet all program criteria. This program has limited funding and is first come first serve, and folks must live in City of South Euclid to be eligible for this program year.

NEORSF funded community focus groups and surveys that shaped development of this program. Anticipated kickoff of this program is August 1, 2022.

Chris Vild asked about the participation process, how will folks know what to install on their property? Kate explained that there will be a stormwater consultation with the resident before the installation of a rain barrel, rain garden, or other SCM. Kate let the Council know that Kaylee Acres from Chagrin River Watershed Partners was present to answer additional questions.

Meg explained the highlights from section 3 of the Plan including our involvement in the Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative, funding from the NEORSF Watershed Partner Service Agreement, and how funding is leverage for the most impact. Each Council community's investment of \$3,000 per year is leveraged into much larger scale projects like 319 stream restorations. It's also very beneficial to pool resources so that messaging, outreach, and mailings can all be streamlined and made more cost-effective.

One of these larger projects includes the Mayfield-Sand Ridge stream restoration in Lyndhurst. Jared explained: The design for the project is complete – all deliverables submitted by June.

Phase 1 Construction is funded through 319 and NEORS Match. We are working through agreements now, and anticipate winter 2022/23 for construction. We also applied for 319 for Phase 2 of construction which has been recommended for funding. If funded, it may be possible to do both phases in same season (construction needs to avoid active golf season). We anticipate an RFP to be released in the late summer or early fall for this work.

Jared explained section 4 of the Plan and highlighted the Cuyahoga County Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Grant Program. Cuyahoga SWCD can assist communities with this application if desired. Jared also explained a bit about the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern Advisory Committee and that Cuyahoga SWCD is the facilitator for that group.

#### Approve 2022 ECWP Workplan Draft

The meeting did not have a quorum, so no vote could be held on the ECWP Work Plan. Cuyahoga SWCD staff let the attendees know that the tasks in this work plan were still being acted on even without a formal vote. We added an update that another Master Rain Gardener course had just concluded last week and more MRGs will be installing their own rain gardens soon as a result. Staff asked for any additions or comments from the Council on the contents of this Plan. There were none.

#### Presentation 2021 PIPE Workplan Summary

This document was provided via email and hard copy at the meeting. Meg gave a summary of the PIPE activities from 2021:

All 2021 PIPE events and outreach have been completed. 27 involvement events and 33 educational programs have been held in 2021 for the Euclid Creek Watershed Committee Communities.

Virtual programming on Green Yards Healthy Homes, Backyard Stream Maintenance, Tree Care, Rain Barrels, Rain Gardens, and water quality monitoring is available on demand for promotion to residents. Simulated live presentations can be catered to individual communities for promotion and viewing at a specific time and date.

PIPE messaging is made consistent across communities, and Cuyahoga SWCD has made the messaging/themes seasonal rather than annual for this permit term which seems to be working well already.

#### Presentation 2022 PIPE Workplan Draft

This document was provided via email and provide hard copy at the meeting. Some new items to note included:

The Backyard Buffers program is funded through a WRLC/Dominion Energy grant that gave out over 100 seedlings to streamside residents. Residents received some education first, and the workshop was well attended. All Euclid Creek communities were represented, with Richmond Heights standing out. The Friends of Euclid Creek helped pass out all the seedlings to residents which was a huge help. Meg thanked them for their efforts and noted that the Friends group helps expand our messaging just that much further.

This document will be presented to the PIPE Committee before a vote with this Council.

### Additional Business from Watershed Council members

Chris Vild asked if there were any other topics of discussion from the Council.

Mayor Ward let folks know that their community magazine comes out in mid-August, these magazines are an opportunity to include includes and program highlights if content is provided with enough notice. There is also an event called “Council Coffee” which is on the first Saturday in October from 9:00-11:00 am at the Lyndhurst Community Center. There is a mini expo has part of this event where departments, schools, partners, etc. can set up a table to showcase their work and have an opportunity for Q&A. The Friends group has participated in this and Cuyahoga SWCD could also participate.

For future meetings, Kate asked the Council’s thoughts on meetings for the rest of 2022. A summer meeting and a late fall/winter meeting was suggested. Mayor Ward suggested a Mayor’s Breakfast style meeting for the summer at 8:00 am instead of 9:00 am. We could also create a form to identify formal alternates for City officials who can’t make a particular meeting so that the community is represented regardless. Chris agreed and encouraged us taking this route. There was general agreement throughout the attendees. Kate let folks know that she would send out the minutes soon with a scheduling poll to set a date for this summer meeting, and work on the form for alternates.

The meeting was adjourned.

*These minutes are respectfully submitted by Kate Chapel, Secretary of ECWC, Watershed Coordinator at Cuyahoga SWCD.*