

2003 GMR Watershed Network Meetings

Great Miami River Watershed Network meets to strategize and share resources

Activity Title: Great Miami River Watershed Network

Activity Description: The Great Miami River Watershed Network meets to facilitate resource-sharing and limit duplication of effort.

Start Date: 6/11/2003 **End Date:** 6/11/2003

Result Statement: Sixteen people were in attendance. Topics discussed during this meeting include: USEPA Watershed Initiative Grant, increase membership, group inventory, watershed signage, gravel mining list serve, proposal to join Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission's basin councils and the network, network staff support, and Great Miami River fish assessment demonstration and discussion. See below for meeting minutes.

**Great Miami Watershed Network Meeting
Minutes**

June 11, 2003

Adventure Central and banks of Great Miami River at Sunrise Park, Dayton

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Attendees: Tom Ryther, Bob Jurick, Ken Barr, Jack Webb, Sue Campbell, Theresa McGeady, Caroline McColloch, Dane Mutter, Beth Moore, Jerry Ballard, Mike Lucas, Kristen Eppley, Angela Manuszak, Sarah Hippensteel, Brian Bohl, Jane Wittke

Agenda Item	Person Responsible	Time allocated
1 – Introductions and February Meeting notes		10 minutes
2 – Progress of Group’s Goals 1 & 2 & 7 - Increase Membership - Watershed Group Inventory - Watershed Signage	Sarah Hippensteel Brian Bohl	25 minutes
3 – USEPA Watershed Initiative grant update	Sarah Hippensteel	10 minutes
4 – Proposal to join MVRPC’S Basin Councils with the Great Miami Watershed Network	Scott Hammond	25 minutes
5 – Update on special interests: - Gravel mining listserve	Bob Jurick	10 minutes
6 - Next Steps and Meeting		10 minutes

Increase Membership

Sarah Hippensteel distributed a list of groups and individuals identified previously. Current Network participants were asked to review the list on their own and determine if they (a) were willing to make a contact to anyone and invite them or (b) could suggest additional names. The Network is also framing language detailing participation benefits to assist us as we invite potential participants.

Group Inventory

Sarah Hippensteel asked everyone to complete information about their watershed organization for publication as a group inventory. She passed the master form around the group in order to get further details about the groups represented. The completed list will be published online or in paper format for

distribution to public officials and interested parties in order to help them contact the group working in their own watershed.

Watershed Signage

Brian Bohl shared that the watershed signage group has identified hundreds of stream crossings in the lower Great Miami River Watershed that would be appropriate for the placement of identifying signs. They have estimated that they need to raise \$60 – 70,000 in order to accomplish their goals. They're hoping to do a major media launch along with the sign installation. Caroline McColloch, Dane Mutter, and Jack Webb shared their experiences and challenges with expanding the signage goal in their watersheds. Varied reactions from each jurisdiction's roadway superintendents and engineers have prompted some to place signs on private property along roadways rather than in the right-of-way. . For more information please contact Brian Bohl at Brian.Bohl@hamilton-co.org.

USEPA Watershed Initiative Grant

The Great Miami River Watershed's proposal was funded at the \$700,000 level. It was one of twenty funded out of 176 applicants. The projects developed by Miami Conservancy District's Watershed Advisory Committee include three main objectives:

1. Reduce nutrient and sediment impairment in the Stillwater River sub-watershed through performance-based cost share payments to provide incentive for load reduction. Partners are Ohio State University, Stillwater Watershed Project and NRCS.
2. Reduce nutrient/sediment impairment in Loramie Creek sub-watershed through the installation of two-stage ditches. Partners are Ohio State University and the Loramie Valley Alliance.
3. Implementing sustainable watershed management strategies locally by providing guidance and cost-share to local communities dealing with stormwater and other water resource management issues. Partners are Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission.

For more information, contact Sarah Hippensteel at shippensteel@miamiconservancy.org.

Gravel Mining Listserve

Bob Jurick shared that a gravel mining listserve has been established for those interested in staying in tune with policies related to gravel mining. He gave a legislative update on HB 119 and provided information that Xenia Township and Spring Valley Township in Greene County were creating policies related to gravel mining. For more information, contact Bob Jurick at bobjurick@greenlink.org.

MVRPC Basin Councils and the Network

Mike Lucas announced that the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission's Basin Councils: Twin Creek, Stillwater River, Upper Great Miami, and Lower Great Miami are joining with the Great Miami River Watershed Network with the intention of strengthening the effectiveness of our watershed partnerships. As of the September Network meeting, former Basin Council participants will be joining the Network for its quarterly meetings. The Watershed Enhancement Program will continue its function as a watershed group with increased definition where geographical overlaps exist with other watershed organizations. For more information, contact Mike Lucas at mlucas@mvrpc.org.

Network staff support

In the future, Miami Conservancy District will be shifting staff assigned to provide meeting notices, minutes, and agendas. Angela Manuszak, Watershed Coordinator, will now be the lead staff person working with the Network. Sarah Hippensteel, Theresa McGeady, and Dusty Hall make up the rest of the

Watershed Team and they will continue to participate as much as possible. Angela's e-mail address is amanuszak@miamiconservancy.org and her phone is 937-223-1278 ext. 3263.

Great Miami River fish assessment experience.

Those in attendance traveled to the right bank of the Great Miami River in downtown Dayton for a demonstration and discussion of fish species found in the river and what indications those species made about the quality of the river's habitat. Guest speakers were Ohio EPA staff Chuck Boucher and Holly Tucker. Both shared valuable information about how stream assessments are done by the Ohio EPA and what water quality trends they are seeing in the Great Miami River Watershed. In general, the watershed's fish species show a great diversity and many species intolerant to poor habitat or other impairments are thriving! For details on the data collected by the Ohio EPA, see your stream's Technical Support Document at: http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/document_index/psdindx.html.

Next meeting

The next Great Miami River Watershed Network meeting will be a lunch meeting in September, hosted by the Indian Lake Watershed Project's Jack Webb. Date to be announced.

Activity Title: Great Miami River Watershed Network

Activity Description: The Great Miami River Watershed Network meets to facilitate resource-sharing and limit duplication of effort.

Start Date: 9/19/2003 **End Date:** 9/19/2003

Result Statement: Approximately 30 people were in attendance. Topics discussed during this meeting include: welcoming of basin council participants, increase membership, inventory / directory, RiverSmart campaign, USEPA Watershed Initiative Grant, and Indian Lake Watershed Project.

**Great Miami Watershed Network Meeting
Minutes**

September 19, 2003

Indian Lake State Park Nature Center

11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Attendees: Tom Allen, Trout Unlimited; Dan Amspaugh, Stillwater Basin Council; Scott Arentsen, DP&L; Jerry Ballard, ODNR Scenic Rivers; Steve Boeder, NRCS; Brian Bohl, Hamilton SWCD; Roberta Broerman, Darke County Health Dept.; Sue Campbell, Concord Twp. Trustee; Jim Carleton; Mo Eichman, Tipp City; Dusty Hall, MCD; Scott Hammond, MVRPC; Amy Havenar, City of Piqua; Sarah Hippensteel, MCD; Ron Jackson, Miami County Health Dept; Kristen Lauer, Honey Creek Watershed Association; Angela Manuszak, MCD; Caroline McColloch, Montgomery SWCD; James McGarry, Miami County Sanitary Engineering; Theresa McGeady, MCD; George Mote, Union Township Trustee; Robert Munch, City of Urbana; Thomas Pierce, Lakengren Water Authority; Bernie Ray, City of Urbana; Rob Sanders, Friends of the Great Miami; Terry Tonovitz, Stillwater Basin Council; Harold Watters, OSU Extension; Jack Webb, Indian Lake Watershed Project; Donna Winchester, City of Dayton; Robert McCall, OSU Extension; several members of the Indian Lake Watershed Project.

Agenda Item	Person Responsible	Time allocated
1 – Introductions and June Meeting notes Welcome to MVRPC’s Basin Council members and Middle Great Miami Watershed Alliance	Angela Manuszak, Scott Hammond	10 minutes
2 – Progress of Group’s Goals 1 & 2 - Increase Membership - Watershed Group Inventory	Sarah Hippensteel	10 minutes
3 – USEPA Watershed Initiative grant update	Sarah Hippensteel	10 minutes
4 - Next Steps and Next Meeting		10 minutes
5 – Overview and Tour of Indian Lake Watershed Project	Jack Webb et al.	180 minutes

This meeting was the first joint meeting of MCD’s Great Miami River Watershed Network and the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission’s Twin Creek, Stillwater River, Upper and Lower Great Miami River Basin Councils. The Indian Lake Watershed Project hosted a picnic lunch and then guided interested parties on a tour of Best Management Practices within the watershed.

New groups: Angela Manuszak and Scott Hammond welcomed the members of the various Basin Councils to the meeting. Scott Hammond noted that rationale for merging MVRPC’s Basin Councils into the Network meetings was to reduce meeting redundancy and to give participants a more regional view of watershed-related issues. He encouraged attendees to provide input to him on the value of the joint

meetings. Harold Watters provided a brief overview of the Middle Great Miami Watershed Alliance's development and recent naming.

Increase membership: Sarah Hippensteel and others are working on a list of potential participants and have plans to contact them with an invitation to become involved. Current network participants should notify Scott Hammond or Angela Manuszak of the need to invite anyone additionally.

Inventory/Directory: Sarah Hippensteel announced that we will publish the directory of local watershed groups and their principle projects in November 2003. She will be contacting individual group leaders to clarify data to be included.

RiverSmart Campaign: Theresa McGeedy distributed printed material for distribution to those who requested it. These brochures support the RiverSmart media campaign that is running now on WDTN Channel 2 in Dayton, Time Warner Cable in Cincinnati's northern and western markets, and WHKO/WHIO radio. Brochures should be placed in literature racks, on reception desks, or some other appropriate means of distribution.

US EPA Watershed Initiative Grant: Sarah Hippensteel explained the current \$700,000 awarded to the Great Miami River Watershed for direct water quality improvements. \$310,000 of that money will be awarded via a competitive grant process to innovative local projects that assist with NPDES Phase II storm water management requirements, water resources protection related to development, or water impairment issues. The request for proposals was distributed to the group. The deadline is October 31, 2003.

Indian Lake Watershed Project: Jack Webb, Executive Director of the Indian Lake Watershed Project provided both oral and printed background information about this successful 14-year-old watershed project in the headwaters of the Great Miami River. Many of ILWP's board members were present for lunch and the meeting. About 20 individuals enjoyed the watershed Best Management Practice tour. We visited sites that featured BMPs that have both urban and rural applications: a few stormwater retention/wetland/flood-prevention installations, secondary containment at a fertilizer and fuel storage area, filter strips, and streambank stabilization. ILWP is careful to include signage crediting the partners involved at almost every site. Their membership has increased to nearly 500 members and their fund-raising activities are extremely successful. Jack offered to share further information with anyone who was curious or would like a presentation or tour for their individual group.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the Great Miami River Watershed Network will be in early December at a time and location to be announced.

Activity Title: Great Miami River Watershed Network

Activity Description: The Great Miami River Watershed Network meets to facilitate resource-sharing and limit duplication of effort.

Start Date: 12/11/2003 **End Date:** 12/11/2003

Result Statement: Approximately 50 people were in attendance. Topics discussed during this meeting include: USEPA Watershed Initiative Grant, availability of free watershed management software, Miami Conservancy District's Watershed Initiative, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission update, and strategic planning.

Great Miami Watershed Network Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2003

Wegerzyn Gardens Metropark, 1– 3 p.m.

Attendees:

Dan Amspaugh, Stillwater Basin Council	Mary Lou Pence, City of Centerville
Scott Arentsen, DP&L	Brian Raison, OSU Ext - Mont. Co.
Jerry Ballard, ODNR Scenic Rivers	Linda Raterman, Miami SWCD
Steve Bergstresser, City of Kettering	Adam Sackenheim, Butler County
Robert Bradley, Jefferson Twp	Rob Sanders, Friends of the Grt. Miami
Allen Burton, Wright State University	Tom Schommer, City of Dayton
Brian Bohl, Hamilton SWCD	Michele Simmons, City of Dayton
Bruce Bollinger, Montgomery Co.Eng.	Chris Snyder, Miami Twp (Mont. Co.)
Sue Campbell, Concord Twp.	Bill Springer, SAPA
Janet Dean, Hull & Associates	James Thompson, Jefferson Twp
Doug Evans, Miami Co. Sanitary Eng.	Hugh Trimble, Ohio EPA
Larry Frimerman, 3 Valley Conserv. Trst.	Richard Wagar, Miami County Eng.
Dusty Hall, MCD	Mary Lou Wilson, Monroe Twp.
Scott Hammond, MVRPC	Donna Winchester, City of Dayton.
Chuck Haught, City of Moraine	
Sarah Hippensteel, MCD	
Tom Hut, Mont.Co.Combined Health Dist	
Jerry Iles, OSU Extension	
Ron Jackson, Miami Co. Health Dept	
Rob James; City of Centerville	
Bob Jurick, BW-Greenway Com. Land Trst	
Bert Kelsey, Montgomery Co. Eng.	
Bruce Koehler, OKI	
Kristen Lauer, Honey Creek Watershed Assn.	
Bob Lentz, Butler Co. Storm Water District	
Angela Manuszak, MCD	
Caroline McColloch, Mont. SWCD	
Karen McCalister, NRCS – Troy	
Robert McCall, OSU Extension	
Jon Miller, City of Urbana	
John Mitchell, City of Vandalia	
Beth Moore, City of Miamisburg	
George Mote, Union Twp	
Robert Munch, City of Urbana	
Steve Nickels, City of Vandalia	

Agenda Item	Person Responsible	Time allocated
1 – Introductions and September meeting notes	Angela Manuszak	5 minutes
2 – USEPA Watershed Initiative grant update	Sarah Hippensteel	5 minutes
3 – Free financial management software	Sarah Hippensteel	5 minutes
4 – MCD Watershed Initiative progress report	Dusty Hall	5 minutes
5 –MVRPC work update	Scott Hammond	5 minutes
6 – Facilitated strategic planning session for 2004-05 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share status report on 2002-03 goals • Create consensus on 2004-05 goals • Agree upon meeting formats 	Jerry Iles, OSU Extension facilitating	85 minutes
7 - Next steps and next meeting	Angela Manuszak	10 minutes

This meeting was the first joint meeting of MCD's Great Miami River Watershed Network and the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission's Twin Creek, Stillwater River, Upper and Lower Great Miami River Basin Councils. Wegerzyn Gardens Metropark provided the space at no charge since there is commonality between the Network's goals and those of the Metropark.

Welcome: Angela Manuszak welcomed participants to the meeting, providing a brief overview of the merge that occurred between the Network and MVRPC's Basin Councils in order to reduce meeting redundancy and to give participants a more regional view of watershed-related issues. All stakeholders are encouraged to participate in modifying or developing new goals the group can accomplish together to meet individual needs.

September meeting minutes: No changes were requested to the September meeting minutes.

USEPA Watershed Initiative Grant: Sarah Hippensteel described this \$700,000 grant project, which includes three major segments:

Activity 1. Reduce nutrient and sediment impairment in the Stillwater River sub-watershed through performance-based cost-share payments to provide incentive for load reduction. Partners are The Ohio State University, Stillwater Watershed Project and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Activity 2. Reduce nutrient and sediment impairment in Loramie Creek sub-watershed by constructing innovative two-stage ditches. This ditch design will decrease sediment and nutrient transport, improve drainage and ecological function, increase ditch stability and reduce maintenance requirements. Partners are The Ohio State University and the Loramie Valley Alliance.

Activity 3. Implement sustainable watershed management strategies by providing cost-share incentives to communities to implement innovative local strategies that assist with storm-water-management requirements, water-resource protection related to

development, and water-quality impairment issues. Partners include the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission and several local communities. These local projects submitted proposals this fall and are in the final selection process. For more information on this grant, contact Sarah at shippensteel@miamiconservancy.org.

Free software: Sarah Hippensteel has access to free watershed program management software. If you're interested in receiving a copy, contact her at shippensteel@miamiconservancy.org.

MCD Watershed Initiative: Dusty Hall provided a summary of the conceptual pollutant trading program that he has been discussing with various stakeholders. It, along with needed water-quality monitoring, will be developed further as the core of the MCD Water Conservation Subdistrict, if approved by MCD's Board of Directors. For more information, contact Dusty at dhall@miamiconservancy.org.

MVRPC Update: Scott Hammond gave a brief update on MVRPC Environmental Program activities. Scott welcomed participants from the MVRPC Basin Councils to the meeting and noted their importance in providing local input and regional perspective to the Watershed Network. He announced that a new technical committee will be formed in 2004 to review and approve wastewater treatment Facility Plan Update proposals. The committee will be comprised of approximately 20 members and will likely consist of the sanitary engineer from each of MVRPC's five counties, as well as representatives from wastewater treatment plants, SWCDs, and Health Districts. MVRPC recently completed a final draft of a model Phase II Stormwater Management Ordinance/Resolution. The model is the culmination of about one and a half years of work with the agency's Stormwater Work Group Pre-Post Construction sub-committee. The model is available for download on the MVRPC website (www.mvrpc.org). Scott said that he is interested in receiving comments on the model. In addition, MVRPC recently completed a Livestock Inventory Update for Darke County. A similar update will be completed for Miami County by the end of the year. The Livestock Inventory Updates are done in conjunction with the Darke and Miami SWCDs and are integral elements of the Stillwater Watershed Project. For more information, contact Scott at shammond@mvrpc.org.

Strategic Planning: Jerry Iles of OSU Extension facilitated a strategic planning session to create GMRW Network goals for 2004-2005. The attendees divided into four smaller groups, and volunteers facilitated a discussion about progress made on the 2002-2003 goals and whether or not that work should continue or if new goals are in order. Each group presented their top goals to the entire group. Those goals were then ranked via "sticker votes" by the attendees. Those goals that reached top priority status were:

GOAL* (as written on sheets)	VOTES
Comprehensive water-quality clearinghouse	27
Create a structure responsible for meeting 2004 goals	14
Quarterly newsletter w/info from each watershed	13
Inventory resources	11
Educate local elected officials	10
Implement landowner stream protection programs (funding & education), and find funding sources for local pilot projects	10
Examine creative methods for protecting headwater habitats	9
Imbed/adopt protection strategies into local/regional frameworks	8
Develop method to chart progress on goals	8

Miami Conservancy District's Stormwater Activities

ID and assess low dams for possible removal	5
Centralized data repository	5
Summer intern program (or volunteer program)	5
Create publications and events to promote the GMR	4
Increase participation	3
Explore how HHEI data from within Miami Watershed can be generated, collected, stored, and used	3
Who's missing? Citizens, neighbor groups, agriculture	3
This group status: Evolve? Formalize? Same?	3
HHI Projects - Smart Growth	2
Update Buried Valley Aquifer maps	1
Participate in pollutant trading initiative	1
Identify stream segments with riparian corridor restoration/protection projects under way	1
Distribution of education initiative material	1

*Only those goals receiving votes are recorded

Refining goals: Since many of the above goals are similar to each other, an ad hoc committee was formed to analyze and refine the goals before the March meeting. The ad hoc committee volunteers are: Michele Simmons, Janet Dean, Scott Hammond, Angela Manuszak, Rob Sanders (or Bruce Koehler), Ron Jackson, Jerry Ballard, Caroline McColloch, and Mary Lou Wilson. Angela will assemble the group in the next couple of months.

Next meeting: The group decided to continue to meet quarterly and to aim for the first Thursday of the months of March, June, September, and December from 1 to 3 p.m. at various locations. Agenda items for the next meeting include reviewing the goal refinement work of the ad hoc committee and making plans to reach those goals. Chuck Haught of the City of Moraine volunteered to host the next meeting of the Great Miami River Watershed Network on **Thursday, March 4**, at the Moraine Recreation Center.