

2004 GMR Watershed Network Meetings

Great Miami River Watershed Network meets to strategize and share resources

Activity Title: Great Miami River Watershed Network Meetings

Activity Description: The Great Miami River Watershed Network met four times in 2004 to facilitate resource-sharing and limit duplication of effort.

Start Date: 3/4/2004 **End Date:** 3/4/2004

Result Statement: Approximately 40 people attended this meeting which included: USEPA Targeted Watershed Grant Update, MVRPC work update, Strategic Planning for 2004-2005, Great Miami River Watershed NAWQA (presented by USGS) and a roundtable discussion. See below for meeting minutes.

**Great Miami Watershed Network Meeting
Minutes**

March 4, 2004

Moraine's Payne Recreation Center, 1– 3 p.m.

Attendees:

Steve Bergstresser	City of Kettering	Kristen Lauer	Honey Creek WS Assoc.
Robert Bradley	Jefferson Township	Angela Manuszak	MCD
Patricia Brechlin	League of Women Voters	Caroline McColloch	Montgomery SWCD
Ruth Breech	Ohio Citizen Action	James McGarry	Miami Co. Sanitary Eng.
Jim Carleton	Upper Basin Council	Theresa McGeady	MCD
Charles Curran	Montgomery Co.	Beth Moore	City of Miamisburg
Janet Dean	Hull & Assoc	Jim Morris	USGS
Dale Dempsey	Dayton Daily News	Frank Myers	City of Trotwood
Jerry Eldred	Miami Co. PD	Terrence Nealy	City of Riverside
Leigh Ann Gerardi	W-H Greenway	Donna Runkle	USGS
Allen Griffin	Citizen	Tom Schommer	City of Dayton
Dusty Hall	MCD	Bob Shook	Concord Township
Scott Hammond	MVRPC	Michele Simmons	City of Dayton
Chuck Haught	City of Moraine	Chris Snyder	Miami Twp (Mont. Co.)
Sarah Hippensteel	MCD	Debbie Swan	City of Troy
Stephanie Janosy	USGS	James Thompson	Jefferson Township
Bob Jurick	B-W Greenway	Hugh Trimble	Ohio EPA
Bert Kelsey	Mont. Co. Engineer's	Harold Watters	OSU Extension-Miami
Bruce Koehler	OKI/FOGM	Mary Lou Wilson	Monroe Twp
Allison Kunze	USGS		

Network Meeting Agenda:

Agenda Item	Person Responsible	Time allocated
1 – Introductions and December meeting notes	Angela Manuszak	5 minutes
2 – USEPA Watershed Initiative Grant update	Sarah Hippensteel	5 minutes
3 – MVRPC work update	Scott Hammond	5 minutes
4 – MCD Watershed Initiative progress report	Dusty Hall	5 minutes
5 – Strategic planning for 2004-2005 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad hoc committee refinements • Agree on top goals • Create strategies and responsibilities 	Angela Manuszak	30 minutes
6 – Great Miami River Watershed NAWQA Q & A	Donna Runkle and Stephanie Janosy, USGS	40 minutes

7 – Roundtable discussion	Group	20 minutes
8 - Next steps and next meeting	Scott Hammond	10 minutes

Welcome

Angela Manuszak welcomed attendees. Chuck Haught of the City of Moraine welcomed the group to the Payne Recreation Center meeting room and offered to provide facility tours and future meeting space if desired.

No corrections to the December meeting notes were requested.

USEPA Watershed Initiative Grant Update

Sarah Hippensteel provided an overview of the US EPA Watershed Initiative Grant that was awarded to the Great Miami River Watershed. Miami Conservancy District is serving as a fiscal agent and providing the cash match for seven projects that are designed to show measurable water-quality improvements.

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.

Activity 4. Detain storm-water runoff in a 2.5- to 3.5-acre wetland pool to decrease the amount of silt and contaminants carried by the Hebble Creek into the Mad River to provide better habitat for wildlife, an outdoor classroom, and an advertisement for water-quality management for the Great Miami River Watershed. Partners include the City of Fairborn and several community groups.

Activity 5. Reduce accessibility of contaminants to the Great Miami River by installing a swirl separator unit at the outlet of an existing storm-sewer collection system at a county garage facility, and install sediment-control devices on existing catch basin grates and curb inlets where county construction projects are under way. Partner is the Miami County Engineer's Office.

Activity 6. Manage storm water, increase groundwater recharge, reduce non-point source pollution, and improve water quality by installing rain gardens and pervious paving systems at a public park and private housing development. Partners include Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Council of Governments and several partner organizations. Together they will conduct evaluation and educational activities that communicate to target audiences the lessons learned. These activities will also enhance the network of stakeholders who can replicate these structural and non-structural management practices elsewhere in the watershed.

Activity 7. Achieve watershed protection through innovative rural-zoning strategic research, training, and demonstration. This project aims to merge county and township comprehensive land use plans and current zoning codes. In addition, awardee Three Valley Conservation Trust will collaborate with a local developer to create an innovative project prototype to improve water quality through conservation developments.

MVRPC Work Update

Scott Hammond gave a brief update on MVRPC Environmental Program activities. The program is expanding its activities to include air-quality and land-conservation issues. Ohio EPA funding for Areawide Water Quality Planning will remain unchanged for fiscal year 2005. Scott announced that a new draft Water Quality Management Structure Policy had been recently completed, and offered copies for review and comment. The policy describes the roles and responsibilities of the various groups that will guide the maintenance of MVRPC's Areawide Water Quality Management Plan. Work is also progressing on forming an Areawide Water Quality Advisory Committee to review and make recommendations regarding approval of wastewater treatment Facility Plan updates. MVRPC's Phase II Stormwater Management Ordinance/Resolution is now available to view or download from the agency web site at www.mvrpc.org. A contract agreement was recently finalized between MVRPC and MCD for the Watershed Initiatives Grant work. The grant includes an MVRPC coordinated project that focuses on funding and assessing some innovative stormwater and watershed management pilot projects, and the development of a guidebook to document various watershed protection strategies. In December, staff completed and submitted both the Darke and Miami counties livestock inventory updates. These were prepared in conjunction with the Stillwater Watershed Protection Project. At the end of March, MVRPC will be moving its offices to One Dayton Centre on the corner of 3rd and Main in downtown Dayton.

MCD Watershed Initiative Update

Dusty Hall provided an update regarding the Miami Conservancy District's Watershed Initiative. MCD's Board of Directors approved a preliminary plan to create an environmental trading program that would allow the maximum environmental benefit on cash investment by the regulated community. For example, the program will allow point source permittees like municipal wastewater plants to invest their dollars upstream, providing incentives for the installation of agricultural Best Management Practices, that will improve water quality. The result will be far greater reduction in nutrient loading to local streams than expensive plant upgrades would have provided. He also announced that MCD is in the process of building a partnership with the Home Builders Association (HBA) of Dayton and the Miami Valley to promote effective sediment- and erosion-control at construction sites. Together, MCD and HBA will create a series of training events that will target local inspectors, builders, and developers.

Network Strategic Planning 2004-05

Angela presented the work of an ad hoc committee in refining the 2004-05 goals created by the group at the December 2003 meeting. In sentence format, they are:

1. Create a structure to manage and track progress on 2004-05 goals of the Network.
2. Develop and define the Network, including a plan to increase and diversify participation.
3. Design and develop a natural resources information inventory for the Great Miami River Watershed. Include information on:
 - a. Existing water quality data.
 - b. Aquifer location.
 - c. Restoration efforts.
 - d. Headwater conditions.
 - e. Low-dam location and ownership.
4. Develop and implement outreach and education activities to promote the Watershed to public officials and other stakeholders.
5. Study and participate in long-term initiatives to improve the health of the Great Miami River Watershed, including
 - a. Protection of headwater habitats.
 - b. Pollutant trading initiatives.
 - c. Methods to fund and motivate landowner stream protection projects.
 - d. Means of imbedding protection strategies in local and regional frameworks.

In order of importance:

1. Number 3 above (58 votes)
2. Number 5 above (30 votes)
3. Number 4 above (28 votes)
4. Number 1 above (22 votes)
5. Number 2 above (9 votes)

Participants agreed to the wording and priority of these goals and then divided into five interest-based groups to further discuss details related to implementing them:

- When should this be finished?
- How will we know when we've been successful? (quantity and characteristics)
- What resources will be required?
- Who are potential partners in the process?
- What steps should be included?

Each group's report is summarized below:

1. Create a structure to manage and track progress on 2004-05 goals of the Network.
 - Use multi-tiered reporting matrix
 - Include timelines and success measurements
 - Break the watershed up into upper and lower segments
 - Manage by a centralized person or agency such as MCD
 - Contact goal area groups
 - Report at every meeting
 - Need general structure by next meeting
2. Develop and define the Network, including a plan to increase and diversify participation.
 - What other groups should we be reaching out to?
 - Right now group is mostly agency/government
 - Identify other stakeholders and benefits to them for participation
 - Concentrate on quality rather than quantity of participants
 - Need more representation from agriculture, industry, specific civic service organizations (scouts, 4-H, Rotary)
 - Periodically survey members to determine benefits of Network
3. Design and develop a natural resources information inventory for the Great Miami River Watershed.
 - Establish within 6 – 12 months
 - Define potential partners and scope
 - Put together a committee to come up with steps for data collecting
 - Use MCD as home base for the inventory
 - MVRPC's website could carry inventory info
 - Start small, but dream big
4. Develop and implement outreach and education activities to promote the Watershed to public officials and other stakeholders.
 - Quarterly newsletter
 - Electronic distribution would be the best option for lowest cost
 - Create template by June 1
 - Identify central person for coordination and access to website
 - All watershed coordinators are partners
 - Once format and coordinator are chosen, collect information
5. Study and participate in long-term initiatives to improve the health of the Great Miami River

Miami Conservancy District's Stormwater Activities

Watershed

- This goal will require ongoing study and definition

Great Miami River Watershed National Water Quality Assessment Program

Donna Runkle of USGS presented a summary of the findings of USGS' recently completed assessment of the Great Miami River and tributaries. Detailed results can be obtained at http://oh.water.usgs.gov/miam/MIAM_NAWQA.html.

Next meeting

The next Great Miami River Watershed Network is to be announced.

Activity Title: Great Miami River Watershed Network Meetings

Activity Description: The Great Miami River Watershed Network met four times in 2004 to facilitate resource-sharing and limit duplication of effort.

Start Date: 6/9/2004 **End Date:** 6/9/2004

Result Statement: Approximately 36 people attended this meeting which included: USEPA Targeted Watershed Grant Update, MVRPC work update, MCD Watershed Initiative progress report, strategic planning for 2004-2005, presentation titled, "An innovative Approach to Community Driven Watershed Management" by the Executive Director of Chagrin Watershed Partners, Inc. and a discussion lead by Indian Lake Watershed Project about local fund-raising that works. See below for meeting minutes.

**Great Miami Watershed Network Meeting
Minutes**

June 9, 2004

Brukner Nature Center, Troy, OH, 1– 3 p.m.

Attendees:

Dan	Amspaugh	concerned citizen
Scott	Arentsen	DP&L
Jerry	Ballard	ODNR-Scenic Rivers
Ginger	Bernhdt	Darke Co. Health Dept.
Brian	Bohl	Hamilton SWCD
Roberta	Broerman	Darke SWCD
Diane	Bucholtz	concerned citizen
Sue	Campbell	Concord Twp (Miami Co)
Susan	Couser	Preble SWCD
Janet	Dean	Hull & Assoc
Mo	Eichman	Tipp City
Jerry	Eldred	Miami Co. Park District
Jennifer	Ganson	Mad River Steering Committee
Gary	Guenther	Montgomery Co. Sanitary
Dusty	Hall	MCD
Scott	Hammond	MVRPC
Sarah	Hippensteel	MCD
Bob	Jurick	B-W Greenwav
Jeff	Kavanaugh	University of Dayton
Kristen	Lauer	Honey Creek Watershed Assor
Angela	Manuszak	MCD
Caroline	McColloch	Montgomery SWCD
James	McGarry	Miami Co. Sanitary Eng.
Michael	Miller	Friends of the Great Miami
Linda	Raterman	Miami SWCD
Robert	Sanders	Friends of the Great Miami
Bob	Shook	Concord Township
Michele	Simmons	City of Dayton
Bob	Sowers	City of Fairborn
Terry	Tonovitz	concerned citizen
Hugh	Trimble	Ohio EPA
Harold	Watters	OSU Extension-Miami
Jack	Webb	Indian Lake Watershed Project
Erika	Wiggins	Stillwater Watershed Project
Mary Lou	Wilson	Monroe Twp (Miami Co.)
Steve	Yaney	Miami Twp (Mont. Co.)

Agenda

Agenda Item	Person Responsible	Time allocated
1 – Introductions and March meeting notes	Scott Hammond	5 minutes
2 – USEPA Watershed Initiative Grant update	Sarah Hippensteel	5 minutes
3 – MVRPC work update	Scott Hammond	5 minutes
4 – MCD Watershed Initiative progress report	Dusty Hall	5 minutes
5 – Strategic planning for 2004-2005 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad hoc committee report • Recruit leaders • Agree on meeting format 	Janet Dean	15 minutes
6 – Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc: An Innovative Approach to Community Driven Watershed Management	Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, Executive Director	45 minutes
7 – Local fund-raising that works: auctions, Monte Carlo night, etc.	<i>Network participants</i>	20 minutes
8 - Next steps and next meeting	Angela Manuszak	10 minutes

Introduction

Scott Hammond welcomed attendees. Minutes/notes from the March meeting were accepted as distributed.

US EPA Watershed Initiative Grant

Sarah Hippensteel noted that about \$30,000 of the \$700,000 of funding from the US EPA Watershed Initiative Grant would be redirected to the City of Dayton to fund the installation of a swirl separator in the storm sewer inlet of one of their maintenance parking lots. For a summary of the entire project, contact Sarah at shippensteel@miamiconservancy.org.

Play It Safe

Sarah also summarized MCD's river safety campaign called The Great Miami River – Play it Safe. It is in full swing with TV and radio spots, increased safety marking at MCD's low dams, and a river access map for the mainstem of the Great Miami River. Funding for this project is provided by an ODNR-Division of Watercraft boating safety grant. To request a map, go to [http://www.miamiconservancy.org/Great Miami River Watershed/Play It Safe Request Form.htm](http://www.miamiconservancy.org/Great_Miami_River_Watershed/Play_It_Safe_Request_Form.htm)

River Network

Sarah and Caroline McColloch recently returned from the 2004 River Rally, a large national conference organized by River Network. Sarah encouraged everyone working to protect rivers and watersheds to join River Network, an organization which exists to build the capacity of locally-led organizations. For more information, go to www.rivernetwork.org.

MVRPC Areawide Facility Planning Process

Scott described a new process to review and approve 201 Wastewater Facility Plan updates for MVRPC's 5-County Region. He will utilize the mailing lists of the Great Miami Watershed Network and the Little Miami Basin Council to invite individuals to meet on an as-needed basis, perhaps immediately before or after quarterly Network meetings in order to reduce redundancy of meetings and travel time. This new "Areawide Facility Planning Subcommittee" will be tasked with reviewing Facility Plan and Facility Planning Area update proposals and in offering input that will be transmitted to MVRPC's Technical Advisory Committee and Board of Directors. A hand-out about the new Subcommittee was provided. For more information, contact Scott at shammond@mvrpc.org.

MCD's Nutrient Trading Initiative

Dusty Hall summarized a grant proposal being submitted by MCD to the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service's Conservation Innovation grant program. The project, with participation from several local publicly-owned treatment works (POTWs), will fund the start up of MCD's Great Miami River nutrient trading program. When successful, the program will allow POTWs to invest upgrade dollars to upstream agricultural projects, resulting in more reductions in nutrients entering the river than could have been accomplished by investing those dollars in plant upgrades. Dusty and Sarah have been presenting this program to groups around the watershed, so if you would like to have a presentation for your group, contact Dusty at dhall@miamiconservancy.org.

GMRW Network Strategic Planning

Scott presented a goal matrix of tasks, target dates, and etc. for the five major goals identified by the ad hoc strategic planning subcommittee. The group decided that it would like to: a.) refer the matrix back to subcommittee for some language and structure modifications, b.) form goal-related subcommittees to further develop details, and c.) include regular reports from the subwatersheds to the full Network. Angela passed around sign up sheets for subcommittees and received the following responses:

Expand and Diversify Network

- Rob Sanders
- Jerry Ballard
- Sue Campbell

Outreach & Education

- Janet Dean
- Susan Couser
- Mary Lou Wilson
- Erika Wiggins
- Linda Raterman
- Angela Manuszak

Develop resource/data inventory

- Caroline McColloch
- Jeff Kavanaugh
- Terry Tonovitz
- Kristen Lauer
- Harold Watters
- Jennifer Ganson
- Bob Jurick
- Michele Simmons

Chagrin River Watershed Partners

Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, Executive Director of the Chagrin River Watershed Partners shared a presentation about the organization's structure, funding, and major programs. She also shared a legal opinion from Geauga County's prosecutor allowing townships to join nonprofit organizations whose mission includes community improvement. Several GMRW Network participants had concerns about this issue due to an opinion issued by the Miami County prosecutor. An electronic version of her PowerPoint slides will be posted on Miami Conservancy District's website following the Network meeting.

Local Funding

Jack Webb shared his wisdom from the Indian Lake Watershed Project about how to build and sustain funding for a community-based watershed group. Their successful Monte Carol night is being held during the month of June, but it's only one event used well to bring funding to the organization. Other initiatives

are based on providing valuable services to the community. Jack also stressed the value of good media relations as evidenced by the front page Dayton Daily News article that was conceived at the March GMRW Network meeting when Jack was introduced to DDN environmental reporter Dale Dempsey. Jack and his partners treated Dale and a photographer to an airplane ride, tours, and etc. to provide great information for the article.

Welcome New-comers

The Great Miami River Watershed Network welcomed Erika Wiggins, new watershed coordinator for the Stillwater Watershed Project and Jennifer Ganson watershed coordinator for the Mad River Steering Committee.

Next Meeting

The Network facilitators are looking for a local watershed project to host a September meeting and tour of successful projects. If you would like to host such a tour, contact Angela Manuszak at amanuszak@miamiconservancy.org or Scott Hammond at shammond@mvrpc.org. If no local project is located for a tour, Angela and Scott will consider planning a trip to the Ohio State University's CampUShed project, highlighting various urban storm water BMPs installed on campus. Our traditional September meeting date would be the first Thursday, making it Thursday, September 2, 2004.

Activity Title: Great Miami River Watershed Network Meetings

Activity Description: The Great Miami River Watershed Network met four times in 2004 to facilitate resource-sharing and limit duplication of effort.

Start Date: 9/2/2004 **End Date:** 9/2/2004

Result Statement: Approximately 50 people attended this meeting which included Dayton's Phase I storm water management efforts in a Best Management Practice Tour given by the City of Dayton. Having been regulated by this program for several years, the city provided hand-outs and led the group on a tour that helped participants experience their storm-sewer mapping project, sewer-camera truck and equipment, monitoring protocols, pump stations, outfall surveying, emergency response, and community relations efforts. See below for meeting minutes.

**Great Miami River Watershed Network Meeting
Minutes**

September 2, 2004

Miami Conservancy District and City of Dayton, 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Attendees:

Scott	Arentsen	DP & L	Shawn	Hollon	City of Greenville
Bob	Ashworth	Preble SWCD	Ron	Jackson	Miami Co. Health District
Jenny	Auflick	Honey Creek Watershed Assoc.	Jeff	Lange	POWW
Jerry	Ballard	ODNR-Scenic Rivers	Kristen	Lauer	Honey Creek Watershed
Corrie	Barga	Darke County Health Dept.	Bob	Lentz	Butler Co. Storm Water
Steve	Boeder	NRCS-USDA	Angela	Manuszak	MCD
Robert	Bradley	Jefferson Township	Caroline	McColloch	Montgomery SWCD
Patricia	Brechlin	League of Women Voters	Theresa	McGeady	MCD
Stephan	Bridenbaugh	Montgomery SWCD	Beth	Moore	City of Miamisburg
Roberta	Broerman	Darke County Health Dept.	Rich	Norton	West Carrollton
Sue	Campbell	Concord Twp (Miami Co.)	Linda	Raterman	Miami SWCD
Susan	Couser	Preble SWCD	Linda	Rogers	WPAFB
Charles	Curran	Montgomery County Commission	John	Schmidt	City of Greenville
Dave	Dalton	WPAFB	Amy	Schrimpf	Chamber of Commerce
Janet	Dean	Hull & Associates	Michele	Simmons	City of Dayton
Dale	Dempsey	Dayton Daily News	Jeff	Thomas	ODNR-DSWC
Steve	Farrell	Wright State	Kristy	Thome	Village of Enon
Renee	Galbraith	City of Dayton	Terry	Tonovitz	Stillwater Basin Council
Jennifer	Ganson	Upper Mad River	Hugh	Trimble	Ohio EPA
Felicia	Graham	City of Dayton	Dick	Wagar	Miami County Engineer's
Allen	Griffin	private citizen	Mary Lou	Wilson	Monroe Township
Dusty	Hall	MCD	Donna	Winchester	City of Dayton
Scott	Hammond	MVRPC	Steve	Yaney	Miami Twp.
Sarah	Hippensteel	MCD	Aaron	Zonin	City of Centerville

Introductions and June Meeting Notes

Regular GMRW Network participants as well as storm water managers were invited to this special meeting/tour. Attendees introduced themselves and shared their favorite attraction or place in the watershed. There were no corrections to the June meeting notes. Angela Manuszak welcomed attendees and provided a brief overview of MCD's building renovation. Angela also recognized the river clean-up participants in the room and reported that preliminary figures show 27 tons of trash removed from the rivers this summer, along with 300 tires.

Dusty Hall thanked Dale Dempsey for his great coverage of river and watershed issues over the last few months, including a front-page story about University of Dayton Berry scholars.

Steve Boeder let everyone know that the Ohio Storm Water Task Force was contracting to have a study of storm water management done. Information would be available on the group's website, maintained through Warren Soil & Water Conservation District's website.

Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee Report

The strategic planning ad hoc committee met over the summer and decided to empower newly forming topical subcommittees to take over the task of finalizing the strategic plan. Those subcommittees met just prior to today's meeting with the following results:

Education and Outreach: Janet Dean chairs this committee and reported that the group was looking at the feasibility of doing an online bulletin board or newsletter where information could be shared.

Data/Resource Inventory: Caroline McColloch chairs this group and reported that the group made good progress during their brief meeting.

Audience : GMR Network members

Possible types of data to compile: (within the GMR)

- * Water quality initiatives / protection efforts pertaining to surface and ground waters
- * Storm water Ordinances
- * Water Quality Data (chemical, physical, biological)
- * Outfalls / data
- * Feedlots / Livestock operations
- * Protected Lands (easements, parklands, farmland)
- * Land Uses

Deleted:

This isn't an exhaustive list, and it might be useful to devise some kind of survey for Network members, soliciting their opinions on what should be included in the RDI

Of course, many of the above mentioned data types are already available on various agency websites, and perhaps we could simply catalog a list of web site addresses to the specific pages within those web sites. Some contributing agencies might include the following: MCD, OEPA, USGS, NRCS, MVRPC, Storm Water Task Force (Warren SWCD web site)

The next RDI committee meeting is scheduled for October 22nd, 1:30 pm, at the Honey Creek Watershed Association office.

Expand & Diversify Network: Scott Hammond chairs this group and reported that they want to be careful about duplicating the attendance of individual watershed programs. Mainly the Network wants reps from those programs or other agencies that may play important roles in regional watershed protection. The Network should have the role of teaching the teachers. The group agreed to try to look at the attendance and mailing lists and try to identify gaps.

Next Steps and Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 2, 2004 at a place to be determined.

Overview and Tour of Dayton Storm Water Management Program

Donna Winchester, Environmental Manager at the City of Dayton; and Michele Simmons, the City's Environmental Compliance Coordinator; conducted a walking tour of Dayton's Phase I storm water management efforts. Their PowerPoint presentation is available upon request and also will be posted to the Great Miami River Watershed Network website. Having been regulated by this program for several years, the city provided hand-outs and led the group on a tour that helped participants experience their storm-sewer mapping project, sewer-camera truck and equipment, monitoring protocols, pump stations, outfall surveying, emergency response, and community relations efforts. Photographs of the tour are

Miami Conservancy District's Stormwater Activities

available on the Great Miami River Watershed Network website:

http://www.miamiconservancy.org/Great_Miami_River_Watershed/GMRW_Partnership/Default.htm.

Picnic and Dragons Game

A dozen participants remained in downtown Dayton to share a picnic at the plaza at Fifth Third Field followed by a Dayton Dragons game.

Activity Title: Great Miami River Watershed Network Meetings

Activity Description: The Great Miami River Watershed Network met four times in 2004 to facilitate resource-sharing and limit duplication of effort.

Start Date: 12/2/2004 **End Date:** 12/2/2004

Result Statement: Approximately 36 people attended the meeting which included: an update from MVRPC, MCD Watershed Initiative progress report and a presentation titled, "Funding for water quality improvement: Ohio's Water Pollution Control Loan Fund - WRRSP (Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program)" given by Bob Monsarrat (Ohio EPA - Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance), Mo Eichman (Tipp City Public Works Director) and Dane Mutter (Honey Creek Watershed Coordinator "emeritus"). See below for meeting minutes.

**Great Miami River Watershed Network
Meeting Notes**

**Miamisburg Community Room
Thursday, December 2, 2004; 1 to 3 p.m.**

Attendance

Nancy Bain	Native Plant Society	Fred Lutt	Meisner & Associates
Jerry Ballard	ODNR- Scenic Rivers	Angela Manuszak	MCD
Trish Brechlin	League of Women Voters	Caroline McColloch	Montgomery SWCD
Roberta Broerman	Darke Co. Health District	Theresa McGeady	MCD
Dick Brinkman	Montgomery Co. Sanitary	Beth Moore	City of Miamisburg
Sue Campbell	Concord Twp.	Bob Munch	City of Urbana
Barry Conway	Springboro	Kelly Myers	Greene SWCD
Darla Crum	City of Hamilton	Nancy Nerny	Greenways of Greater Dayton
Charles Curran	Montgomery County Commission	John Norton	Norton Engineering
Jim Douglass	Preble Co. Health District	Tom Schommer	City of Dayton
Mo Eichman	City of Tipp City	Michele Simmons	City of Dayton
Bob Galvin	City of Vandalia	Kreig Smail	Miami SWCD
Stephanie Goff	City of Fairborn	Jeff Thomas	ODNR-DSWC
Allen Griffin	Concerned Citizen	Hugh Trimble	Ohio EPA
Dusty Hall	MCD	Jack Webb	Indian Lake Watershed Project
Rob James	City of Centerville	David Weihrauch	City of Oxford
Bert Kelsey	Montgomery Co. Engineer's	Donna Winchester	City of Dayton
Bruce Koehler	Friends, OKI	Steve Yaney	Miami Twp.

Agenda Item	Person Responsible	Time allocated
1 – Introductions and September meeting notes	Angela Manuszak	10 minutes
2 – MVRPC work update		5 minutes
3 – MCD Watershed Initiative progress report	Dusty Hall	5 minutes
4 – Strategic planning report	Janet Dean	15 minutes
• Ad hoc committee report		
• Final plan presentation		

<p>5 – Funding for water quality improvement: Ohio's Water Pollution Control Loan Fund – WRRSP (Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Current statewide WRRSP process, including changes expected for 2005</i> • <i>Honey Creek project successes</i> 	<p>Mo Eichman, Tipp City Public Works Director Dane Mutter, Honey Creek Watershed Coordinator “emeritus” Bob Monsarrat, Ohio EPA - Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance</p>	<p>60 minutes</p>
<p>6 – Question and answer about WRRSP</p>	<p>Panel</p>	<p>15 minutes</p>
<p>7 -- Next steps and next meeting</p>	<p>Angela Manuszak</p>	<p>10 minutes</p>

MVRPC Update

Angela Manuszak gave the MVRPC update upon the request of Scott Hammond. Scott has resigned his position as Director of Environmental Planning, his final day being November 18, 2004. Angela also reported that MVRPC, MCD, and Five Rivers MetroParks hosted a successful Regional Water Issues Forum with former US EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman as guest speaker. About 270 people attended, and the groups received many positive responses. A copy of the article “Tangled Up in Green” – a debate between Christie Whitman and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. published in Outside Magazine – is available for those who didn’t pick one up that evening. MVRPC also recently posted the final version of its Model Stormwater Ordinance on its website at www.mvrpc.org.

MCD Update

Dusty Hall reported that he had positive meetings with US EPA staff in Washington regarding the surface water quality credit trading program that MCD is launching in the Great Miami River Watershed. MCD has also drafted a guidance document for the program.

Strategic Planning Report

A final 2004-05 strategic plan for the Great Miami River Watershed Network was distributed, and it appears at the end of these minutes. Three ad hoc sub-committees have been meeting to move forward on three sections of the plan: Expand & Diversify Network Participation, Implement Education & Outreach Initiatives, and Create a Resource Data Inventory. The committees presented the following reports to the Network.

Expand & Diversity Network Participation

There was no report.

Education & Outreach

Angela reported that the committee has a goal of posting its first monthly web-based newsletter in March 2005. Starting in January, committee members will solicit Network participants via e-mail for contributions such as upcoming events, great websites, personnel information, and articles that can be reprinted by permission.

Resource Data Inventory

Caroline McColloch presented an informal paper survey to those in attendance asking them to complete it and return it by the end of the meeting. This information will help the committee establish priorities for the type of resource data that will be included in the inventory.

Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP)

Bob Monsarrat of the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance provided an overview of the Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP). This is an Ohio EPA program that provides wastewater treatment plant upgrade projects with a lower interest rate loan if the wastewater treatment plant will sponsor or perform a local project to preserve and restore sensitive streamside lands. The PowerPoint presentation is available at http://www.miamiconservancy.org/Great_Miami_River_Watershed/GMRW_Partnership/PreviousMeetings.htm. Bob's contact information is included in that presentation.

Retired Honey Creek Watershed Coordinator Dane Mutter presented background information and visuals to describe the successes of the watershed's WRRSP project. Tri-cities/North Regional Plant sponsored the Honey Creek Watershed WRRSP project. A key partner for the project was the Miami County Park District. The Miami Valley Wetlands Inventory, published in 1997 by MVRPC, listed the priority areas for preservation. Wetlands below Silver Lake were identified in that report, so the WRRSP project targeted them and succeeded in acquiring conservation easements for many acres. Dane reported that the seed bank within one former farm field has now yielded at least 22 hydrophytic (wetland) plants.

Mo Eichman, Public Utilities Director for the City of Tipp City, described the role of Tipp City in the Honey Creek project. The city has purchased land that is near the confluence of Lost Creek and the Great Miami River. This property is also within groundwater's one-year time-of-travel zone for their wellfield.

Both Tipp City and Miami County Park District are restoring the properties that have been preserved by returning them to native vegetation and hydrology whenever possible. Altogether, the Honey Creek WRRSP project has preserved nearly 400 acres of sensitive wetlands and floodplains.

2005 Meeting Schedule

The Great Miami River Watershed Network meets at 1 p.m. the first Thursday of the last month of each quarter. Unless a special event or guest speaker requires a modification, scheduled meetings for 2005 are: March 3, June 2, September 1, and December 1. Anyone with program ideas or a desire to host the meeting should contact Angela Manuszak at amanuszak@miamiconservancy.org or 937-223-1278 x. 3263.