Great Miami River Watershed Network

March 8, 2012

Meeting Notes

Attendance: 10. Sign in sheet attached

MCD Update: Sarah Hippensteel provided the following items from current projects at the Miami Conservancy District:

- River Summit – March 29th - [http://rivers.udayton.edu/river_summit.html](http://rivers.udayton.edu/river_summit.html)
- Volunteers and sponsors are needed for the Dayton Children’s Water Festival – need volunteers and sponsors (contact Theresa McGeady at tmcgeady@miamiconservancy.org)
- If you want to earn recognition for the groundwater-friendly practices you do (or want to do) on your property – watch for Groundwater Guardian Green Site workshops to be scheduled this summer. [http://www.miamiconservancy.org/water/groundwater_guard.asp](http://www.miamiconservancy.org/water/groundwater_guard.asp)
- Don’t forget to participate in the Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River! Butler & Hamilton County on May 5; all other sections on July 20 & 21. [http://www.greatmiamirivercleanup.org/](http://www.greatmiamirivercleanup.org/)
- **Save the Date** for the upcoming Miami Valley Phase II Stormwater Public Education and Outreach meeting on Friday, March 16, 2012 from 8:30 – 12:00 noon at Cox Arboretum. This event is sponsored and facilitated by The Miami Valley Stormwater Awareness Team (SWAT). This meeting will provide you with the opportunity to gather stormwater public education and outreach resources, network with other MS4s, and learn more about the Stormwater Awareness Team.

MVRP Update: Matt Lindsay shared a presentation about the Ohio Water Resources Council’s Salt Pile Workgroup. The workgroup was charged by OWRC to accomplish three tasks: Inventory salt storage operations in Ohio, investigate approaches to salt storage regulation in other northern states, and develop guidance for owners/operators of salt storage facilities regarding best practices for siting, design and operation of such facilities. Widely reported incidents of chloride contamination of drinking water supplies, particularly the Village of Camden and near Springfield, but also in Athens, precipitated the need for this workgroup.

- The inventory effort found over 80 salt storage operations within Source Water Protection areas. Encouragingly, relatively few facilities lacked the most critical elements for groundwater protection: an impervious pad and some form of waterproof cover (structure or tarps). OEPA did not find widespread evidence of sloppy operations practices. Of concern was that many of the storage structures were in poor condition (often older wooden structures) and most facilities did not have a berm or other containment schemes for runoff control.
- Benchmarking against other states was completed by various members of the workgroup. The whole range of regulatory approaches was found. Some states have rules in code directly related to the issue with remediation programs (MA, MI, WI), some use drinking water rules (IL) or mandatory storm water permitting (CT, WV). Other states simply provide guidance and/or require registration of facilities (MN, NH). Ohio and Indiana have no guidance or programs specific to salt.
- The workgroup as a whole is working to draft a comprehensive guidance for owners/operators of salt storage operations that will highlight the best practices to prevent runoff and infiltration of chlorides into surface water and groundwater. At this time the OWRC is not seeking suggestions on a regulatory approach. This means that review and adherence to source water protection plans (a.k.a. well field protection plans) by local officials will be critical as state level regulations are not being looked at to keep these operations away from critical water resources.
Pass the Turtle: A few events or projects of note were highlighted in Pass the Turtle:

- **Rivers Unlimited**: Planning for Scenic River designation for the Mad River is continuing. A clean sweep day for the Mad River is being planned for the same dates as the main Great Miami River Clean Sweep.
- **B-W Greenway**: Annual meeting, featuring speaker Hope Taft is coming up on March 22, 2012, 7 pm at the Fairborn Senior Center. B-W Greenway still has local food guides, is working on developing a credible data program and wetland zoning.
- **Norton Engineering**: annual storm water seminar is scheduled for March 29 in Piqua, there are about 15 spaces left for participants.
- **Madmen Chapter of Trout Unlimited**: March 18 will be a river work day, and March 24 will be the chapter annual meeting from 10 am to Noon at the Champaign County Historical Society Museum in Urbana, OH. The museum is located at 809 E Lawn Ave.
- **Ohio’s Great Corridor**: Annual River Summit will be on March 29 at the UD River Campus. You can register online at [www.ohiosgreatcorridor.com](http://www.ohiosgreatcorridor.com).
- **Indian Lake Watershed Project**: Just completed the purchase of a weed harvester to be used by state parks personnel to clear weedy patches of Indian Lake.

**Trout in the Classroom**

Spencer Reames from Benjamin Logan Schools and Don Dean of Madmen Chapter of Trout Unlimited made a presentation on the Trout in the Classroom project in the Ben Logan Local School system. The slides from their presentation may be downloaded from the MVRPC ftp site at this address: ftp://ftp.mvrpc.org/pub/WaterQuality/

As part of Trout Unlimited’s goals to conserve, protect, and restore North America’s coldwater fisheries and their watersheds, the organization developed an environmental education program to support primary and secondary science programs in schools. The goals of Trout in the Classroom (TIC) are to provide students with an opportunity to:

- raise trout from eggs to fingerlings
- monitor tank water quality
- engage in stream habitat study
- appreciate water resources
- foster the conservation ethic
- understand ecosystem connectivity

Ben Logan Schools received an OEEF grant of about $5,000 to assemble three aquariums (one for each school building), each with a chiller to maintain 55 degree (F) water temperature and a filtration system. 350 trout eggs were donated by ODNR and the food for the trout was also donated.

Of the 350, just fewer than 300 fingerlings are still alive today, about two months from the scheduled release into the Mad River. Students are assisting in data collection for population, size, pH, nitrates, nitrites, and ammonia. Research is being planned on the effects of currents and temperature on growth of the fish. In future years (they do plan on continuing the program in the next years) it is hoped to use the fish for lessons on protein typing, and using DNA for taxonomic identification.
Connections with the younger students’ curricula include understanding watersheds, ecological impact concerns, ecosystem energy flows, nutrient cycles, and the water cycle and stream studies. The elementary school also has used the fish tank for creative writing.

The Madmen Chapter has a complete set up which they hope to use to seed the program in other schools within the watershed.
### Great Miami River Watershed Network

**March 8, 2012**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>E-mail address (If new or changed)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Monroe Twp, Miami County</td>
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<td>Matt Lindsey</td>
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<td>Sally Whiteside</td>
<td>Indian Lake Watershed Project</td>
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<td>John Norton</td>
<td>Norton Engineering</td>
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<td>Dick Wagner</td>
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