

Minutes from the December 1, 2011 Great Miami River Watershed Network Meeting

The meeting was hosted by the Concord Township Trustees with about 27 folks in attendance. Here is a short meeting summary:

Brown Bag Lunch Hour: our host, Sue Campbell, Concord Township Trustee, handed out copies of a presentation made at the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission about the "Going Places" land use visioning project. <http://www.mvrpc.org/rlu> The Going Places Initiative is an effort to establish a vision for development patterns in the Dayton region over the next 30 years. The process has identified and preferred development vision, called "Concentrated Development" which emphasizes themes of use and re-use of existing infrastructure, re-development of existing communities and farmland preservation.

The regular meeting began with an update from Sarah Hippensteel Hall about Miami Conservancy District activities.

- MCD will be releasing a report soon on the findings of their sampling study for pharmaceuticals in surface and groundwater.
- The Great Miami River Watershed Water Quality Credit Trading program just completed its 10th round of funding. MCD has a map of trading program projects on their web site. <http://www.miamiconservancy.org/WQTP/index.asp?data=dataXML.asp>
- MCD encourages participation in the National Groundwater Foundation's Groundwater Guardian Green Site program. http://www.miamiconservancy.org/water/groundwater_guard.asp
- Through the Ohio Water Trail program, MCD has Water Trail signs available for owners of publicly-accessible river access points on the Great Miami, Stillwater, and Mad rivers. <http://www.miamiconservancy.org/recreation/boating.asp>

Sarah also updated the activities of the Greater Dayton Partners for the Environment.

- At the recent "Partners of the Year" awards banquet, awards were given to Aaron Rourke (Partner of the Year, Individual), Hamilton County SWCD (Partner of the Year, Organization) and lifetime achievement awards were presented to Dane Mutter and Brother Donald Geiger. <http://www.gdpartners.org/partneroftheyear.html>
- GDPE will conduct a series of Brown Bag Lunch training sessions in early 2012 around organizational capacity building.
- GDPE is working on forming a project to foster holistic watershed approaches to water quality planning, coordinated with the completion of the Upper Great Miami River TMDL from Ohio EPA.
- Anyone wishing to join the GDPE e-mail list can simply drop a line to Sarah. shippensteel@gdpartners.org

Matt Lindsay provided an update of activities of the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission.

- In November, the MVRPC Board approved a minor update to the Water Quality Management Plan, updating the wastewater planning area for the Village of Versailles (Darke County). <http://www.mvrpc.org/environment/water/mvrpc-208-plan-update>

- MVRPC staff is working with the Honey Creek Watershed Association to conduct a watershed-wide livestock inventory. MVRPC will be providing data analysis and GIS mapping of the raw data, collected by four Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the watershed. <http://www.honeycreekwatershed.org/>

Here are some highlights of the announcements made during Pass the Turtle.

- Madmen Chapter of Trout Unlimited is working with Benjamin Logan Schools on their first Trout in the Classroom project.
- Miami County Park District - Light the Falls evening event on December 3, 6 to 9 pm at Charleston Falls Park
- OKI Council of Governments (Cincinnati) - Board of Directors adopted a comprehensive update to the 208 Plan for that region in October.
- Miami County Sanitary Engineering - Brandt Sewer project nearly complete and the Phoneton and Wiley Industrial Park projects will begin next year.
- There is a growing trend of sustainability programs including Green Sanctuaries for religious institutions.
- Ohio DNR reminded everyone that Soil and Water Districts will soon begin the cycle of district planning, so be sure to contribute your thoughts and priorities to their planning.
- Anderson Fen Honeysuckle removal will be going on the second Saturday of each month through winter.
- Miami Pheasants Forever just held their annual dinner.
- Monroe Township (Miami County) recently formed a water and sewer district for the township.
- Ohio EPA has just released the draft TMDL for the Upper Great Miami River for public comment.
- Norton Engineering is looking for leads on firms that dredge ponds.
- City of Dayton and Montgomery County are jointly working on a campaign to reduce dumping of scrap tires.

First Speaker - Scott Koorndyk, Dayton Development Coalition

The Water Technology Innovation Cluster is a joint effort of the US EPA and development officials in Dayton, Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. Water is a critical resource worldwide, and water-related industries are a growth area. The WTIC seeks to promote companies in this area, promote the creation or relocation of companies to this area to increase jobs in this area, and to build the reputation of this area as a water innovation place. See their web site at www.watercluster.org.

Second Speaker - Scott Myers, Miami County Park District

The Miami County Park District owns and manages natural areas and recreational trails for the benefit of all Miami County Residents. Recent activities related to the Miami River are the new paddling access points in several park facilities, as well as the Bikeway following most of the river's length in Miami County. Farrington Reserve will feature a new bike/pedestrian bridge of the Great Miami, however the project is slightly delayed by the environmental review of the Rayed Bean Mussel. Twin Arches Reserve also has great access to the river. <http://www.miamicountyparks.com/>

Next Meeting is March 1, 2012