

SRWC Steering Committee Meeting

January 3, 2008 – Tiffin Ag. Center, Tiffin, OH

Present: Chris Schimpf, Jim Bailey, Cindy Brookes, Jim Naus, John Crumrine, Bob Vargo, Kate Siefert, Lee Oriens, Mike Hall, Stu Smith, Jocelyn Henderson, Katie McKibben, Sarah Boone, Matt Adkins, Clark Hudson

Welcome/Announcements: Chris Schimpf called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Stu made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes, John seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Committee Reports

Ag – Mike – The group will meet in February.

Development – Jim B. – The group will be meeting on January 16th. The second letters to potential members has gone out and they will begin to make personal contacts. They are currently at 27% of the \$15,000 goal. Still waiting on the Cities of Fremont & Bucyrus (they typically send in membership).

Stream Flow & Habitat – Cindy – The group has some new members and the committee will be more active in 2008. Both grants are being implemented.

Wastewater – Kate – The next committee meeting will be February 20th at the WSOS office in Fremont.

Water Supply – Stu – The seminar in December had good speakers but had a small attendance. The seminar allowed them to develop a “model” for future seminars.

Education – Cindy – Still needs a chair or a co-chair (Kathy Moore does not want to chair alone, but is willing to co-chair). At their next meeting they will have more DVD footage to review and are hoping to have the DVD finalized by late spring. They are looking for local buy-in and Cindy will be doing presentations.

Staff Report – Cindy – distributed for October, November & December – Finalizing match money report (needed by the 10th). Finished the S.319 Grant – 144 systems installed, over \$528,000 spent in cost share and over \$548,000 spent in match. Jim Pry called and the Bucyrus Community Foundation Grant has not spent all their money and we could possibly get funding for training for Stream Monitoring and to write a study plan. The River Rally Ohio Planning Committee is looking for groups to assist (we can advertise the event on our website and in the newsletter). ODNR will be providing 50% cost share to Watershed Coordinators that want to attend River Rally. The 319 Workshop meeting is January 16th – only 2 Ag. BMP projects will be funded state-wide.

Old Business

CMAG for Broken Sword – Cindy did not submit the application. The Crawford SWCD board had some time line concerns.

Revised Work Plan – Cindy has received the comments from Greg Nageotte. She is working on the re-wording as requested from ODNR.

New Business

Signing on Letters of Support – The issue came out questioning whether or not we should even look at requests to sign on a letter drafted by another agency. John C. suggested that each issue would have to be looked at on a case-by-case basis.

Seneca Co. Health Dept. OEEF Grant – Cindy met with Deb Magers on 12/18/07. The health dept. would like a letter of collaboration for their grant application. The grant would allow them to develop a pamphlet regarding septic system care. New owners would get the pamphlet and a certificate for a free pumping if they come in for an educational meeting. Jim

Bailey made a motion to send a letter of collaboration, Stu seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

StormCenter – Channel 11 (Toledo) is looking to do segments on the news 2-3 times/week on environmental issues and link it to their website. They are looking for partnerships to submit ideas and events going on in the region. The segments will begin this Spring.

Pry Letter of Endorsement – Jim Pry is applying for the Regional Tree Farm Award and is looking for a letter of endorsement. John C. made a motion to send a letter of endorsement, Stu seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Other/Announcements

The Institute for Conservation Leadership Executive Directors is having a planning and fundraising training for non-profits. OLMS would cover tuition (\$6,000). The training would be one week in April and 3 days in the fall. Kate made a motion to allow Cindy to attend the training if funds are available with a cap of \$2,000 from SRWC funds. Stu seconded the motion. Discussion – may need money for travel and hotel, Cindy hopes that WSOS can assist with some funding. All in favor, motion carried.

OEC Membership – ended 12/15/07. This membership keeps us on political mailings for updates, trainings, and qualifies for a discount on trainings. Bob V. requested we ask them to reciprocate membership with the SRWC.

Great Lakes Grant Kick-off was Dec. 18th & 19th

Matt Adkins announced he is available to help Cindy complete the WS reporting.

Meeting adjourned.

Addition to notes --- per phone call with Cindy Brookes 1/16/08 --- A request came from Cindy via an email sent 1/14/08 for the steering committee to review and vote to either accept the Bucyrus Community Foundation grant application or deny the application. The grant submittal deadline was 1/15/08. Cindy received 8 affirmative votes on Jan 14th & 15th and was able to submit the grant application.

Next meeting will be February 7th, 8:00am - Tiffin Ag. Center
-notes submitted by Kate Siefert