

Euclid Creek Watershed Council Minutes

March 24, 2016 - South Euclid Community Center

Present: Andy Blackley (South Euclid); Thom Evans (Highland Heights); Fran Hogg (FOEC / Highland Heights); Jeff Filarski (Lyndhurst); Scott Hardy (Ohio Sea Grant); Gary Leinweber (Euclid); Doug Metzung (Mayfield Village); Claire Posius (Watershed Coordinator); **Mayor David Roche (FOEC, Richmond Heights), Vice Council Chair**; Charles Sawyer (Lyndhurst); Jan Rybka (Cuyahoga SWCD); Patti Schnell (South Euclid); **Chris Vild, Council Chair** (Beachwood); Mayor Patrick Ward (Lyndhurst) and Mayor Georgine Welo (South Euclid)

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 am.

The Chair called the meeting to order. Mayor Ward then moved to approve the minutes from the November 12 Watershed Summit meeting as is, and Mayor Roche seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the Council.

The nomination of the 2016 Council Chair was conducted. Mr. Vild offered to remain as current chair and the group concurred and thanked him for Beachwood's 2 years of service and for offering to Chair a 3rd year. *Mr. Vild made a motion for the nomination and Mayor Welo seconded the motion. All voted yes for Chris Vild to serve his third term as Chair.*

The nomination of the 2016 Vice Council Chair was conducted after thanking Mayor Roche for serving the past year as Vice Chair. *Mr. Metzung made a motion to nominate Mayor Roche for the Vice Chair position, and Mayor Welo seconded the motion. Nominations were closed and the Council voted unanimously for Mayor Roche to serve as the Vice Chair of the ECWC for a second term.*

Mr. Hardy, Extension Educator at Ohio Sea Grant, discussed his work focusing on coastal storm hazard research. He works in the entire Lake Erie watershed, but is focusing on northeast Ohio to see which communities in Cuyahoga County are most vulnerable and most resilient to storms that are forecasted to become more damaging in the upcoming 100 years. Ultimately communities most vulnerable will be provided data on where hazards are in their communities and provided with recommendations for fixing the problems before they worsen in upcoming storm events. The group agreed that they are seeing more severe storms and problems are not getting better with each storm event. Mr. Hardy encouraged communities to fix problems as soon as possible before they get worse through Green Infrastructure and adaptation strategies. Mayor Roche mentioned how Richmond Road goes under 2' of water yearly in big storm events. Mr. Blackley discussed how engineers are using old data that doesn't reflect the intensity of current storms, so that needs to be updated. He also mentioned that South Euclid and some communities take advantage of FEMA flood insurance programs and restrict building in floodplains. An upcoming conference was promoted – [the Water Resilient Cities Conference at CSU \(info. here\)](#).

The Watershed Coordinator next provided an annual report to the Council for the 2015 PIPE Program Accomplishments and she went over a few highlight events for the year ([handout available here](#)). Ms. Posius then updated the group that the Annual 2015 PIPE Reports were delivered to all 9 communities with the 2016 Outreach Strategy on March 2. This year's outreach strategy had to tie with each communities approved TMDL report pollutants, so the reports took a little longer to put together to tie each education activity to pollutants of concern specific to that community. Ms. Posius also said the Stormwater Manager this year has a huge undertaking in updating their Storm Water Management Plan (last put together in 2003), so she recommended that everyone have sympathy for the work they have to do with the SWMP updates and the Ordinance updates.

She then went over the PIPE Committee approved 2016 PIPE Program Work Plan highlighting the 2016 theme and several watershed wide activities planned ([link to work plan here](#)). When discussing the FOEC 15 year anniversary festivities, Mayor Welo encourage FOEC to get information to her to put in the South Euclid newsletter and Mayor Ward agreed for Lyndhurst's

new magazine. When discussing the stormwater control measure trainings, Mr. Vild said that communities can invite large businesses/retail areas with Green Infrastructure to participate in they need assistance with maintenance of their facilities. When discussing the targeted mailing to streamside property owners, Mr. Evans suggested adding a paragraph alerting people about NEORS employees walking stream and who to call if you see someone (City should know when NEORS is in stream or refer to NEORS Watershed Team Leader).

Ms. Posius next went over a powerpoint highlighting the Riparian Tree Buffer Program of 2015, the Habitat Grant Prioritization process of 2015/16, and the Watershed Friendly Stream Maintenance Manual put together as a resource for communities maintaining streams outside of the NEORS Service Area (under 300 acres of land drainage area, which are a lot of streams in Euclid Creek). She next discussed the 2015 Watershed Council annual work plan summary ([click here for link](#)) in attendees' packets, and she went over project highlights from 2015.

The Watershed Coordinator presented the 2016 work plan to the Council and went over changes to the work plan or updates noted in blue text since the July meeting ([work plan link here](#)). When discussing the adjacent 'orphan' watersheds like Nine Mile and Euclid's Lakefront Streams, Mayor Welo asked if other communities were doing work in Nine Mile Watershed. Ms. Posius said that Ms. Mills of Doan Brook Watershed is putting together a report on what's happening with the watersheds between Doan and Euclid Creek, so she'll share that with Mayor Welo when it's complete. Shawn McDermott of Cleveland Metroparks has a 1917 plan that shows a long corridor of 9 mile being a potential park south of Euclid Ave. *Mayor Ward made a motion to approve the 2016 ECWC Annual Work Plan as proposed and Mr. Vild seconded the motion. All members accepted the 2016 work plan.*

The 2016 Technical Committee was discussed next. Ms. Posius told the group that in January a training was held going over new MS4 Permit and how TMDL's need to be incorporated into each community's SWMP, and then a presentation on the watershed friendly stream maintenance guide ensued. Mr. Blackley asked if there would be a follow up training in summer. Ms. Posius said when the SWMP template is ready, she'll forward it on to the communities and if after they review the template, a Technical Committee meeting would be helpful she'll schedule a second meeting. Otherwise, if ECWC communities need assistance, Ms. Posius can meet with them individually too. When discussing the newsletters and website, there will be three newsletters in 2016, so Ms. Posius encouraged the Council to get her article ideas.

The Watershed Coordinator discussed the need to renew the Euclid Creek Program MOU since the current MOU expires at the end of 2016. Ms. Posius highlighted the work done over the past years and stated that each community is paying for 1/9th of the Watershed Coordinator's time. She also highlighted the amount of funding leveraged through the program for watershed work ([\\$3.8 million in program money leveraged, an additional \\$2 million is restoration at Acacia, and nearly \\$34 million in ECWC communities infrastructure improvements in the watershed leading to water quality improvements](#)). There was discussion about the term of the MOU and the Council agreed that another four year term renewal would make the most sense and Ms. Posius said that the rate of \$5,500 per community would stay the same and has not been raised over the past 8 years to be sensitive to communities slowly rebounding from the tough recent economic times. The Council Chair requested a vote to begin the process of reinstating the Euclid Creek Program MOU for 2017-2020. The request would allow the Coordinator and Cuyahoga SWCD to seek this program renewal request to the communities individually in 2016. *Mayor Ward made a motion to approve this action. Mr. Vild seconded the motion. The Council unanimously approved the action.* The Coordinator outlined the next steps as updating the language in the MOU, then the Council agreed that the Coordinator would send correspondence to each community contact with the updated MOU encouraging that Mayor to renew the MOU and continue supporting the program. The Coordinator will include information on funding leveraged through the program and highlights over the past four year term.

The Watershed Summit was discussed and Mr. Vild and attendees agreed that the first Summit was a great way to get partners together and should be continued. The date of October 6 at new

Mayfield Village Community Room from 5-7 was selected for the summit. Please provide any suggestions you have for the summit to Ms. Posius.

Additional Business. Fran Hogg representing Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC) spoke about the desire for better coordination and communication between FOEC and the ECWC. FOEC has the same goals as the ECWC and she encouraged attendees to promote the group to their residents to participate. The group needs an infusion of new members, board members and young members, so she encouraged the Council to help. Ms. Hogg has been attending City Council meetings in the watershed to promote FOEC. Mayor Welo encouraged FOEC to see if they can speak about the group at the new South Euclid-Lyndhurst library as it gets a ton of traffic. Ms. Posius suggested that she'd save 5-10 minutes at every meeting for an FOEC update. Mayor Ward encouraged FOEC to educate more people in the watershed about their mission, what it means to be part of FOEC and to discuss why the Euclid creek is important.

Ms. Rybka thanked the Council for supporting the Watershed Program over the past 15 years and thanked Ms. Posius for her hard work. She discussed the Euclid Creek Watershed Program as one of the more unique in the region and the importance of groups like FOEC in getting watershed work done.

Mr. Vild promoted the Beachwood Rain Barrel and Compost Workshop coming up on May 25. Mayor Welo asked if Ms. Posius could send the Council the workshop notice and the stream maintenance manual link.

The next Watershed Council meeting was scheduled for June 23 in Cleveland. The Council liked the idea of the meeting being followed by a tour of the wetland restoration project at Wildwood since few have seen the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 am.

Minutes compiled by Claire Posius, Watershed Coordinator