

**Duck and Otter Creeks Partnership, Inc.  
Toledo-Lucas County Public Library  
3340 Dustin Road, Oregon, OH 43616  
May 21, 2009  
2:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:** Landon Eenigenburg, ARCADIS (representing CSX); Susan Richards, Envirosafe Services; Neal Thurber, BP Husky; Cliff Fleener, Pilkington; Gerry Klug, Citizen; Stace Bieber, HULLGEC, Inc.; Paul Fletcher, Jones & Henry Engineers; Dave Barna, USEPA; Julie Hewlett, Bowser-Morner; Dan Bremer, Malcolm Pirnie; Eric Montgomery, Sunoco

**Staff:** Becky Simpson, Executive Director.

**Agenda Items:**

**1. Approval of minutes**

A motion to approve the March 19th minutes was made by Susan Richards, with support by Cliff Fleener. No changes were made to the minutes. All were in favor.

**2. Wetland Project Update**

Becky Simpson gave an update on the Wetland Project located at Lutheran Homes. The pervious pathway was poured during the week of May 4<sup>th</sup>. The benches were being installed the day of our meeting and the signs are being shipped and will hopefully be installed by the first part of June. There will be three maintenance days in June at the Lutheran Homes site. On June 13<sup>th</sup>, Master Gardeners will be coming out for a presentation on the project and to brainstorm ideas on how they can help with our education portion of the project. On June 18<sup>th</sup> the Toledo ZooTeens will be coming out to help cut down brush that has taken over much of the hillside between our gardens and the wetlands. Naturally Native Nursery has also been contracted for a one time site visit. The day has yet to be finalized. Once everything is installed and the maintenance days are over, we will be planning a "Grand Opening" event at the site, where contributors and members of the Partnership will be invited to walk around and learn about everything that had been done as part of the project. An e-mail will go out once this day is set. Since the majority of this grant is now complete, we will soon finish all the paperwork for this grant, which will then allow us to receive the \$6,500 for administration costs for this project.

**3. Industry Workgroup Update**

Neal Thurber gave an update on the industry workgroup. Four companies, Pilkington, Sunoco, Chevron, and BP have finalized a legal agreement, allowing them to work together and apply for a funding application from GLNPO. The four companies hope to have a formal sign-off of the agreement by June 1<sup>st</sup>. A project manager, Mark Traverse, with Environ, has also been hired. He has previous experience with the GLNPO office. Once the legal agreement is signed, Mark will put together a scope of work and submit this along with an application to GLNPO. GLNPO will then need to approve the application before work begins. The Industries are hopefully that work can begin this summer/fall for the first phase of the project, collecting data for the data gap analysis.

**4. Update on WAP Revisions**

Paul Fletcher gave an update on the WMP. The original Maumee RAP Watershed Action Plan was completed in 2005. To receive EPA approval, the WAP will need to be updated and a coastal management section will need to be added. The goal is to re-submit the plan for approval by the end of the year. Paul talked with Cherie Blair and at this time, they are waiting for TMACOG to get

their budget in this July, and for PCS to hire a graduate student which will help with the GPS mapping of the watershed. Once this is complete, the process to update the WMP will begin. Paul is working on our section. He is encouraging our members to let him know any possible future projects, such as the data gap analysis, so these can be added to the plan, and to update him on the progress of any existing or proposed projects in the Watershed Project Tables in the Report.

### **5. Walk, Paddle, and Roll Fundraiser**

Freshwater Future, a non-profit group up in Petoskey, MI, is putting on a Great Lakes Wide fundraising event called the “Walk, Paddle, and Roll Event”. This fundraiser allows organizations from around the Great Lakes to pick a day to have an event which they can choose from a 5 mile walk, kayak, or 10 mile bike ride. Freshwater Future will provide a website that provides individualized web-pages for each organization to use for collecting pledges and donations, to forward the link to friends in e-mail requests and reminders, assistance to set up your web page, a customizable media release for the event, and T-shirts for all the participants. Half of the net proceeds from the event will go directly to our organization.

This would be a great way to raise money, and get people from around the watershed involved. Sue, Paul and Becky have agreed to work on this fundraiser. We need more members to participate. Sue is going to look at the local biking calendar and let Becky know what dates we should not schedule this event on. We hope to have the date finalized by the first of June and will send out an e-mail to all the members. Please let Becky know if you have any ideas of where we can bike in and around the watershed. To learn more about this fundraiser, please go to [freshwaterfuture.org](http://freshwaterfuture.org).

### **6. Project Advisory Committee**

With the majority of our grants coming to an end, and the Industry group taking over much of the work for the GLLA application, now is the time for the Partnership to start thinking about what projects are a priority in our watershed. To help with this endeavor, Becky suggested to the group that we start a Project Advisory Committee. This committee could meet monthly, bi-monthly, or before a grant comes up. The purpose of this group would be to discuss possible projects and visit the sites to see what can be done. This information will help Becky in deciding what grants would be appropriate for our group. The first meeting will be in June. Becky will send out an e-mail to all members. The hope is to have a representative from the City of Northwood, Oregon and Toledo, as well as engineers and other people interested in getting on the ground projects going in our watershed.

Becky passed around a summary of 5 grants that will be coming up in the next year. One of the grants, Ohio Environmental Education Fund, is due July 15<sup>th</sup>. Becky will be applying for this grant to receive money to create educational brochures for our Lutheran Homes project and to label our native plants in the 5 established gardens.

Dave Barna passed around a summary of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative proposed for the 2010 funding plan. This proposed plan contains a \$475 million initiative for programs and projects strategically chosen to target the most significant environmental problems in the Great Lakes ecosystem. Funding will be available in two ways; through competitive grants or existing agencies. If this proposal is approved, grants could be available as early as December of this year. All the more reason to start prioritizing our possible projects now!

### **7. Director’s Report**

**Newsletter** – The April newsletter is complete and was mailed out to all the residents on the Duck and Otter Creeks. The next newsletter will be in July. Members are encouraged to write articles or give Becky topics for the next newsletter.

**Clean your Streams** – The 2009 CYS event is taking place on September 12.

**St. Charles Hospital** – Sue approached St. Charles hospital in the hopes that they can provide us office space. They wanted to know how much space we required, which we have provided them. They are now looking at their different facilities and he hope to have an update on this by our next meeting.

**8. Financial Report**

The April 30<sup>th</sup> 2009 Income statement was passed around

**9. Open Announcements**

Dave Barna told the group that our new GLNPO AOC contact is Jon Perrecone.

**10. Next meetings**

- Full Board: July 16, 2009 – 2:00 pm location to be determined
- Steering Committee: time and location to be determined

Respectfully Submitted,  
Becky Simpson