

**Duck and Otter Creeks Partnership, Inc.  
Toledo-Lucas County Public Library  
3340 Dustin Road, Oregon, OH 43616  
November 19, 2009  
2:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:** Neal Thurber, BP Husky; Sue Horvath, Citizen; Jon Gulch, U.S. EPA; Cliff Fleener, PNA; Andrea Beard, City of Oregon; Sandy Bihn, City of Oregon; Steve Snyder, Ohio EPA; David Barna, U.S. EPA; Jeff Finn, USFWS; Landon Eenigenburg, Arcadis  
**Staff:** Becky Simpson, Executive Director.

**Agenda Items:**

**1. Approval of minutes**

A motion to approve the September 17<sup>th</sup> minutes was made by Andrea Beard, with support by Sandy Bihn. No changes were made to the minutes. All were in favor.

**2. Westover Landfill Update**

Steve Snyder with the Ohio EPA and Jon Gulch with the U.S. EPA attended the meeting to give a history of the Westover Landfill issue as well as an update on its progress. Archie Lunsey with the Ohio EPA requested a site assessment to be completed at the old Westover landfill to determine if the site affected the water quality in Otter creek. On May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Steve Snyder went to the site and found uncontrolled leachate entering Otter creek. After further investigation it was found that the closure requirements were not complete, and documentation for the project was not found at the prosecutor's office. The project was then turned over to the Solid Waste Department within the Ohio EPA to complete a long-term leachate management plan. Due to office closures this was not complete, and the project has since been turned over to the U.S. EPA

When the U.S. EPA received the project they performed a CERCLA site assessment to document threats and to determine if it is a superfund site. The U.S. EPA collected the data from August 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> 2009. During their investigation they documented issues with the cap and leachate system. They also sampled leachate that was coming out of a pipe and entering Otter creek. The pipe did have a concrete plug, however, it is cracked and is believed to be leaking .2gallons of leachate per minute into Otter creek. It is estimated that there is 10 million gallons of leachate at the site which is all being held back by the compromised plug. The draft report is almost complete. The Duck and Otter Creeks Partnership will receive a copy of the final report, which should be complete in a couple of weeks.

The next step will be to determine if there is a threat. If this determination is made, then all PRP's will be notified and they will have 10 days to submit a workplan.

**3. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program**

Jeff Finn with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service attended a meeting to discuss the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, which he administers for northwest Ohio. This program is specifically for private lands and targets protected habitat such as migratory bird habitat and wetlands. This program can be very beneficial for landowners because there is little to no out-of-pocket expenses for the landowner and it does not require much paperwork. A conservation easement is not required, however part of the contract is agreeing that the restoration site will not be disturbed for at least ten years. Jeff passed around an example of the contract which was four pages long.

This program is being considered for a 10 acre wetland owned by CSXT on the northwest corner of Millard and Otter creek Rd.. At this time the wetland is covered with invasive species such as Phragmites and thin-leaved cattail and has flashy hydrology. If a project were to be completed at the site, a water control structure would be installed to restore hydrology and control the depth of the water. A herbicide application would also be complete along with a multi-year Phragmites control plan. If herbicide does not work, then plantings can be done at a later time, however, it is believed that many of the invasive species will be control by the restored hydrology. The next step is to have the U.S. CORPS visit the site to see what permits need to be obtain for the project. Andrea with the City of Oregon had some concerns about drainage once the control structure is in place and would like to see the plans before installation. CSXT also has some concerns about public access once the

project is complete. Jeff assured the group that there is no obligation to open the site up to the public once the project is done. His main concern is to improve habitat for the plants and animals. The group discussed that if a project was complete a sign should be installed highlighting the organizations involved and the benefits of the project.

#### **4. Industry Workgroup Update**

Cliff Fleener gave an update on the industry workgroup. The application for the project proposal was submitted. Amendments to the application needed to be made and these have also been submitted. Part of the approval process is presenting your proposal to the GLNPO sediment team in Chicago. At this time, the presentation is scheduled for the week of November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Once the industry group receives approval, they will start working on the project agreement. The group plans to start sampling the spring/summer of 2010 for the data gap analysis. If everything stays on track, the final report should be ready next fall.

#### **5. Wetland Project Update**

Becky Simpson gave an update on the Wetland Project located at Lutheran Homes. The grant that supported this project has not been complete. The administration fee of \$6500 has been deposited into the Partnership account. The first Garden Committee meeting took place last month. Overall we received very good feedback and advice on how to maintain the gardens over the winter. Now that the project has been installed, we are increasing our educational efforts for the project. Becky passed around the draft brochure that once finalized will be printed and distributed to the residents at Lutheran Homes as well at workshops that will be held at the gardens. Sue attended a Wild Ones meeting, a local group that highlights native plants. Through them we were put in touch with the Toledo Botanical Gardens which then donated over 100 native plants for our project. Last month we had a maintenance day with the Toledo ZooTeens who helped install the plants.

#### **6. Director's Report**

**Newsletter** – The fourth newsletter is almost complete and will be e-mailed to all the members the first week of December. Topics covered are: pervious concrete, conservation easements, Clean Your Streams, and Storm drain stenciling.

#### **7. Financial Report**

The November 16<sup>th</sup> 2009 budget report was passed around. Due to our financial situation it was decided to schedule a board meeting the week of December 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss our finances and the future of the Partnership.

#### **8. Open Announcements**

Dave Barna with the U.S. EPA announced that the RFP for the GLRI should be available starting the week of November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **9. Next meetings**

- Full Board: January 21, 2010 – 2:00 pm location to be determined
- Steering Committee: time and location to be determined

Respectfully Submitted,  
Becky Simpson