

10-20-20

Jonathan Ferbrache officially called the meeting of the Regional Planning Commission Stormwater and Education Subcommittee to order at 2:01 PM via "Go To Meeting".

All present at the time the meeting began:

Jonathan Ferbrache (Fairfield SWCD), James Mako (Regional Planning), Todd May (Fairfield County Engineer), Greg Sanders (Ohio EPA), Eric Sandine (Mayor of Lithopolis), Nathan Ralph (Franklin County Public Health), Dick Miller (City of Canal Winchester), Denise Crews and Steven Wellstead (City of Lancaster), Colt Bush (Fairfield Department of Health), John Matthews (Ohio EPA), Tony Vogel (Fairfield County Utilities), Kelly Spindler (Fairfield Department of Health), Chad Lucht, Nikki Drake, Carrie Brown, Tommy Springer (Fairfield SWCD), Greg Butcher and Glenn Hacker (City of Pickerington).

No members of the public were on the call.

Jonathan provided a summary of voting members of the Subcommittee:

Violet Township- 2 members (Chad Lucht is their designee when one is not present)

Liberty- 1 member

City of Pickerington- 2 members

City of Lancaster- 2 members

Soil and Water Conservation District- 1 member

County Utilities- 1 member

County Engineer- 1 member

Village of Lithopolis- 1 member

City of Canal Winchester- 1 member

A motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 21, 2019 was made by Chad Lucht and seconded by Eric Sandine.

Jonathan requested an update on County Subdivision Regulations from James Mako.

James provided a summary that the "kick-off" meeting for the updates was earlier in the day. Kerry Hogan, former engineer with Fairfield County Utilities, will be working on the project as our consultant. The goal is to clean up County Subdivision Regulations and keep them up to date. Regulations will be modified so that portions of the roadway design criteria will be separated from the drainage design criteria. Meetings will be held monthly with County agencies and the consultant. The goal is to wrap up by early spring, followed by a review/hearing with the Commissioners for adoption.

Jonathan requested an update from John Matthews on the Ohio EPA MS4 permit update process. John reviewed the summary sent out prior to the meeting. (See attached from 10-7-20.) John indicated that the EPA hopes to get Directors approval and have the permit by December. This permit will not add new communities. Stormwater Management Plans (SWMP) will then need updated. Those time frames will be better defined in the future.

Chad Lucht asked where the TMDLs are located for reference. John Matthews and Greg Sanders advised the EPA will provide that link.

Eric Sandine had questions about specific outfalls discharging on private property. John Matthews advised that those are not MS4 conveyance, but concerns should be reported to the Health Department.

Jonathan requested an update on construction from Greg Sanders with the Ohio EPA. Greg advised the EPA is relying on the locals for assistance (due to COVID restrictions) resulting in limited inspections. Opportunity for “virtual” inspections was discussed.

Jonathan asked Greg about challenges with post-construction requirements such as HOAs not meeting or HOAs going defunct. Greg indicated that few issues had been brought to his attention. Most issues involve adjacent landowner concerns that fall under Ohio Drainage Law. Jonathan spoke of recent HOA challenges in Lancaster and the County with development organizations that went bankrupt and other properties that went up for auction.

Chad asked for clarification on discrepancies in skimmer sizing and dewatering volumes. The EPA will discuss clarifications on the matter.

Jonathan initiated a round table discussion.

James indicated that the RPC is very busy right now. Eric Sandine expressed that some development will likely begin in early 2021 in several phases. Dick Miller discussed “green infrastructure,” including the use of vegetation, soils, and other elements and practices to restore some of the natural processes required to manage stormwater. Dick also advised that since 2004 they have conducted macroinvertebrate testing in Walnut Creek in several locations and recently observed Stone Fly for the first time. This is good news as its presence reflects good water quality. Three streams in the Pickerington/Violet area were officially named last year with the U.S. Board of Geographic Names, including Pickering Creek, Mingwe Run and Fox Run. The SWCD Board purchased signs for road ROW indicating stream crossings for those streams that were recently named.

Jonathan brought up findings from last year’s meeting from Glenn Hacker that sampling for caffeine will cost around \$210.00 per location. Dick added that if caffeine is high, pharmaceuticals are likely also high. Dick reinforced that testing and monitoring for macroinvertebrates is important. If any partner is interested in doing this type of testing, please reach out to Jonathan.

Denise indicated the City of Lancaster is also very busy and asked the EPA about a verified complaint for Brentwood. Greg indicated it had been referred to EPA Legal.

Kelly Spindler indicated letters were sent out this summer to homes with discharging aerators that require inspection. They estimate 90-95 inspections still need done before the end of the year.

Jonathan provided an update on the Buckeye Lake 9-Element Plan with Perry and Licking Counties and flooding along I-70 with the South Licking Conservancy. Efforts are also underway with the Hunter’s Run Conservancy District west of Lancaster for reassessment and dam modernization.

Greg offered thoughts on Total Dissolved Solids as it relates to salt run-off and wastewater treatment plants.

FSWCD started a blog recently that can be found on their website.

Glen Hacker indicated he was willing to serve as Subcommittee Vice-Chair for 2021. All were in favor.

Jonathan Ferbrache indicated he was willing to serve as Subcommittee Chair for 2021. All were in favor.

Chad made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.