

Regional Planning Commission Storm Water Advisory and Education Subcommittee Meeting

Date: November 21, 2019

Location: Fairfield County Agriculture Center
831 College Avenue
Lancaster, OH

Attendance: Brandon Atwood (Fairfield Co. Health Department) Jonathan Ferbrache (Fairfield SWCD), Craig Getz (Liberty Township), Glen Hacker (City of Pickerington), Loudan Klein (Fairfield County RPC), Mike Little (Violet Township) Chad Lucht (Fairfield SWCD), Austin Lynch (Canal Winchester), Holly Mattei (Violet Township), Eric McCrady (Fairfield Co. Engineers Office), Richard Miller (Canal Winchester), Nathan Ralph (Franklin Co. Board of Health), Greg Sanders (Ohio EPA), Kelly Spindler (Fairfield Co. Health Department), Tommy Springer (Fairfield SWCD), Sebastian Teas (Buckeye Lake Watershed) Tony Vogel (Fairfield Co. Utilities), Amanda Wolin (Village of Lithopolis)

Start time: 2:00 P.M.

End time: 3:08 P.M.

Chairperson: Jonathan Ferbrache

Jonathan Ferbrache called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Loudan Klein and Mr. Ferbrache reviewed the purpose of the Stormwater Advisory Committee and reviewed voting members by community.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the 2018 meeting minutes. Tony Vogel made a motion to approve. Craig Getz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Ferbrache continued by asking for introductions of those in attendance.

Mr. Ferbrache introduced Greg Sanders with OEPA to present on the progress of the new construction general permit and any other storm water related issues that have arose in the last year.

Mr. Sanders discussed issues relating to the new CGP which included:

- Termination of permits not renewed by applicants, all permits must be renewed by the applicants themselves
- Many subdivision lots unsold are now being developed which are part of larger development which now require a permit and development of a SWPPP for the individual lot
- Only electronic submittals of permits will be accepted
- Runoff reduction method designed to help promote greenspace and green infrastructure is being misused to not avoid post-construction requirements
 - If the greenspace is used as a credit it needs to be in a permanent conservation easement that is protected through the OEPA
- Developers putting deed restrictions lots which require the homeowner to be responsible for lot stabilization
 - OEPA requires lot transfer for this signed by owner and developer so property owner is aware of stabilization requirements

Discussion followed on homeowners being required to stabilize their lot prior to occupancy. Mr. Ferbrache added that he has assisted Liberty Township in developing a form to educate homeowners on what steps need to be taken to stabilize their property prior to occupancy.

Mr. Sanders also discussed the topic of illicit discharge. The OEPA's position has previously been that if the discharge was identified and a plan was in place to eliminate it, the OEPA was satisfied. The position moving forward will be requesting milestone dates and steps up to remediation. More specifically a compliance schedule. Mr. Sanders also mentioned the use of aqua shade in ponds that discharge to the waters of the State will be considered an illicit discharge.

Mr. Ferbrache suggested preparing a letter informing communities, developers and others about the restrictions associated with the use of aqua shade.

Mr. Sanders concluded with the MS4 audit regarding violators. He added that the fines have not been as effective as stop work orders and encouraged communities to utilize them when necessary.

Discussion followed amongst the committee on underground downspouts versus on lot discharge and what is permitted in each community.

Mr. Ferbrache introduced Sebastian Teas, Buckeye Lake Watershed Coordinator provide an update on their efforts.

Mr. Teas presented his goal as coordinator which is to reduce alga blooms on Buckeye Lake by identifying five different target areas:

- Encourage precision nutrient application on farm fields
- Promote cover crops
- Restoring stream banks
- Creating wetlands
- Repairing leaking septic tanks

Mr. Teas highlighted the progress of these five target areas which have included the development of several wetlands, rain gardens within the Village of Millersport, and addressing nutrient issues at Brooks Park by planting native species.

Mr. Ferbrache added the nutrient issues at Brooks Park can be tied to the geese population.

Mr. Teas discussed their goals for next year are to improve contacts within the community and increasing cooperation with local landowners for farmland application. In summary his role is to listen to the community's concern and work to address those concerns for the Buckeye Lake area.

Mr. Ferbrache updated the committee on new mapping projects taking place for locating existing aerators with the Health Department and identifying stream bank erosion and log jams.

Mr. Ferbrache began the roundtable discussion.

Mr. Sanders mentioned the application of PFOS in fire suppression testing which can reach waterways and be an environmental concern.

Nathan Ralph discussed Franklin County's mapping of on-site systems in conjunction with the SWCD and MS4 reporting process.

Amanda Wolin added the Village of Lithopolis is working on their MS4 reporting as well and have included soil and erosion control within their development agreement.

Kelly Spindler discussed the Fairfield County Health Department's progress and updates with the O&M program.

Dick Miller informed the committee of the approval of all three stream names (Pickering Creek, Mingwe Run and Fox Run) they have been working to name through the U.S. Board of Geographic Names. Mr. Miller added the annual tire sweep collected 42 tires and the Walnut Creek watershed testing for macroinvertebrates results were successful again.

Chad Lucht discussed his concerns with development moving further east running into more and more illicit discharges adjacent to development projects.

Tony Vogel expressed the same concerns with two new developments in Violet Township.

Mr. Ferbrache discussed his recent work in partnership with the Hunters Run Conservancy District to repair the dams and help plan for the 31,000 acres and 29 dams associated with the district.

Discussion followed regarding dam breach response time and what capabilities would the local fire departments have in response.

Jonathan Ferbrache nominated Glen Hacker as Vice-Chair. Glen Hacker accepted the nomination. Craig Getz nominated Jonathan Ferbrache as Chair. Jonathan Ferbrache accepted the nomination.

A motion was made by Glenn Hacker and seconded by Dick Miller to prepare a letter with the OEPA's concerns over aqua shade and total dissolved solids, assist in a discussion with fire departments and airport on the use of PFOS, and research caffeine sampling funding.

Mr. Vogel made a motion to adjourn.