

December 2020 Minutes

South Licking Watershed Conservancy District

December 14, 2020, at 6 pm.

Hebron Municipal Complex

934 W. Main Street, Hebron

Chairman Dan Blatter called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Directors: Dan Blatter, Kevin Elder, Linda Nicodemus

Visitors present: David Straub (USGS) via zoom; Dave Snider (Perry SWCD) via zoom; Jeff Martin; Miles Hebert (EMH&T); Kristy Hawthorn (LCSWCD) via zoom.

Approve Minutes for November 9: Linda moved to approve the minutes as submitted, Kevin seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Linda reported a balance of \$1438.18 at the end of November. Bills of \$135.60 and \$37.80 have been received for publication of Legal Notices for the Annual Meeting. The Fairfield County Board of Commissioners sent us a check for \$6000.00 to assist the District with expenses; that has been deposited. There being no questions, Dan moved to pay the bills and accept the Treasures Report, Kevin seconded, motion carried.

Presentation:

Miles Hebert, from EMH&T, was introduced. He gave us a presentation and discussion regarding the process of revising our Official Plan with inclusion of Hydraulic Studies to determine flood hazard mitigation strategies and opportunities. Miles has worked with Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) in the past and understands their needs and expectations. Some of his points:

- Planning includes intensive data collection. Older Hydrologic studies were done to arrive at the original and present Official Plan, and more recent proposals. These studies exist but are out-of-date because of new & changed conditions and newer models used for calculations.
- A Hydraulic Study is more concerned with stream obstructions such as those identified by Licking County SWCD -- over 400 blockages of various sizes have been identified so far.
- There is a need to determine the quantifiable flood damage risk associated with those blockages to see if that could turn into a plan that could be funded or partially funded by MWCD, or become a part of the Official Plan where we could start to collect fees to accomplish it.
- Hydraulic modeling could provide that information; modeling data would include grade line and bridge restrictions, too. It is often necessary to do several things to improve the hydraulic capacity of a system and use both types of studies to develop solutions.

Points about the planning:

- Make sure changes do not result in adverse down-stream effects.

- Studies are stake-holder intensive. Involve community decision-makers early in the process.
- The goal will be to have a plan that can work with MWCD to obtain cost-share where allowable (within both MWCD and SLWCD)
- Understand SLWCD goals for flood mitigation; start to identify the benefits of flood mitigation of the communities within the SLWCD. We have to monetize all the benefits to determine what can be invested while meeting a cost/benefit ratio better than 1.0.

Point: Studies cost “real” money.

- The Army Corp may be able to assist with some of the studies
- We can name a number of flood damage points that occurred this past year.
 - Granville erosion at Granville Rec District
 - Heath Condo flooding
 - SR 79 culvert wash-out
 - I-70 closures (costs include traffic re-routing & delays)
 - SR-37 closure & damage to Pilot Oil.
- What does a study cost?
- Funding: How do these costs get paid?
 - A project allows for assessments – a Plan sets it up, builds the infrastructure (bonds sold to fund & repaid by assessments) includes perpetual maintenance.
 - Storm Water Utility (can we institute one?)
- Linda has received many letters of support from communities in SLWCD for a Hydraulic Study.

Much additional discussion.

Additional Old Business

- a. Watershed plan update/revision:
 - a. Discussion of Army Corps virtual meeting held – Discuss: Army Corps recommended a PMS study – that requires a 50% match with “money in hand” (est. \$25K-\$75K) rather than Section 208 (log jam removal) at this time.
 - i. A concern we have about a 208 is that it might achieve some flood mitigation, taking it away from potential benefits to be obtained by an Official Plan (reducing benefits the Plan could provide).
 - ii. Upcoming virtual meeting with ACOE next Wednesday at 3:30 pm. We should ask them for step-by-step process, money, timing, agreements, etc.
- b. Watershed Update
 - a. Fairfield SWCD – no report; Fairfield Board of Commissioners have sent us \$6000 to continue operations.

- b. Licking Co SWCD – Kristy participated, but no report. Linda will meet with Licking County Board of Commissioners to request funding on 12/11.
- c. Perry SWCD – Dave Snider – suggestions for funding possibilities; Grosse Bros wetland is being designed. (EQuip sign-up for that, 319 grant applied). Last Pass at Feeder Creek applied for. Dan reports discussion with consultant regarding Lancers Ditch and the wetland. Kevin plans to attend a Perry Co Board of Commissioners meet to request some funding.
- d. Buckeye Lake Watershed – Dave Snider – kayaking site at the east end of BL.
- e. H & H studies within the watershed – Hebron’s is Approved for submittal to FEMA; Newark’s is still in progress.
- c. Cost estimates for the various projects presently in the “list” are in the neighborhood of \$8,000,000.
 - a. Discussion of a per-parcel cost over several years – costs exceeded \$12/parcel/year over a 12 year period.
 - b. The hope is to obtain additional grants (after plan development) to supplement a potential assessment to write-down the costs.
 - i. A number of grant possibilities were discussed.

New Business

- a. Conservancy Court – Annual Meeting was last Friday. Brian Reed has
- b. Linda will send a copy of our annual report to all on our email list.
- c. Budget prepared by Linda:
 - a. Fairfield appropriated over \$1.25 per parcel & sent that \$6000 to us.
 - b. Total budget of \$50,000.00 was prepared.
 - i. Kevin moved the proposed budget be adopted, Dan seconded, motion carried.

Next Meeting: **January 11, 2021 at 6pm. Same location.**

Kevin moved to adjourn at 7:46pm, Linda seconded, motion carried.

Approved on _____, 20--

Linda Nicodemus

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