

August 2020 Minutes

South Licking Watershed Conservancy District

August 8, 2020, at 6 pm.

Hebron Municipal Complex

934 W. Main Street, Hebron

Chairman Dan Blatter called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Directors: Dan Blatter and Linda Nicodemus

Visitors present: Sebastian Teas (BL Watershed Coord.), Denise Brooks (LCSWCD)

Approval of July 2020 meeting minutes: Linda moved to approve the minutes as written but with stated changes. Dan seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Linda reported a balance of \$1438.18; it was noted we no longer receive any interest on the account. Dan moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Linda seconded, motion carried.

Old Business

- a. Watershed update revision: hydrologic plan vs. present plan – entities within the watershed were asked what they thought they wanted. Several responded with interest in removal of blockages and obstructions.
 - a. Linda moved we change the plan from its present form to a hydrologic plan and apply to MWCD for a grant to update the plan, removing the unworkable retention features. Dan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- b. Many entities had expressed thanks that LCSWCD had identified the many stream restrictions.
- c. Dan is to put together a template for a letter of support we can send out and request responses, to include with the MWCD grant application.
- d. No news on Kirkersville Feeder – the weir at the head of Pigeon Swamp Ditch continues to deteriorate.
- e. Discussion of “removal of dams in the feeder” identified by Jonathan Ferbrache, but we know of no such dams, this has to do with the Buckeye Lake Watershed coordinator projects. Denise or Sebastian will clarify.
- f. Denise Brooks – LCSWCD report:
 - a. Reported estimated cost to remove identified obstructions identified is \$4.25 million. Funding sources were discussed.
 - b. Debris problems upstream of bridges, but beyond allowable scope of bridge project.
 - c. Want/need to identify players –
 - d. Researching funding sources
 - e. Future actions to consider
 - i. More 9-element plans.

- ii. Additional or revised regulations & ordinances (stormwater mitigation & water quality).
 - iii. Establish more Stormwater Utilities.
 - iv. Encourage more Green infrastructure.
 - v. An impervious-area fee.
- g. Further discussion regarding Stream Restoration area-
- a. Linda reports sending the Stream Restoration concept information received from Denise on to ODNR, the response was that parts of the project may be eligible for Nature Works funding. MWCD may fund part of it. FEMA was contacted & we learned FEMA money could be applied-for if the project can show it would mitigate flooding. A video meeting is to be set up with Steve Ferryman, chief mitigation officer for Ohio EMA. Contact has been made with Ben Boyer at ODOT District 5 to ask for funding or support and including him in the FEMA meeting. Hebron is including their hydrologic study into (or through) the stream-blockage area planned to be mitigated. Contacts have been made with property owners. At least some landowners have expressed buy-in.
 - h. LCSWCD has employed a new Ag Technician but has no Educator, due to a resignation.
 - i. LCSWCD Board will be having an election soon and looking for a representative from the south half of the county. Two positions are up for election.
 - j. Sebastian's Update:
 - a. 9-element plan for eastern side of the Buckeye Lake Watershed has been approved by the Ohio EPA.
 - i. Several projects have been identified; e.g. cover crops, wetland cell, septic system repair.
 - ii. Grant funding for identified projects will be sought.
 - b. Next watershed plan will be on the Feeder, that may depend on the content of the Feeder report – for which we are still waiting.
 - c. Water sampling will continue – seven sites at this time.
 - d. Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow is working to place aerators in the canals into the Lake.
 - k. CPP – 1:25

New Business

- a. City of Newark requests a Letter of Support for a Grant application to MWCD for repairing sections of the Log Pond Run Diversion - Linda moved we write a letter of support for Newark's MWCD application for that Grant. Dan seconded, motion carried.
- b. Director Appointments - Dan and Linda have been reappointed by the Conservancy Court for another term of 5 years; documents from the Court have been received.
- c. Community Outreach -Watershed Issues –

- a. Denise & Linda had been invited, by Mayor Johns of Heath, to attend a zoom meeting concerning debris in South Fork; Linda invited Mayor Layton of Hebron, also. Sean Grady, Jeremy Blake, Edie Hunt, LC Commissioner, a resident of flood-affected condos, and Pete George also participated. The meeting informed many of the activities undertaken by Conservancy District and LCSWCD. It was noted that \$10Million had been assessed by MWCD from Licking County properties up this point in time.
- d. Discussion took place regarding the need for an Administrator of the Conservancy District. Questions include – would one watershed coordinator be enough? How many others will be needed?

Next Meeting: **6pm September 14, 2020 – same location**

Linda moved to adjourn, Dan seconded, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Approved on _____, 20--

Linda Nicodemus

~Draft~