

**Meeting Minutes (Draft)**

Natural Resources Citizen Advisory Committee  
Thursday May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 | 4:00 PM  
Outdoor Meeting at Stitt Pavilion  
Prepared by Nick Derico, *Natural Resources Manager*



**Committee Members in Attendance**

Nick Derico  | Joshua Noble  | Elizabeth Martin  | Sean Baran  | Peter Milliken  | Sara Scudier  | John Zimmerman  | Ronald Kichton  | Gary Davenport  | Joshua Emanuelson  |

**Public Attendees**

None	



I. Call to Order – 4:04 PM

**Old Business**

- \* **Approval of Previous Meeting’s Minutes**  
Nick Derico provided the meeting minutes from the previous meeting (8.19.21), members reviewed the minutes and offered no revisions or corrections. Sean Baran motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented, the motion was seconded by Peter Milliken.
- \* **Roll Call**  
Voting Aye – Scudier, Martin, Derico, Baran, Milliken, Zimmerman, Davenport  
Voting Nay - None

II. **New Business**

**Review of On-Going 2022 Natural Resources Projects**

**Clean Ohio Conservation Fund**

1. Derico provided an update on several projects completed through the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund since the Committee’s last meeting including the acquisition of Springfield Forest, Hawkins Marsh, and the Mill Creek Wildlife

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Sanctuary Expansion. The group also discussed future improvements planned for these properties (and others) including parking lots, trails, and educational signage.

\*Milliken expressed concern over the existing access drive at Springfield Forest as it is not currently wide enough to accommodate 2-way traffic, Derico agreed and explained that widening of the access drive is included in the numerous improvements to the property scheduled for the summer of 2022.

#### Goose Management

1. Derico shared the current status of the 2022 Goose Management Program throughout the MetroParks including goose harassment, nest monitoring, and egg addling. Derico will share the final report with the group once the management season is concluded (late June 2022)

#### Meso-Predator Management - MCWS

1. Derico shared the results of the spring 2022 meso-predator survey at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary which documented a raccoon population at the upper end of the management threshold. Derico shared that USDA APHIS Wildlife Services will continue management efforts at the Sanctuary focused on meso-predators in June of 2022 to maintain current population levels. Derico will share the final report with the group once the management season is complete (late June 2022)

#### Healthy Streams Initiative

1. The Annual Healthy Streams Initiative to Begin in Late August/Early September, Focusing on Portions of Mill Creek South of the Boardman Wastewater Treatment Plant.

#### Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

1. Derico Shared an Update on Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in the Park Including Treatments Completed in 2021, Survey Results from the Spring of 2022, and Management Plans Moving Forward.

#### 2022 Tree Plantings

1. Derico Shared Tree Planting Projects for 2022 with Partners Such as FirstEnergy and YSU Legacy Forest Committee.

#### Operation Pollination

1. The Group Discussed Pollinator Waystations Throughout the Park and Discussed a Possible Partnership with the Youngstown Rotary's Operation Pollination to Complete a Volunteer Project in 2022.

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### H2Ohio Grant

1. Derico Informed the Group that the MetroParks was Recently Awarded a H2Ohio Grant From The Ohio Division of Natural Resources for Stream, Wetland, and Floodplain Improvements on the Mill Creek Golf Course – to be Completed in 2023.

### 2022 Committee Goals

The group discussed goals for the 2022 calendar year and voted to retain the same goals as in 2021:

- Continued Research and Exploration of Renewable Energy and Recycling Opportunities
- Aide MCMP Staff in the Development of Facility Based Natural Resources Management Plans
- Aide MCMP Staff in the Assessment of Current and Future Natural Resources Related Projects

**Motion to Approve:** Elizabeth Martin

**Second:** Sara Scudier

**Roll Call:** Scudier, Martin, Derico, Baran, Milliken, Zimmerman, Davenport

### Open Discussion

- \* Milliken introduced the topic of McKelvey Lake in the City of Youngstown and asked if there was any possibility of a partnership between the City of Youngstown and MCMP to improve the lake and provide better public access.
- \* Martin expressed concern over glitter and/or confetti usage throughout the park during various events and the litter these products leave behind, she recommended that the group prepare a recommendation to the Board of Park Commissioners to restrict the use of glitter and/or confetti within the Park, similar to the group's previous recommendation banning the release of balloons within the Park.
- \* The group discussed the feeding of wildlife and the importance of continued enforcement on this issue, primarily at Lily Pond.
- \* The group discussed ongoing trail improvements and/or trail maintenance issues within the Park including the area surrounding the Ford Nature Center, West Newport, West Cohasset, East Golf Hike & Bike, and the East Park Hike & Bike Trail.

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- \* Milliken asked if the Mill Creek Golf Course had plans to introduce electric carts in the near future.
  - \* Milliken commented on the repeated graffiti on the underside of the Parapet Bridge despite attempts to remove it.
  - \* Zimmerman asked about the status of the cigarette butt recycling receptacles that the Committee helped introduce in 2019.
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**Public Comments**

III. None

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**Committee Questions/Comments.**

IV. None

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**Date of Next Meeting**

V. TBD

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VI. **Adjournment** – 5:46 PM

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