

Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Natural Resources Citizen Advisory Committee

Thursday June 12th, 2025 | 3:00 PM

Stitt Pavilion

Prepared by Nick Derico, *Natural Resources Manager*



Committee Members in Attendance

Nick Derico ■ | Joshua Noble ■ | Ryan Jackson □ | Hannah Aponte □ | Peter Milliken ■ | Sara Scudier ■ | John Zimmerman □ | Ronald Kichton ■ | Gary Davenport ■ | Joshua Emanuelson □ |

Public Attendees:

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| Rachel Sobnosky, MCMP | |
| Mia Swain, MCMP | |
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I. Call to Order – 3:05 PM

Old Business

*** Review of Previous Meeting's Minutes**

Nick Derico provided the meeting minutes from the previous meeting (09.26.24), members reviewed the minutes and offered no revisions or corrections. Josh Noble motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented, the motion was seconded by Gary Davenport.

*** Roll Call**

Voting Aye – Scudier, Derico, Davenport, Noble, Kichton, Milliken

Voting Nay – None

II.

New Business

WTD Management Year End Update

Derico shared with the group, the year-end summary of the controlled hunting program and pointed out that additional information could be found on the MetroParks website.

The group briefly discussed on-going and future survey efforts and the future of the program.

Goose Management

Derico shared the results of the 2025 goose management season, which included goose harassment, egg addling, and nest monitoring over several months.

Fish Stocking

Derico shared an update concerning the annual fish stocking program at the MetroParks Farm, Vickers Nature Preserve, Mill Creek Park, and Yellow Creek Park.

TNC Wetland Mitigation Project

Derico shared an update on the wetland mitigation project being conducted at the MCWS Expansion, most notably that construction is slated to begin mid-summer after a multi-year permitting process.

Noble questioned the level of compensation that the MetroParks was receiving in exchange for allowing TNC to construct on MetroParks property. Noble suggested that it would be industry standard for the MetroParks to be compensated for the use of the land beyond simply the added value of improved wetland habitat and suggested that could be financial compensation or an exchange of services with TNC that would further other MCMP projects (Hemlock treatments, invasive plant work, etc.)

Clean Ohio Grant Update – MCWS

Derico shared an update with the group that the MetroParks was successful in securing a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund improvements grants that will target the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary (West) and will include parking lot improvements, trail improvements, demolition of existing structures, and the installation of a pavilion.

Earth Day Tree Planting – Bears Den Meadow

Derico shared an update on the Bears Den Meadow Naturalization Area, which was the focus of the annual Earth Day Tree Planting in partnership with FirstEnergy.

YCP – Bird Bath

Derico shared a project updated on the Bird Bath Improvement Project at Yellow Creek Park, stating the project was still in the conceptual design phase and that more concrete plans were on the horizon.

Open Discussion

Milliken introduced the following statement to be considered by the group – “I move that this committee recommend that the parks governing board ban the issuance of single use plastic bags, plastic drinking straws, and single use plastic food containers by park vendors & caterers”. He also shared a physical example of single use plastic items he received during a visit to Kravitz Deli and Fellows Riverside Gardens and cited the lacking nature of the local recycling programs and highlighted the fact that many if not all of the “recyclable” items he received at FRG are truly recyclable in our local market and would end up in a landfill.

Overall, the group was in agreeance with the core values of Milliken’s statement but noted that more investigation should be conducted before making a formal recommendation to the Board.

Josh Noble noted potential costs to vendors and caterers that may be influenced by enforcing such a ban, such as utility and staff costs to wash additional dishes vs. the cost of buying single use plastics.

Sara Scudier questioned whether a guest received different tableware when dining inside vs. outside.

The group offered to conduct research into the practices of the various food vendors throughout the park and report back at the next meeting.

Millken also questioned whether MCMP gift shops issued single use plastic bags, Derico was unsure and offered to follow up.

Noble reintroduced the topic of a committee sponsored trash cleanup, which was something the group promoted for several years. He also noted several priority areas such as the Flats where poison ivy was a noticeable problem along trails.

Milliken seconded the idea of resuming an annual trash cleanup effort via the Committee, noting a need at locations such as Chestnut Hill Pavilion and Scholl Recreation Area.

Public Comment

None

III.

Committee Questions/Comments.

IV.

Date of Next Meeting

V.

TBD – Derico will send Doodle Poll

VI.

Adjournment – 4:35 PM
