

Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Natural Resources Citizen Advisory Committee

Thursday October 16th, 2025 | 3:00 PM

Classroom A, MCMP Farm

Prepared by Rachel Sobnosky, *Natural Resources Manager*



Committee Members in Attendance

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

Public Attendees:

Mia Swain, MCMP	
Justin Rogers, MCMP	



I. Call to Order – 3:03 PM

Old Business

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

Rachel Sobnosky provided the meeting minutes from the previous meeting (06.12.25), members reviewed the minutes and Peter Milliken suggested a correction of the Open Discussion portion, changing "... items he received at FRG are truly recyclable..." to "...items he received at FRG are **not** truly recyclable..." Noble motioned to approve the meeting minutes with edits, seconded by Kitchon.

*** Roll Call**

Voting Aye – Scudier, Davenport, Noble, Kichton, Milliken, Jackson, Zimmerman, Emanuelson

Voting Nay – None

II.

New Business

WTD Management Update

Sobnosky shared with the group updates on controlled hunts as well as targeted removal and directed the group to the updates to the website.

The group briefly discussed hunter qualifications for controlled hunts, future survey efforts, some common misconceptions about fawning, and issues with people stopping in roadways to observe deer becoming a hazard.

Meso-Predator Management

Sobnosky shared updates regarding the meso-predator management at George L. Fordyce Park. Sobnosky also mentioned that a new page had been added to the website about this subject.

Pond/Lake Management

Sobnosky shared updates on the completion of pond and lake management for the year.

The group briefly discussed the water levels of Lake Glacier during Youngstown City's Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) project and discussed a possible lake cleanup during that time. The group also discussed the improvement in fishing and turbidity of Lake Newport since treatment.

Trout Stocking/ODNR Fisheries Agreement

Sobnosky shared an update on Mill Creek MetroParks (MCMP) fisheries agreement with ODNR.

The group discussed alternative locations for trout stocking, as well as restrictions due to size and accessibility.

Trail Improvements

Rachel Sobnosky discussed future plans for trail improvements and installation of trail marker signage.

Fordyce Improvements

Sobnosky shared an update with the group about the improvements of George L. Fordyce Park and opening pond 7 to the public.

Peter Milliken suggested a ribbon cutting for the official opening of pond 7 to draw awareness.

Collier Preserve Projects

Sobnosky updated the group on invasive species treatment project and plans for mowing.

Group briefly discussed invasive plants treated, and potential for future burns.

TNC Wetland Mitigation Project

Sobnosky updated the group on timeline expectations. The discussion of compensation was also discussed, due to acquiring the property with Clean Ohio Grant funds, receiving compensation is not a possibility.

Clean Ohio Grant Update

Sobnosky shared that a grant proposal had been submitted for Egypt Swamp.

YSU Legacy Forest Tree Planting

Sobnosky updated group on the plans for the YSU Legacy Forest tree planting on November 13th.

Open Discussion

Milliken suggested the rental of goats and a guard donkey for invasive species treatment.

The group discussed limitations of the idea, possible locations, as well why the guard donkey was necessary and decided to continue brainstorming for next meeting.

Milliken introduced the following statement to introduce to the group “I move that this committee ask that the park’s governing board recommend against issuance, by park vendors and caters, of single-use plastic bags, plastic drinking straws, and single-use plastic or compressed foam food and drink containers and lids. And I move that this committee recommend that the park’s governing board not issue

any of the above items at any vending sites that use the parks staff and volunteers.”

The group was in agreeance with the need to make a recommendation, but noted that the statement required further editing before presenting to the board.

Joshua Noble motioned to continue the discussion via email. The motion was seconded by Gary Davenport.

Voting Aye – Scudier, Davenport, Noble, Kichton, Milliken, Jackson, Zimmerman, Emanuelson

Voting Nay – None

Ronald Kichton reintroduced the topic of a committee sponsored clean up.

Noble suggested West Golf Drive as the cleanup location.

The group agreed and suggested a Saturday morning in the first two weeks of November.

Sobnosky offered to make a doodle poll to decide on an official date.

Noble suggested using the debris collected during the Clean Streams Initiative project to be used for stream bank stabilization and suggested that some areas in Mill Creek Park may have too much woody debris. He explained that an excess of rotting wood increases the amount of fungi and molds in forests and too much concentration of dead wood can be detrimental to a forested ecosystem.

Sobnosky asked if there is a way to quantify “too much.”

Noble explained it would be a percentage-based system.

Milliken proposed a day on which the community could come and take desirable material or wood-chipped logs if the MetroParks does not have a use for all of it.

Jackson suggested a review of USDA website for any woody debris removal information.

Noble offered to further research the topic and offer supporting material via email.

Sobnosky asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Noble motioned to adjourn. Miliken seconded the motion.

Voting Aye – Scudier, Davenport, Noble, Kichton, Milliken, Jackson,
Zimmerman, Emanuelson

Voting Nay – None

Public Comment

III. None

Committee Questions/Comments.

IV.

Date of Next Meeting

V. TBD – Sobnosky will send Doodle Poll

VI. **Adjournment** – 4:35 PM
