

Meeting Minutes

Natural Resources Citizen Advisory Committee

Monday February 24th, 2020 | 5:00 PM

MetroParks Farm: Classroom A

Prepared by Nick Derico, *Natural Resources Steward*



Committee Members in Attendance

Nick Derico ☒ | Joshua Noble ☒ | Elizabeth Martin ☒ | Sean Baran ☒ | Peter Milliken ☒ | Sara Scudier ☒ | John Zimmerman ☒ | Ronald Kichton ☒ | Robert Campbell ☒ | Joshua Emanuelson ☒ |

Public Attendees

Lee Frey - President, Park Board of Commissioners	
Jeff Harvey – Park Commissioner	
Justin Rogers, MCMP Planning and Operations Director	

I. Call to Order – 4:56 PM

Committee Introductions

Upon arrival, Committee members were each given a folder containing supplementary material reflective of the meeting agenda.

Nick Derico, MCMP Natural Resources Steward began the meeting by thanking everyone for their interest in the Natural Resources Citizen Advisory Committee and initiated a round-table introduction, allowing each member to give a summary of their professional backgrounds, educations, and interests.

Review of Committee Purpose and Charge

Nick Derico reviewed the new purpose and charge of the Natural Resources Citizen Advisory Committee “To inform and advise the Board on the current trends and best management practices in the fields of natural resource and wildlife management in an effort to promote and enhance environmental sustainability and ecological biodiversity within the MetroParks.”

Review Committee Rules and Guidelines

Nick Derico reviewed the new Committee structure as outlined in the “Citizen Advisory Committees Guidelines” a copy of the guidelines were provided to each member.

Future Meeting Schedules

Nick Derico stated that the meeting schedule moving forward would be quarterly or as needed to review specific projects or to come together for a vote. Meeting times will be kept to approximately 1 hour.

Peter Milliken expressed concern over a quarterly meeting schedule, and suggested that a monthly meeting schedule may be more appropriate.

Nick Derico suggested the need for email communication between meetings and the desire to have additional site visits/volunteer activities outside of formal meeting times.

Establish Committee Goals

Committee members were asked via email to come prepared to discuss annual goals for the group – the discussion went as follows:

Elizabeth Martin suggested that the Committee explore renewable energy sources, as this was a topic the former Environment Committee devoted a substantial amount of time to in 2019 with many discussion/topics left unresolved.

Robert Campbell suggested the installation of Monarch Waystations along the MCMP Bikeway, the Committee agreed and suggested that Monarch Waystations not just along the Bikeway, but Park Wide would a topic of interest.

Peter Milliken suggested the continuation of the Fall Litter Clean-up at Scholl Pavilion that was first initiated by the former Environment Committee in 2019. The Committee agreed and suggested a possible expansion of such programs – Sean Baran suggested the creation of an ongoing programming series focused on litter clean-ups throughout the MetroParks – Sara Scudier mentioned her past involvement with kayak clean-ups in the Lake Newport Wetlands.

Nick Derico acknowledged the value of all the projects mentioned thus far, but suggested the formulations of larger “umbrella” goals for the Committee, under which numerous topics could be explored. He suggested the Committee aide MCMP staff with the development and review of facility based Natural Resource Management Plans, the Committee agreed.

Two other “umbrella” goals were suggested by the Committee focusing on recycling/litter reduction and renewable energy, and to aide MCMP staff in the review/assessment of ongoing and future natural resources related projects.

These suggestions will be formalized and presented at the next meeting for a vote.

II. New Business

With no additional discussion concerning Committee structure or goals, Nick Derico presented the group, a list of on-going or upcoming Natural Resources related projects for 2020 – the discussion included the following topics:

- **Goose Management**
 1. 3 Phases: Harassment (Early Feb. through Mid-March), Nest Monitoring/Egg Addling (Mid-March through Early June), and Post Nesting Season Monitoring (Audubon Count)/Harassment as Needed
 2. ODNR Nest Destruction Permit Applied for Late Feb. (2/24); Typically Awarded Mid to Late March

3. USDA Will Carry Out Egg Addling in MCP, Monitoring at Sanctuary
4. Final Report Published Mid to Late June
5. Audubon Count Done Late June (4th Year)

The Committee questioned the 2018 change to no longer addle eggs at the MCWS; Nick Derico explained the rationale behind the change based primarily upon the lack of human/goose conflict at the property and reinforced that population levels will continue to be closely monitored over the coming years.

- **Invasive Species Management**

1. Numerous Smaller Projects Handled In-House
2. 3 Large Contracted Projects for 2020: Sanctuary Meadow, Preserve Wetlands, and Preserve Upland Prairie

Peter Milliken questioned the use of the herbicide glyphosate as a control measure for invasive species within the Park – Nick Derico reinforced that glyphosate is an wetland approved herbicide through the EPA and when used properly is a great management tool.

- **Healthy Streams Initiative**

1. 8 Projects Over 12 years
2. Over 32,000 Linear Feet or Over 6 Miles Improved

Both Josh Noble and Josh Emanuelson expressed interest in the Healthy Streams Initiative, wanting to further assess the needs of the MetroParks and make appropriate recommendations to how the program may be improved in the future.

- **Sanctuary Dike Improvements**

1. Annual Project to Repair Dikes Damaged by Animals/Erosion
2. Tree/Brush Clearing Along Dikes as Required
3. Install/Replace New AgriDrain Water Control Structures to Improve Flow

- **Sanctuary Meso-Predator Management**

1. Trail Camera Survey – 4 Survey Locations
2. Subsequent Removal as Necessary – 2019 Goal of at Least 25-30 Individuals
3. USDA Contracted in 2019 for Removal

- **Lily Pond Treatment and Management**

1. Aeration System Installed in May 2019
2. Annual Algae/Weed Treatments as Necessary
3. Invasive Treatments to Native Buffer Zones + Surrounding Hillsides
4. Native Plantings Scheduled for 2020: Water Lilies

The Committee expressed some concern about the feeding of wildlife at the Lily Pond and suggested an increase in police presence. Nick Derico reinforced the need for continued public education surrounding the negative impacts of feeding wildlife, the Committee agreed.

- **Clean Ohio Round 14 Grant Application**

1. 218-Acres – Will Combine with MCWS to Make a 482-Acre Facility
2. 75/25 Grant Through Ohio Public Works Comm. Clean Ohio Fund

- **Eagle Scout Projects**

1. 10 Monofilament Recycling Bins at 8 Facilities

- **Lake Glacier Trout Stocking**
 1. ~2500 Catchable Rainbow Trout Donated by ODNR
 2. Stocked in Lake Glacier Annually, Late April

The Committee expressed interest in tracking catch rates via volunteer survey kiosks at Lake Glacier directly after the April trout stocking.

Natural Resources Management Plans

Nick Derico introduced the topic of facility based Natural Resource Management Plans and discussed the following three locations:

- **Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary**
 1. Completed/Published in March 2019
- **Vickers Nature Preserve**
 1. Draft Completed in February 2020
- **Mill Creek Preserve**
 1. Draft Completed in December 2019

Each Committee member was provide a draft copy of the Vickers Nature Preserve Natural Resources Management Plan for review. Discussion was encouraged via email prior to the next meeting date.

Public Comments

III.

Lee Frey - President, Board of Park Commissioners: Began by expressing his gratitude to each of the Committee members for volunteering their time and stated he looked forward to working with the Committee on future projects. He ended by reminding the Committee to save all emails, as they will now become public record.

Jeff Harvey, Park Commissioner: Began by expressing his gratitude to each of the Committee members for volunteering their time and stressed the importance of the Committees. He ended by sharing his passion for the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, and reminded Committee members of the permit required for access.

Committee Questions/Comments

IV.

Sean Baran expressed his approval and excitement towards the Natural Resource Management Plans and how they will help shape the park.

Josh Noble expressed his excitement for the newly formed Committee and expressed his gratitude to MCMP staff for providing the wealth of supplementary project information.

Elizabeth Martin expressed her interest in making site visits and conducting in-field work.

Sara Scudier commented upon the diverse professional backgrounds of the Committee members and expressed her excitement moving forward.

V.

Adjournment – 6:30 PM