

Meeting Minutes

Natural Resources Citizen Advisory Committee
Thursday October 1st, 2020 | 12:30 PM
Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary: Observation Deck
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

Jaime Yohman, MCMP Community Engagement Director	

I. Call to Order – 12:51 PM

Old Business

- **Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes**
Nick Derico provided the meeting minutes from the last meeting (2.24.20), 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 Josh Emanuelson.
- **Roll Call**
Voting Aye – Derico, Noble, Martin, Baran, Scudier, Zimmerman, Kichton, Campbell, Emanuelson
Voting Nay - None

Review and Approve Committee Goals

Derico presented a formalized version of the Committee Goals that were discussed at the previous meeting (2.24).

The goals were presented as follows:

- **Goal #1**
Continued Research and Exploration of Renewable Energy and Recycling Opportunities
- **Goal #2**
Aide MCMP Staff in the Development of Facility Based Natural Resources Management Plans
- **Goal #3**
Aide MCMP Staff in the Assessment of Current and Future Natural Resources Related Projects

After review, Josh Noble proposed an edit to Goal #1 to reflect the following statement “with the intent to make at least one (1) recommendation to the Board”.

Following this revision, Josh Noble then motioned to approve the committee goals as revised, Elizabeth Martin seconded the motion.

- **Roll Call**
Voting Aye – Derico, Noble, Martin, Baran, Scudier, Zimmerman, Kichton, Campbell, Emanuelson
Voting Nay - None

II. **New Business**

Nick Derico presented the group, a list of Natural Resources related projects for 2020 and upcoming projects for 2021 – the discussion included the following topics:

- **Goose Management**
 1. Review of the 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 Awarded in Mid-March
 3. USDA Carried Out Egg Addling in MCP, Monitoring at Sanctuary
 4. Final Report Published by USDA End of June
 5. Audubon Count Done June 26th

Derico will email the USDA Final Report to the Committee for reference and further review.

- **Invasive Species Management**

1. 3 Large Contracted Projects for 2020:
Sanctuary Meadow, Preserve Wetlands, and Preserve Upland Prairie
2. 1 Bonus Spraying Carried out By Davey Resource Group at the Mill Creek Sanctuary – Focused on Cattail and Phragmites

Campbell questioned method of control for invasive species management, Derico stated that various herbicides are used to achieve management goals.

- **Healthy Streams Initiative**

Review of 2020 Healthy Streams Initiative project along Indian Run as it flows through the Huntington Woods Development.

Josh Noble expressed the idea of using the excess wood material created during blockage removal to provide stream bank stabilization and erosion control. Josh Emanuelson approved and supported the idea.

- **Sanctuary Dike Improvements**

1. Review of 2020 Dike Improvement Project which included the installation of two (2) AgriDrain Water Control Structures and the creation of a new wetland unit.

- **Sanctuary Meso-Predator Management**

1. Review of 2020 Meso-Predator Management at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary.
2. Two (2) Trail Camera Surveys Completed in 2020 to assess raccoon populations levels.
3. Removal efforts carried out by USDA Wildlife Services in June 2020, no further management to take place in Fall of 2020.

Derico to email the final report for reference and further review.

- **Lily Pond Treatment and Management**

1. Annual Algae/Weed Treatments as Necessary
2. Invasive Treatments to Native Buffer Zones + Surrounding Hillsides
3. Native plantings of Water Lilies and Spatterdock carried out in 2020

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- **Clean Ohio Round 14 Grant Application**
 1. Sanctuary Expansion 218-Acres – Will Combine with MCWS to Make a 482-Acre Facility
 2. MCMP to take possession of property in the late fall of 2020
 - **Eagle Scout Projects**
 1. Ten (10) Monofilament Recycling Bins at Eight (8) Facilities
 2. Ten (10) Mallard Nesting Tubes Installed at the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary
 - **Golf Course Bluebird Boxes**
 1. 23 Bluebird Boxes to be replaced at the Mill Creek Golf Course – 13 boxes North Course, 10 boxes South Course
 - **New Trail Construction**
 1. Mill Creek Preserve – Hillside Trail constructed to connect the Lower Wetland Area to the Elm Tree Demonstration Area.
 2. Vickers Nature Preserve – Annual Trail Improvement Project added 500’ of improved multi-use equestrian/hiking trails.
 3. Sawmill Creek Preserve – New trail system constructed throughout the property to connect to the newly constructed (2019) parking lot on Turner Road (approximately 4-5 miles of new trail construction).

Natural Resources Management Plans

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

- **Vickers Nature Preserve**
 1. Completed/Published in May 2020
- **Mill Creek Preserve**
 1. Draft Completed in December 2019
- **MetroParks Farm**
 2. Nearing First Draft Completion

Derico will send out drafts of each management plan for review by the Committee as they are completed.

2021 Natural Resources Related Projects and Goals

- **Winter Deer Survey – January 2021**
 1. Derico introduced the upcoming deer survey to be completed in January 2021 by USDA Wildlife Services, stressing the need to establish a population estimate for White-tailed Deer throughout the MetroParks.
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Public Comments

- III. None
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Committee Questions/Comments

- Sean Baran asked briefly about the E. Newport Slope Failure and suggested increased public announcements to educate the public about the extent of the project.
- IV. Elizabeth Martin expressed her interest in carrying out a Committee based litter clean up in the fall of 2020. The Committee was excited by the idea and offered their support – the Committee will come together via email to coordinate and plan this event before the end of the month.
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- V. Adjournment – 1:35 PM
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