

Meeting Minutes

Natural Resources Citizen Advisory Committee
Thursday June 17th, 2021 | 2:30 PM
Outdoor Meeting at Vickers Nature Preserve
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

None	



I. Call to Order – 2:41 PM

Old Business

- * **Approval of Previous Meeting’s Minutes**
Nick Derico provided the meeting minutes from the last meeting (5.6.21), 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 Josh Emanuelson.
- * **Roll Call**
Voting Aye – Derico, Baran, Emanuelson, Milliken, Scudier, Zimmerman
Voting Nay - None

II. **New Business**

Clean Ohio Letters of Support – Round 15A

Derico presented to the group, two (2) Letters of Support for current Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant applications being submitted by the MetroParks.

The first Clean Ohio project was focused on providing increased access, recreational opportunities, and ecological restoration at a new property acquisition in Springfield Township (acquisition funded through Clean Ohio Round 15).

After discussing the project, the group voted in support of the grant application – motioned by Josh Emanuelson and seconded by Pete Milliken.

* **Roll Call**

Voting Aye – Derico, Baran, Emanuelson, Milliken, Scudier, Zimmerman

Voting Nay - None

The second Clean Ohio project was focused on new property acquisition in Smith Township, thus creating a new MetroParks facility in a historically underserved portion of the County.

After discussing the project, the group voted in support of the grant application – motioned by Sara Scudier, seconded by Sean Baran.

* **Roll Call**

Voting Aye – Derico, Baran, Emanuelson, Milliken, Scudier, Zimmerman

Voting Nay – None

- * Each Committee member signed the Letters of Support which will be included in the Clean Ohio Grant Application for each respective project.

Review of On-Going 2021 Natural Resources Projects

Goose Management

1. Egg Addling/Nest Monitoring Complete – Final Report is Expected by the End of June.
2. Annual Audubon Count Expected Late June

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

1. Surveying in MCP and YCP Complete
 2. Treatments for MCP Scheduled for June 2021 (Weather Permitting)
- * Milliken proposed that local Universities be made more aware of HWA and become involved in educational programming, research, and future survey efforts.

Sanctuary Meso-Predator Management

1. USDA Management Efforts Ongoing – Planned to be Completed Week of 6/21 with a Final Report to Follow.
2. Trail Camera Survey to be Repeated in the Late Summer

Operation Pollination

1. Operation Pollination, a local community group organized by the Youngstown Rotary, has brought together numerous community partners (MCMP, FirstEnergy, ODNR, Mahoning County Land Bank, Mahoning County SWCD, etc.) to help educate the community on the importance of pollinator habitat through increased education and volunteer opportunities.
2. On May 22nd members from Operation Pollination, alongside MCMP staff came together to revitalize an existing raingarden at the Lantermans Mill Parking Lot, removing undesirable vegetation and planting a variety of pollinator species to create a “Monarch Waystation”.

Volunteer Programming Series

1. Monthly volunteer programming series with a variety of topics to be led by the Natural Resources Interns for the months of June, July, and August – beginning with a litter clean-up at the MetroParks Farm on June 26th.
- * Milliken suggested that the Committee return to the Scholl/Chestnut Hill Pavilion this fall and organize another clean-up as we have done previously.

Vickers Nature Preserve

1. Trail Improvements – approximately 250’ of trail improvements are scheduled for 2021 and will take place in the late summer. The group discussed current practices for trail improvements, specifically stream crossings and offered several options on how to improve existing conditions.
 - * Milliken proposed a shared-use crossing where pedestrians cross the stream using a bridge and equestrian users ford the stream via a natural crossing.
 - * Emanuelson recommended a gravel reinforced cattle crossing as the best solution for equestrian users, while also protecting from erosion.
2. FirstEnergy Right of Way Restoration - MCMP/FirstEnergy will be partnering over the next several years to restore the existing right-of-way that bisects the Vickers Nature Preserve with the goal of providing high-quality pollinator habitat. The effort will begin with some vegetation surveys in the summer of

2021 and will likely take several years to plan and implement the project.

- * Sara Scudier expressed her support of the project as she had originally introduced the idea in the spring of 2020 as the Committee helped create the Natural Resources Management Plan for the property.
- 3. Master Planning – the Master Plan for Vickers Nature Preserve was completed in 2019, with the implementation of that Master Plan scheduled over the next several years including topics such as parking lot improvements, infrastructure improvements, increased access, trail improvements, and ecological restoration.

Open Discussion/Brainstorming

- * Returning to the topic of trail improvements and stream crossings, Milliken suggested several potential funding sources to help the MetroParks supplement existing improvement funds such as Meander Water and USDA.
- * In follow-up from our last meeting, the group touched upon the subject of the Edith Kaufman Quarry Garden. Scudier suggested that the Garden Club of Youngstown could potentially be a good funding source if the MetroParks would be interested in revitalizing the area.

III. **Public Comments**
None

IV. **Committee Questions/Comments.**
None

V. **Date of Next Meeting**
TBD – Derico will coordinate the date of the next meeting via email (July 15th proposed date).

VI. **Adjournment** – 3:50 PM (After adjourning, the group hiked a small portion of the VNP trail system to view recent examples of trail improvements)
