

Meeting Minutes (Approved 5.19.22)

Natural Resources Citizen Advisory Committee
Thursday August 26th, 2021 | 2:30 PM
Outdoor Meeting at Slippery Rock Pavilion
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



I. Call to Order – 2:34 PM

Old Business

- * **Approval of Previous Meeting’s Minutes**
Nick Derico provided the meeting minutes from the last meeting (7.15.21), 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 Sara Scudier
- * **Roll Call**
Voting Aye – Derico, Noble, Campbell, Baran, Milliken, Scudier, Zimmerman, Kichton
Voting Nay - None

II. **New Business**

Review of On-Going 2021 Natural Resources Projects

Clean Ohio Round 14 & 15

1. Derico provided an update on two on-going Clean Ohio projects - Round 14: Sanctuary Expansion and Round 15: Springfield Forest Preserve. Both projects are in their final closing stages and are expected to be finalized within thirty (30) days.

*Millken asked what improvements were planned for the properties – Derico shared that improvements such as gravel parking lots, facility signage, trail wayfinding signage, trail improvements, improved recreational opportunities, and ecological restoration projects were all planned for the properties in the future as funding is available.

Lake Newport Algae Treatment

1. Derico informed the group of the algae treatment performed on Lake Newport on August 2nd, with a goal of mitigating the annual late summer cyanobacteria blooms that Lake Newport experiences.

Sanctuary Meso-Predator Management MCWS

1. Late Summer Trail Camera Survey Recently Completed
2. Survey Results Revealed a Raccoon Population Slightly Above Management Goals – the Group Discussed the Long-Term Goals of the Project and the Recommendations Provided by USDA Wildlife Services.

Equestrian Trail Improvements - VNP

1. Derico Shared the Details of the Recently Completed Trail Improvement Project at Vickers Nature Preserve, In Which 275' of Equestrian Trail was Constructed.
2. The Group Briefly Discussed the Future Plans for Trail Improvements at VNP and the Implementation of the Master Plan/Natural Resources Management Plan.

Healthy Streams Initiative

1. Annual Healthy Streams Initiative to Begin in Late August/Early September, Focusing on Portions of Indian Run (South of 224) and Mill Creek (North of 224).

Sanctuary Improvements

1. Derico Shared Upcoming Improvements Planned for the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Which Include: Invasive Species Control, Brush Cutting, and Leak Repair.

Collier Preserve Trail Improvements

1. ~1.8 Miles of New Trails Were Recently Cut Into The Northern Parcel of the Collier Preserve, an Area Which was Previously Inaccessible. Derico Shared That the Construction of These Trail Will Be Further Refined in Late September and Will be Useable Shortly Thereafter.

Trail Wayfinding Signage

1. Derico Shared the Upcoming Trail Wayfinding Signage Improvements That Will Focus on Collier Preserve and Sawmill

Creek Preserve. Improvements Will Include Improved Mapping, Trailhead Signage, and Color-Coded Directional Markers.

East Park Hike & Bike Phase II – PI

1. Derico Shared the Upcoming Public Involvement Period for the East Park Hike & Bike Phase II Project, Which Will Link the East Park Hike & Bike (Phase I) to the East Cohasset Hike & Bike Trail.

Mirror Pond Rehabilitation

1. Derico Shared Preliminary Plans for the Proposed 2022 Mirror Pond Rehabilitation Which Includes the Dredging of Excess Sediment and the Construction of a Forebay to Restore the Historic Footprint of Mirror Pond and to Better Mitigate Sedimentation.

Open Discussion/Brainstorming

- * Scudier introduced the topic of mosquito control throughout the MetroParks and asked if mosquito spraying was conducted on MetroParks property and if so, where. Derico confirmed that spraying was conducted in conjunction with the Mahoning County District Board of Health in select areas of the MetroParks, specifically the West Golf Corridor.
- * Noble asked if there was anything that the Park could do concerning poison ivy control along trails, he noted several areas near the East Newport Boat Launch that were especially bad.
- * Milliken revisited the topic of renewable energy, citing the 2021 Federal Infrastructure Bill as a possible funding source for renewable energy focused infrastructure upgrades throughout the MetroParks.
- * Baran expressed concern over the trails around the Ford Nature Center that have become overgrown during the building’s renovation – Derico stated that trail improvement/forest work was slated for the fall/winter of 2021 to improve these areas.
- * The group discussed the topic of litter clean-ups including those on foot and the possibility of an annual float clean-up. The group decided to schedule their annual litter clean-up on September 18th at Slippery Rock Pavilion.
- * The topic of a float clean-up spurred a conversation concerning the high levels of sedimentation in the Newport Wetlands which make it difficult for kayakers during times of low water. The group discussed history of dredging in Lake Newport and discussed options for the future.

III. **Public Comments**

None

IV. **Committee Questions/Comments.**

None

Date of Next Meeting

V. TBD – No Meeting in September Due to Scheduled Litter Clean-Up
(Sept. 18)

VI. **Adjournment** – 4:22 PM
