

Meeting Minutes (Approved)

Natural Resources Citizen Advisory Committee
Thursday June 22nd, 2023 | 3:00 PM
Stitt Pavilion – Outdoor Meeting
Prepared by Nick Derico, *Natural Resources Manager*



Committee Members in Attendance

Nick Derico | Joshua Noble | Ryan Jackson | Sean Baran | Peter Milliken | Sara Scudier | John Zimmerman | Ronald Kichton | Gary Davenport | Joshua Emanuelson |

Public Attendees:

None	



I. Call to Order – 3:01 PM

Old Business

- * **Approval of Previous Meeting’s Minutes**
Nick Derico provided the meeting minutes from the previous meeting (03.17.23), members reviewed the minutes and offered no revisions or corrections. Sara Scudier motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented, the motion was seconded by Gary Davenport.
- * **Roll Call**
Voting Aye – Scudier, Derico, Milliken, Baran, Davenport, Kichton (Noble, Jackson Joined Meeting Post Voting)
Voting Nay - None

II. **New Business**

Forest Regeneration Assessment

1. Derico provided information to the committee regarding the recent forest regeneration assessment protocol initiated at Mill Creek Park, Huntington Woods, and Hitchcock Woods. This methodology will be used to evaluate changes in forest

composition in response to management activities such as deer management and/or forest management.

Goose Management

1. Derico shared the final report from USDA Wildlife Services regarding Canada goose nest monitoring and egg addling for the 2023 management season.

USDA Rabies TVR Program

1. Derico shared information about the 2023 trap, vaccinate, and release program being implemented throughout Mahoning County by USDA Wildlife Services in response to numerous positive cases of raccoon rabies in the Boardman area.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Update

1. Derico shared updates concerning on-going treatments in partnership with The Nature Conservancy to control hemlock woolly adelgid in the Bears Den and Cascade Run area.

Invasive Species Management

1. Derico shared updates concerning on-going treatments to control various invasive plant species at Collier Preserve, Hawkins Marsh, and the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary.

Mirror Pond Stream Restoration

1. Derico shared updates concerning the on-going stream restoration project at Mirror Pond, including plans for the adjacent Orchard Meadow Picnic Area.

Noble asked for clarification on the design changes for Mirror Pond in regard to sediment retention.

Mosquito Control

1. Derico shared information related to mosquito control in the MetroParks which has been conducted annually by the Mahoning County Health District along the West Golf Corridor.

Scudier brought awareness to pesticide use and its impacts to pollinators and other non-target insect species and provided literature which demonstrates successful pesticide-free control methods implemented by other organizations.

Open Discussion

All

1. The group briefly discussed the MCMP Deer Management Plan – Derico shared various updates to the plan that have happened since the time of the last Committee Meeting.

Pete Milliken

1. Restoration of Witch’s Cave – Milliken shared information regarding cave restorations completed by other organizations such as Summit MetroParks to increase bat habitat by reopening cave entrances that have been historically closed due to safety reasoning and covering the entrances with metal bars which allow bats to safely pass through – it was recommended that this treatment be applied to Witch’s Cave in Mill Creek Park.
2. McKelvey Lake – Milliken advocated for a regional approach to managing and improving McKelvey Lake.

Josh Noble

1. Farm available for purchase in Poland Township – Noble shared that a sizeable farm was up for sale in Poland Township and asked if it could potentially be an acquisition opportunity for the MetroParks.
2. Poison Hemlock – Noble shared that he had witnessed several examples of poison hemlock being present in Mill Creek Park along trails and other high use areas and suggested increased public education and awareness on the subject.

Sean Baran

1. Edith Kaufman Quarry Garden – Baran suggested that the MetroParks revisit the idea of revitalizing the Edith Kaufman Quarry Garden noting that it would be a great addition to the improvements made at FNC and the surrounding trail systems. In addition, it would be a great opportunity to pay homage to Edith Kaufman who fought to acquire and preserve the property, ultimately donating it to the Park.

Ron Kichton

1. In response to social media discussions, Kichton asked if the Park experiences detrimental ecosystem level impacts to plant growth due to groundhogs. The group discussed and were in consensus that groundhog may pose nuisance level threats in certain situations primarily related to infrastructure, but they do not impact plant growth at a ecosystem level.

Public Comment

III. None

Committee Questions/Comments.

IV. None

Date of Next Meeting

V. TBD – Derico will send Doodle Poll

VI. **Adjournment** – 4:45 PM
