

**Meeting Minutes (Approved)**

Natural Resources Citizen Advisory Committee  
Thursday September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 3:00 PM  
Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary Observation Deck – 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 – 3:16 PM

**Old Business**

- \* **Approval of Previous Meeting’s Minutes**  
Nick Derico provided the meeting minutes from the previous meeting (06.22.23), members reviewed the minutes and Pete Millken and Ronald Kichton offered slight revisions. Josh Noble motioned to approve the meeting minutes as revised, the motion was seconded by Sara Scudier.
- \* **Roll Call**  
Voting Aye – Scudier, Derico, Milliken, Davenport, Kichton, Noble, Emanuelson, Zimmerman, Jackson  
Voting Nay - None

II. **New Business**

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

1. Derico provided information to the committee regarding the upcoming application to the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund to improve the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary Expansion property.

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The group reviewed the scope of work and offered their support for the project in the form of a Letter of Support.

Motion to Approve Letter of Support – Josh Emanuelson

Second: Sara Scudier

Roll Call – Scudier, Milliken, Kichton, Noble, Emanuelson, Zimmerman. (Derico and Davenport Abstained).

#### H2Ohio GC Stream Restoration

1. Derico shared an updated on the upcoming stream restoration project at the Golf Course, which is funded through the H2Ohio Grant program. The group reviewed the scope of work and project scheduling.

#### Collier Preserve Tree Planting

1. Derico shared information about the 2023 tree planting project schedule for 11/16 at the Collier Preserve in partnership with YSU Legacy Forest Committee and FirstEnergy.

#### Lily Pond Management

1. Derico shared updates with the group concerning the annual management of Lily Pond – discussion topics included: aeration system repair/maintenance, algaecide/herbicide applications, and potential future dredging options.

#### 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. Milliken shared materials from the Cuyahoga Valley National Park regarding invasive plant treatment in priority areas and suggested that the MetroParks follow this model for managing invasive plant species moving forward.

##### Josh Noble

1. Farm available for purchase in Poland Township – Noble shared information including mapping and past in-person knowledge of several parcels in Poland that are for sale and have great potential for acquisition funding through various grant sources.
2. Noble suggested that the group spearhead a float clean up at the Newport Wetlands, citing a large amount of trash and debris that has accumulated in recent years in the wetlands.
3. Noble introduced the idea of declining fisheries in Lake Newport and Lake Glacier based upon personal experiences fishing these locations for several years. The group discussed potential fish

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stocking, habitat improvements, and regulation changes that could improve the fishing experience at these locations.

Josh Emanuelson

1. Emanuelson introduced the idea of seeding additional forbs into the native grass prairie at the Collier Preserve.

Sara Scudier

1. Scudier discussed volunteer needs at Fellows Riverside Gardens, citing noticeable deficiencies in some areas at FRG and ask how she could reinvigorate volunteerism at FRG through her Garden Club.

Gary Davenport

1. Davenport introduced the topic of the Edith Kaufman Quarry Garden and gave a summary of the group’s trip to the Quarry that took place after the June committee meeting. The group acknowledged that a full restoration effort of the quarry would be costly and labor intensive, especially in the short-term and suggested that perhaps the trail system through the area be reclaimed and educational signage be erected to inform park users on the history of the area. Additionally, if any larger restoration or rehabilitation effort were to take place it could be planned and implemented over the next several years with the plans of a rededication in 2033 (100 year anniversary).
2. Don’t Feed the Wildlife – Davenport cited the on-going feeding of wildlife at the Lily Pond and throughout the Park and the group discussed various ways to educate the public and the realities of enforcing these types of issues.

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**Public Comment**

- III. None

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**Committee Questions/Comments.**

- IV. None

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**Date of Next Meeting**

- V. TBD – Derico will send Doodle Poll

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**Adjournment** – 5:07 PM

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