

**NATURAL RESOURCES ASSISTANCE COUNCIL
DISTRICT 12
Thursday, April 10, 2008
MEETING MINUTES**

**TMACOG BOARDROOM
300 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Toledo Ohio**

Attendance:

- Rick Bryan, Chairman, The Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association
- Gail Abood, Member, The Olander Park System
- Greg Lipps, Member, Oak Openings Green Ribbon Initiative
- Dick Meyers, Member, American Society of Landscape Architects
- Kevin Aller, LCSE
- Patty Camacho, Real Estate
- Ken Fallows, TMACOG, Environmental Council Chair
- Kurt Erichsen, TMACOG, NRAC District 12 Administrator
- Donna Kirkbride, Program Representative, Ohio Public Works Commission.

Non-Members:

- Tim Schetter, Metroparks of the Toledo Area

Approval of Minutes and Agenda:

Rick Bryan called meeting to order. NRAC members and others present introduced themselves.

Dick Myers moved and Greg Lipps seconded approval of the October 24, 2006 minutes. Motion carried.

Program Update – Donna Kirkbride

The \$400 million Clean Ohio Fund program is to be put on the November 2008 ballot. The Governor and legislators have tentatively agreed to put the program on the ballot with no changes, will be put forth with the same language as before. It was asked if this had taken place already, and Donna Kirkbride said she would check on the status and find out where the issue stands.

As of April 1, 2008, Michael Miller has been named the new Director. Mr. Miller was a program representative with the Ohio Public Works Commission before taking office.

Update on Howard Farms Project

Tim Schetter, Metroparks of the Toledo Area, gave an update on the Howard Farms Project. Closing on the property is to take place on Friday, April 11, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. There are no foreseen issues with the property closing and closing should take place smoothly. Sixty-six acres is also being closed on as part of Right of First Refusal that is not part of this transaction, but will be recorded and closed on as well. An additional \$3 million State Wildlife Grant through the Ohio Division of Wildlife has been approved to help maintain a guaranteed of hunting, fishing and trapping to the general public as well as bird watching and public access. This property will be maintained similar to Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and Metzger Marsh. Mr. Schetter stated that this will be a long term project as far as restoration, and commitments from Division of Wildlife and Ducks Unlimited to help with planning and implementation. Full restoration of the project should take place within the next 10 years. Within 30 days of closing, official documentation of the property closing will be sent to NARC and will be on record for two years. Full purchase price is \$6,000,000.00 that includes \$21,000.00 in settlement and closing costs. A total of 980 acres have been purchased.

Patty Camacho, Real Estate, asked about press release of the project. Tim Schetter noted that The Blade had done a small bit on the project, as well as a couple of blurbs from local television stations. Contacting Eco Track 11 to do a piece was suggested. Ms. Camacho stressed the need for information on this success story to be brought to our Northwest Ohio legislators on why there is a need to support the issue come November. A one page brief to them was suggested. The public needs to have of clear understanding of what the Clean Ohio Fund is about.

Donna Kirkbride expressed her thanks to Tim for all his hard work and efforts on this project.

Resolution in Support of Clean Ohio Fund

Rick Bryan referred the committee to the staff report handout on the Clean Ohio Fund for review. Rick asked the committee members to look over the report and stated this was a clean, precise synopsis of what the Clean Ohio Fund is about. With that, Rick asked for a motion to approve the resolution of TMACOG to support funding for the Clean Ohio Fund to the TMACOG Environmental Council for recommendation to the Executive Committee. Greg Lipps made the motion, Gail Abood seconded the motion; motion carried.

Next Steps

Committee members would like to see an updated copy of the methodology. It was asked that each member scrutinize the document and suggest any changes.