

Held

October 27, 2003

This special meeting of the Colerain Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 PM, Monday, October 27, 2003 by President Keith Corman. The Board was in full attendance.

Mrs. Rielage motioned to appoint David Foglesong as acting clerk for the purpose of recording the minutes. Mr. Fiedeldey seconded the motion.

Mrs. Rielage	"Aye"
Mr. Fiedeldey	"Aye"
Mr. Corman	"Aye"

Mr. Corman stated the purpose of the meeting was for discussion on the Scenic River Status for the Great Miami River.

Mr. Corman turned the meeting over to Mr. Bob Gable of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Cable gave a Power Point presentation on the process of Scenic River designation.

Questions

#1 What is the effect of Scenic River status on private property? – Mr. Gable stated there was no regulation over private land.

#2 Has there been any request for upstream Scenic River Status? – Mr. Cable responded by stating there have been no upstream initiations.

#3 How long is the process? – It is dependent on the local involvement. It is critical to have local resolution of support.

#4 Who decides what section of the River is chosen to be designated? – Mr. Gable stated that if only in Hamilton County, the Scenic River Designation is not likely to go forward.

Rob Sanders from Friends of the Great Miami stated there maybe some interest from other areas along the upper Great Miami.

Mr. Gable stated that the headwaters are critical to designation, Stillwater River a tributary of the Great Miami River has Scenic River Designation.

Joe Sykes, Miami Township Trustee, questioned if local projects need ODNR approval.

Mr. Gable answered yes.

ODOT has a letter of understanding with ODNR allowing for local approval, that does not require going to ODNR director.

Ted Hubbard, Hamilton County Engineer, questioned the use of salt for snow and ice removal.

Mr. Gable stated that there are some suggested controls of road run off; however, there is no prohibition of the use of salt and other treatments.

Have there been any other studies on the increase of tourism from Scenic River Status?

Mr. Gable responded that there have been no local studies.

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Mr. Corman questioned a Park Development on East Miami River Road and concerns with the Scenic River Designation. What restrictions would there be in Park Development?

Mr. Gable stated that ODNR wants to review Park Development. They do not want active park development close to the river.

Mr. Fiedeldey questioned, how far back from the river do structures have to be?

Mr. Gable said 120 feet forested riparian corridor and several hundred feet for the location of picnic tables, etc.

Mr. Fiedeldey questioned the impact of Phase II NPDES -- the reduction of pollutants into the watershed -- Colerain Township is actively involved. Would this help in obtaining the Scenic River Designation?

Mr. Gable was not familiar with Federal regulations relative to Phase II and Scenic River Designation.

The minimum riparian corridor needs 120 foot buffer for bank stabilization and shading.

Mrs. Rielage questioned which jurisdiction would be under control of ODNR following Scenic River Development?

Mr. Gable stated that there could be no municipalities, only unincorporated areas.

Mrs. Rielage asked if there has been any attempt to get upstream involvement in Scenic River Designation.

Mr. Corman asked, would the status of tributaries into the Great Miami River: Blue Rock Creek and Paddy's Run and undeveloped areas affect the Scenic River Designation?

Mr. Gable stated that ODNR tries to get their involvement; however, it does not affect the designation.

Mrs. Rielage stated that the current master plan includes a river lab. Will this be restricted?

Mr. Gable stated that it is likely to be restricted. Structures within the "Belt width" would cause problems.

Mr. Foglesong asked for clarification, what constitutes the 120 foot buffer?

Mr. Gable responded by stating 120 feet from the high bank.

Mr. Corman asked, how do we determine if the river shifting would effect the ODNR and/or locals who have property, can the property owner make controls? For example, rip rap the local bank etc.

ODNR would control.

What effect does the pipeline running across the river have on obtaining designation?

Mr. Gable stated that it would not stop the Scenic River Designation.

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Hubert Brown, Whitewater Township Trustee, stated, we need to consider the long-term effects on the future generations for what is happening to the river now.

Conservation easement of private property are not controlled by ODNR.

What effect to ODNR and Scenic River Designation would there be with the many gravel companies along the river?

Each individual company is considered for whether or not to be permitted within the Scenic River Designation.

Mr. Hubbard stated that Hamilton County is losing population and needs to maintain the traffic corridor. He agrees the Scenic River Designation is an asset to this community. Is it possible to work with ODNR in bridge location and expansion of road improvements, prior to Scenic River Designation?

Mr. Gable stated that it's not been done before, but it makes sense.

A representative from Crosby Township asked, How is the designated study funded?

ODNR staff time and other volunteers, hopefully local universities would be involved.

Mr. Fiedeldey stated the need to be proactive.

Director of the Little Miami Incorporated, has been working with ODNR for three decades and stated that local projects get handled in a timely manner. He has worked with gravel companies and further stated that millions of dollars have been received for the Scenic River Project in Little Miami River Areas.

Mr. Corman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

It was questioned how long the study will take. The study could take three years.

Mr. Cable stated that the length of time is determined by the length of the river to be designated.

Mr. Hubbard questioned, where do we go from here if we do this as a group?

Each community is to proceed on their own.

Friends of the Great Miami are to send letters to each community requesting support for the study.

Where on the Great Miami River will be the starting and ending points for the study? Friends of the Great Miami River will work with Hamilton, Butler and Warren Counties.

Mr. Sanders is looking into the Scenic status, but hoped to get Recreational status.

Mr. Fiedeldey suggested people look at what the Little Miami River status has accomplished on the East side of town. We already have a large amount of river frontage owned by the local townships and county parks.

Mr. Corman stated the purpose of the meeting was to promote co-existing of development and esthetic and environmental issues along the river.

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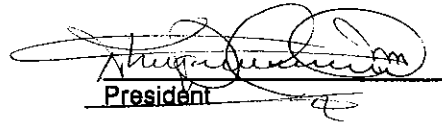
The possibility of the engineer's office and ODNR pre-reviewing projects is a good concept.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM was made by Mrs. Rielage and seconded by Mr. Fiedeldey.

Mrs. Rielage	"Aye"
Mr. Fiedeldey	"Aye"
Mr. Corman	"Aye"

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 Clerk


 President