

# **Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership Meeting minutes 2009**

## **January 20th Meeting Minutes**

In attendance: Marissa Geib, Ed Taggart, Amber Leasure-Earnhardt, Maureen Wise, Eric Earnhardt, Belle Everett, John Slack, Linda Ross, Mike Farber, and Amanda Hook

Ed Taggart called the meeting to order at 5:40 in the Huff Run office

Belle Everette read the treasurers report. It was motioned into acceptance by Eric Earnhardt and seconded by Amanda Hook.

The minutes were motioned to be accepted by John Slack, and seconded by Eric Earnhardt. The vote passed unanimously.

### **Old Business**

Fundraiser-The Heron Dance Studio Watercolor Print Raffle is completed. Linda Thornton from Albany, Ohio and Rural Action's Financial Director won the print. Thank-you note for Pat Ullum (the print's framer) and Heron Dance were passed around and signed.

### **New Business**

Project Update- Maureen Wise gave an update on current grants and AMD projects. The Mineral Zoar Project was bid and awarded to Beaver Construction at \$335,085.90. The storm water plans for the Thomas Project as well as a few smaller parts of the plans are being reworked and should be ready for a bid in April. Belden's Slab Bed Three is still not working but water is almost flowing from the Impoundment Three into it. So close! A Phase II at Lyons is the next project to be considered.

Renner Foundation Grant- Initially, we had thought that the Renner Foundation might fund our clean up illegal dumps in Carroll County but they do not fund small grants – only over \$50,000. Funding will have to be sought elsewhere or through special consideration with Renner. To continue to take advantage of this grant though, the idea of a project concerning the revitalization of private homeowner septic systems was discussed, as was possible help from the Health Department. The cost is estimated around \$100,000, with homeowners supplying 25% of their personal cost. The application will be due March 15 and Maureen will work on it.

Awareness Day 2009- It's time to start planning our 2009 Awareness days for area schoolchildren, and Amber Leasure-Earnhardt presented some ideas to members. It was decided that we will have three days this year, with a possible total of 500+ children. Participation will be offered on a first come, first serve basis to area schools, with the home school group having a separate day with just Amber and Maureen. We will need volunteers for shifts, and it was decided that Huff Run will provide lunch for all volunteers. Sites for the trips were discussed, and it was decided that Linden Site would

be where the activities will be held as well as the fish/ bug site. Having it all at one site did not get the children exposed to enough of the watershed.

ODOT Clean-Up- The possibility of a spring clean-up day was discussed, as we usually do one in summer and one in fall along with the Sandy Township Clean Sweep in the Spring. It was agreed to do three ODOT clean ups this year. Sandy Valley's Science Club was discussed as helping with a possible spring clean-up. Dates are to be set at a future meeting.

Stream Obstructions- We had a lively discussion about the state of some of our streams, as it has come to our attention that there is an impromptu dam at our HR 24 site. Made of bricks, the dam is obstruction the natural flow of water, debris, and wildlife up and down the stream. The problem of large downed trees just as the HR42 site begins was also discussed, and it was decided that a volunteer effort in the spring would be the way to clear them. We need to talk to the landowner, as well as Dan McCoury (citizen who has volunteered time and his backhoe) and ODNR before going forward with any project. As well, we will have to wait until the weather clears and allows for comfortable outside work.

#### Correspondence-

Crossroads RC&D will be holding their annual meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>. It was motioned by Marissa Geib and seconded by Eric Earnhardt to pay the \$15 per person fee for Huff Run staff and Ed Taggart to attend this meeting.

We are planning on holding a community workshop, sometime in March or April, to demonstrate the ideas behind and need for rain gardens. Originally scheduled for last year, this workshop will be held by Huff Run and presented by Jenny Fisher of the Tuscarawas Soil and Water Conservation District. The date and time should be set next meeting, depending on her availability.

All members signed a sympathy card for member Marion Palmateer, who just lost her husband and Huff Run Member, Lynn. As strong supporter of Huff Run, he will be dearly missed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm by John Slack and Belle Everett.

Respectfully submitted by Marissa Geib, Secretary.

---

### **February 17th Meeting Minutes**

In attendance: Marissa Geib, Ed Taggart, Amber Leasure-Earnhardt, Maureen Wise, Eric Earnhardt, Belle Everett, John Slack, Mike Farber, Amanda Hook, Jim Toms, Kip Brady, Merv Burton, Gary Alkire, Tyler Isaacs, and Glenn Beatty

Ed Taggart called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm in the Huff Run office

Belle Everette read the treasurers report. It was motioned into acceptance by John Slack, and seconded by Tyler Issacs.

The minutes were motioned to be accepted unanimously.

### **Old Business**

Awareness Days- Amber Leasure-Earnhardt presented the follow-up to last month's introduction to Awareness Days, and informed the group that 3 days have been allotted to the program. Sandy Valley 5<sup>th</sup> graders and Sherrodsville 6<sup>th</sup> graders will share a day on May 15. Bell Herron 7<sup>th</sup> graders will have their own day on May 22. Possibly Tusky Valley 7<sup>th</sup> graders will have their own day as well. Each group will tour our projects and get hands-on education about watersheds and the water cycle. The home schooling group have also been allotted a day that only Amber and Maureen will need to attend on May 20.

### **New Business**

Project Updates- Maureen described many of the restoration projects in the Huff Run Watershed for newcomers but said that not much had changed since the previous meeting. The application for the Renner Foundation grant for septic updates and illegal dumping clean up was discussed. Also, Amber announced that Sandy Valley was awarded their Toyota Tapestry grant for paying for tree planning at Fern Hill and environmental education to go along with it. Amber was instrumental in writing the grant and obtaining letters of support.

Annual Reports- Rural Action has a media VISTA that is accessible for Huff Run help, and she has helped Maureen create our 2009 Annual Report. It has been redesigned into a easy to read and colorful booklet. Every member will receive a copy via postal mail; it will also be used as an outreach tool to be distributed at Field Days and informational meetings. The idea was brought up that we could display them at the Tuscarawas Visitors Bureau too.

Ag Newsletter – Amber passed around the newsletter she sent to agricultural landowners the week or so before. Everyone was impressed.

AmeriCorps Community Groups-As part of the Community Input group for the AmeriCorps planning grant, Amber and Ed were asked by Rural Action to compile a list for all future AmeriCorps Volunteers to use as a community reference. This list would be compiled of individuals, businesses, and agencies that the new volunteers should know and possible meet with. The members present gave many good ideas for adding to the list.

Library Family Fun Day- Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> is Mineral City's Family Fun Day from 12-4 pm. Huff Run has been asked to once again be a part of the festivities, providing a children's craft table and display. Belle Everette volunteered to man the booth, with Amanda Hook and Marissa Geib helping out as needed.

ODNR Summer Internship- ODNR is offering a small, one-time grant to watersheds to hire a summer intern in 2009. This 12-week position would be a full time, 40 hrs/week position with the \$4,800 pay being funded by the grant. The intern focus on field work and water quality changes as well as some office work. Maureen asked if the group would like to apply for the grant, as it would help ease the transition from Amber Leasure-Earnhart as our AmeriCorps Volunteer to our new volunteer in August. Belle Everette motioned to have Maureen Apply, with Eric Earnhardt seconding the motion.

5K and Fun Mile- Our major fundraiser brought in over \$1,000 last year, and it is time to start planning this year's race on Sunday August 16th. There is a \$75 dollar enrollment fee in the Tuscarawas Valley Challenge Series, which would bring us an increase in runners and advertisement about the race. We paid the series fee last year, and Bo Hysong motioned to once again be part of it. Kip Brady seconded the motion. It was decided to ask on the application if the runner is part of the Challenge series.

Clean Sweep Day- Trustee Bo Hysong brought up Sandy Township's impending Clean-Up day, and the possibility of a designated Huff Run cleaning area. The clean sweep would be April 25<sup>th</sup>, and Bo will bring more information to the next meeting.

CIC- The Mineral City Community Improvement Committee met later February 17<sup>th</sup>, with our president Ed Taggart on the board.

Tree Tagging – ODNR will assist Huff Run with identifying and marking trees in our project areas (Thomas and Mineral Zoar this year) that need removed. The trees need to be removed before an endangered species of bats migrate to our projects and nest in these trees, posing a threat to their lives. These marking days will occur before April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Future Meeting Plans- At the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting we will be hosting a community workshop to demonstrate the ideas behind and need for rain gardens. Originally scheduled for last year, this workshop will be held by Huff Run and presented by Jenny Fisher of the Tuscarawas Soil and Water Conservation District. It is to be after the regular meeting, around 6:30pm.

Rural Action Meeting- February 20<sup>th</sup> is Rural Action's AmeriCorps meeting in New Straitsville. Amber, Ed and Maureen will attend.

**Correspondence-** It was brought to our attention by President Ed Taggart that in the most recent issue of Ohio Outdoor News Huff Run is featured in an article. The article is discussing the results of our EPA Fish sampling report, as well as describing the

organizations mission as a whole. The paper was passed around and all members were impressed at the increased publicity Huff Run has received.

We also received Crossroads RC&D's annual report, and are proud to say that Huff Run was named in two articles, also positively getting the word out about our watershed and our mission. Also, Amber, Maureen and Ed all attended Crossroads' Annual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32pm by President Ed Taggart.

Respectfully submitted by Marissa Geib, Secretary.

---

## **March 17<sup>th</sup> HRWRP Meeting Minutes**

In attendance: Marissa Geib, Ed Taggart, Amber Leasure-Earnhardt, Maureen Wise, Eric Earnhardt, Belle Everett, John Slack, Merv Burton, Tyler Isaacs, Gary Alkire, Bo Hysong, and Glen Beatty

Ed Taggart called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm in the Huff Run office.

Belle Everett informed the members attending that our treasurers report needs to be rectified in order to reflect recent changes. No approval was made.

The minutes were motioned to be accepted by Tyler Isaacs, and seconded by Merv Burton. They passed unanimously.

### **Old Business**

Rain Garden Presentation- At the April 21st meeting we will be hosting a community workshop to demonstrate the ideas behind and need for rain gardens. Originally scheduled for last year, this workshop will be held by Huff Run and presented by Jenny Fisher of the Tuscarawas Soil and Water Conservation District. It is to be after the regular meeting, around 6:30pm. The meeting and the presentation will be held in the pavilion behind our office, with refreshments being provided.

Rural Action Volunteer Program- Amber Leasure-Earnhardt presented the new Rural Action Volunteer Program guidelines, and explained the need to track volunteer hours. She has put together a volunteer binder to be kept in the office to help facilitate this tracking. Members are asked to sign an agreement stating that they are willing to work to expectations, with timesheets also being kept in the folder.

ODOT Clean-Up Days- Members motioned to schedule clean-up days for March 28<sup>th</sup> (The Ohio Great American Cleanup), April 25<sup>th</sup> (Sandy Township Clean Sweep), June 26<sup>th</sup> (Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup), and one tentatively in October or September.

Clean Sweep- Sandy Township Trustees once again asked for our assistance with their annual Clean Sweep, and Huff Run agreed to clean Tunnel Hill Rd, German Cemetery Rd, and Sattler Bottom Rd on April 25<sup>th</sup>. These are a big responsibility, and volunteers

are needed! The pick-up will occur from 9am till noon, with a light lunch and celebration following at the Sandyville Eagles.

Awareness Days- Amber presented the finite schedule for awareness days, with 4 days being scheduled total. Tusky Valley is coming on May 1<sup>st</sup>, with Sandy Valley and Sherrodsville sharing May 15<sup>th</sup>. On May 20<sup>th</sup> the home schooling group is touring, with Belle Herron finishing this years Days on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Amber will teach at every school prior to there field trip, and County-Wide Landfill has donated \$100 dollars to serve lunch to our volunteers every Awareness Day.

### **New Business**

Project Updates- There has been some activity at our projects since our last meeting. Belden slag bed 3 is still not working as well as it should. Plans to put new holes in the pipes should help. Lyons stage II is being designed this summer, with Mineral-Zoar Road project's pre-construction meeting being held in a few weeks. Construction on the project is slated to start soon. The application for the Renner Foundation grant for septic updates and illegal dumping clean up was completed, asking for almost \$80,000 for septic upgrades in our community and an additional \$10,000 to address our illegal dumping issues; the grant comes to a total of \$100,000. Also, Maureen announced the completion of an Ohio Department of Natural Resources Grant proposal to pay for an intern in summer 2009; she announced that if selected Huff Run would like to hire Marissa Geib as the intern. We should know shortly if we will be receiving this grant.

BIM Co Project- Buckeye Industrial Mining company is in the permitting process for an underground mine near Huff Run. The 2500 acre mine is between Heritage St. and St. Rt. 514, with the mine's entrance being located near the area we have been using for Awareness Days at the HR-1 site. There will be 55 acres being used as a surface mine, and the mining is expected to continue for 5 years. It should yield a total of 13-15 million tons of coal. Gary Alkire was kind enough to explain to all attending the specifics of the mine, and how it will affect Huff Run. Thank you Gary for the presentation!

May EEC Meeting- There was a motion made by Bo Hysong to pay \$50 for Amber to use as a refundable deposit on the Stark Park's Education Trunk she will be using for the May meeting of our Environmental Explorers Club. Tyler Isaacs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Landfill Speaker- At our June meeting Jeff Kraus will speak on behalf of Countywide Landfill. Countywide has donated funds for the volunteer lunches at all of our Awareness Days this year.

### **Correspondence**

It was brought to our attention that Rural Action will be holding their annual Adventure Auction at Hocking College on April 4<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds will go to Rural Action, Huff Run's sponsor organization. Invitations were passed out and a few members planned to

attend.

The OSM February newsletter talks about mining reconstructing and the work Huff Run is doing. It was agreed that Huff Run is certainly getting increased news coverage.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 by President Ed Taggart.

Respectfully submitted by Marissa Geib, Secretary.

---

## **April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 HRWRP meeting**

In attendance: Marissa Geib, Amber Leasure-Earnhardt, Maureen Wise, Eric Earnhardt, Belle Everett, Merv Burton, Tyler Isaacs, Gary Alkire, Bo Hysong, Rose Geib, and Amanda Hook

Bo Hysong called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm in the Huff Run office.

Belle Everett informed the members that we have a present balance of \$8,797.01 in our account. The treasurer's report was motioned to be accepted by Gary Alkire, and seconded by Tyler Isaacs.

The minutes were motioned to be accepted by Tyler Isaacs, and seconded by Belle Everett. They passed unanimously.

### **Old Business**

Awareness Day- Amber handed out schedules to all volunteers who were listed to be helping at the Tusky Valley Awareness Day. She has been to all the schools that are scheduled to attend Awareness Days in order to teach the children basic watershed facts. County Wide Landfill has donated money to buy a Subway lunch for all volunteers, and Huff Run will be providing drinks and chips for all the volunteers as well.

Library Family Fun Day- On May 9<sup>th</sup> the Mineral City Nicole Donant Library will be having their annual Family Fun Day. Amanda Hook, Belle Everett, Tyler Isaacs, and Marissa Geib volunteered to help with the children's craft booth. It will be from noon-4pm, and all members are invited to attend.

Clean Sweep- Huff Run in conjunction with Sandy Township will be having a clean sweep this Saturday from 9am to noon, approximately. All members are urged to attend, and all volunteers are asked to bring gloves and wear old clothing. Please help support us and your community by being involved in our clean sweep!

### **New Business**

Project Updates- There has been some significant work on our projects completed recently. Belden has had new holes drilled into the pipe connecting slag bed three and impoundment three, and we are excited to report that slag bed 3 is now working!

Mineral-Zoar is under construction currently, and the Thomas project's design is done and bidding will be done in April. The pre-bid meeting is April 30<sup>th</sup>, with the opening bid starting May 14<sup>th</sup>. Lyons Phase II is being surveyed by Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the designing phase will follow.

We heard that we did receive the ODNR intern grant. Marissa Geib will serve as the intern this summer. No word on the Renner Grant for septic upgrades and illegal dumping removal. The Fern Hill OSM grant has been closed out and completed.

New Copier- Huff Run has received the donation of a copier from Tuscarawas Soil and Water Conservation District. It is a very nice, elaborate copier that will drastically cut costs when it comes to awareness day booklets and the Annual Reports. A thank-you note was passed around and signed by all members. Ed Taggart and Jerry Burton donated their time to pick up and deliver the copier.

AmeriCorps Update- The job posting for the new Huff Run AmeriCorps volunteer position has been listed, and the job is officially being posted from April 1<sup>st</sup> through July 15<sup>th</sup>. The new volunteer will start August 10<sup>th</sup>, and will be awarded an educational stipend of \$4,725 at the conclusion of their service, along with multiple other bonuses and perks. Huff Run members approved a motion made by Belle Everett and Tyler Isaacs to spend up to \$150 in advertising locally for this job opening.

Photo Contest- Flyers are being made to help promote the annual photo contest. Remember that members can participate too. Awards were decided to be the same as last year.

### **Correspondence**

The Ohio Mine-land Partnership (OMP) has invited Huff Run to attend their meeting in May. It was motioned by Tyler Isaacs and Eric Earnhardt that the \$10 cost per person be paid by Huff Run for any delegates we send. Maureen, Amber, and Ed will be our representatives. Also, OMP yearly fees are due and Tyler Isaacs and Belle Everett motioned for the unanimous vote to renew our \$25 membership with them.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 by Vice-President Bo Hysong.

Respectfully submitted by Marissa Geib, Secretary.

---

### **May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 HRWRP meeting**

In attendance: Ed Taggart, Marissa Geib, Maureen Wise, Belle Everett, Tyler Isaacs,

\* There was not a quorum, so there were no motions made

Ed Taggart called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm in the Huff Run office.

Belle Everett informed the members that we have a present balance of \$8,672.01 in our



general account as of April 21<sup>st</sup>.

The minutes will be read at the next months meeting.

### **Old Business**

Awareness Day- There are two more awareness days: May 20<sup>th</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The homeschool group will be coming May 20<sup>th</sup> and should arrive between 9 or 9:30 am. Belle Everett and Ed Taggart are scheduled to help. On May 22<sup>nd</sup> Bell Herron Middle School will be attending with Merv Burton, Belle Everett, and Ed Taggart scheduled to volunteer that day. All volunteer need to arrive by 7:15, and lunch from Subway will be provided.

Dam- The dam on property belonging to Ed Keiser is hopefully going to be delineated and destroyed in the summer months. Ed would like the bricks that the dam is made of, and Dan McCorey will provide labor. The dam is harmful to the fish habitat that Huff Run is trying to foster.

### **New Business**

Project Updates- Our Belden project is still running smoothly with its revamped design. The Thomas project is still bidding, next month we will know the winner. The apparent bid winner is Malcuit. Mineral-Zoar rd. project is coming along, with culverts and pipes coming next week. Finally, the Lyons project will be re-designed by ODNR in the coming months.

We received word that we did not obtain the Renner Foundation Grant.

5K/ Party in the Park- Mineral City's annual Party in the Park will be held on Sun, August 16<sup>th</sup> from noon to 8pm in the Mineral City Park. Huff Run will once again be taking a large part in the celebrations, with our "Run for the Water" Huff Run 5K and Fun Mile both being held that day. The 5K posters and flyers will be ready next month.

Sandy Township Zoning- Maureen has been dutifully attending Sandy Township Zoning Commission meetings for the past year, and her time there is paying off. The Commission has started to create regulations mandating no new buildings or building additions can be made within: 25 feet from the stream if the stream's watershed is less than half a square mile, 75 feet from the stream if the stream's watershed is between half a square mile and 20 square miles, and 120 feet from the stream if the stream's watershed is more than 20 square miles. The regulations will change depending on the slope of the bank, but the decision to include these riparian buffer zones in the new zoning regulations will drastically help decrease erosion along the banks and improve the quality of the stream and its water. Also, landowners will be more protected when it floods and also more aware of Huff Run and our mission.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 by President Ed Taggart.

Respectfully submitted by Marissa Geib, Secretary.

---

## **June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 HRWRP meeting**

In attendance: Ed Taggart, Marissa Geib, Maureen Wise, Belle Everett, Tyler Isaacs, Gary Alkire, Bo Hysong, Amber Leasure-Earnhardt, Merv Burton, John Slack, and Eric Earnhardt

Ed Taggart called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm in the Huff Run office.

Belle Everett informed the members that we have a present balance of \$8,872.01 in our general account. Bo Hysong motioned to accept the treasurer's report, with Tyler Isaacs seconding it. They passed unanimously.

The past two months meeting's minutes were emailed to all members prior to the meeting. John Slack motioned to accept both months' minutes, with Eric Earnhardt seconding. They passed unanimously.

Before the regular business meeting, Jeff Kraus from Countywide Recycling & Disposal Facility gave a presentation to members present. He addressed the environmental concerns that have been brought in light recently, as well as explaining the lengths that Countywide is going to provide a safe and effective waste disposal facility.

### **Old Business**

Voting- This year's elections were held for both President and Secretary. Ed Taggart and Marissa Geib were both nominated last meeting for the respective offices they fill presently. As they were running unopposed, Gary Alkire and Belle Everett motioned for them to be appointed to their offices for another 2-year term. Ed Taggart is President, and Marissa Geib is Secretary.

AmeriCorps Ad- We ran an advertisement in the Times Reporter for our AmeriCorps position, for two weeks, at a cost of \$194.35. The Carrollton Free Press Standard also ran our ad for an unbilled amount. Whenever the total cost of our advertisement is known, we will include it in the Treasurer's report. Over 25 phone calls have been received inquiring about the job, with four applications being received so far.

### **New Business**

Project Updates- The gob pile on our Belden Project has been selected to become an ODNR designed, funded, and inspected project sometime later this summer. Also, the seeps at the Belden Project may also be another project as well, designed and funded by ODNR.

The Mineral Zoar Project is moving right along. The rail road culvert and the road culvert are completed. One hundred feet of the end channel is also done.

The Thomas project has been won officially by Red Malcuit of Strausburg. A preconstruction meeting has not been set yet but construction should start in late July or early August.

A project near our HR-25 site is being done by the other division of ODNR for a forfeiture project. The design is done and it should be bid in late July or August.

OEEF Grant- An Ohio Environmental Education Fund grant proposal is being written by Amber Leasure-Earnhardt currently and will hopefully help cover the costs of Awareness Days next year. Our USEPA Targeted Watershed Grant expires in February, and that funding covers both our Awareness Days and our Environmental Explorers Club (EEC). Rural Action currently administers another OEEF grant and then will not be able to do another at the same time. The group agreed that it is a small enough grant that they could administer.

2010 Environmental Explorers- As discussed above, our funding for 2010's environmental education is expiring in February. For the next two years we only have a 319 grant for \$1000 (total over 2 years). We will have no money for EEC, Party in the Park, Fair displays, or Awareness Days. Fundraisers were discussed for EEC, including bake sales and other children-run events. Also, we could possibly ask the science teachers and other school connections if they could help fund their own field trips. The group decided to cover costs of EEC at \$250 per year for two years with the money raised from the Quiet Morning raffle.

Mineral City Banner- The Mineral City Village Council is selling banners to be hung from the light poles down High Street. They are \$150 a piece and will have the Tusky Valley logo as well as "Welcome to Mineral City" on them. At the bottom they have a few lines of customizable text for business sponsors. Marissa Geib motioned to purchase a banner, with Belle Everett seconding. The motioned passed unanimously. It was decided that the banner should read "Huff Run Watershed" on the first line and [www.huffrun.org](http://www.huffrun.org) on the second line. An order will be placed with council later this month.

## **Correspondence**

ODOT Clean up- Huff Run will hold another litter clean up on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm. This will be at our adopted portion of Rt. 800, and if low attendance from members happens again we will forfeit our membership in the adopt-a-highway program.

Sandy Township- Sent a thank you and certificates to all members who participated in the 2009 Sandy Township clean-sweep.

Orion Membership- An application was sent to Huff Run to become members of Orion, a company who donated a free posting for our AmeriCorps job online. The hosting is

worth \$25, and the membership would be \$30. Members voted to not join Orion, especially because none of the applicants to date found it on the site.

US EPA- The EPA presented Huff Run with a certificate of appreciation for our dedication to cleaning and maintaining healthy waterways.

Eagles- A letter was presented for member approval that would be taken to the Sandy Valley Eagles to ask for additional funds. Ed Taggart will take it to this months meeting to present it.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM by President Ed Taggart.

Respectfully submitted by Marissa Geib, Secretary

---

### **HRWRP July 21, 2009 Meeting**

In attendance: John Slack, Bo Hysong, Maureen Wise, Ed Taggart, Amber Leasure-Earnhardt, Eric Earnhardt, Cheryl Socotch, Mike Steinmaus, Merv Burton, Jim Toms, Belle Everett, Glenn Beatty

Ed Taggart called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

A treasurer's report was given by Belle Everett stating that the beginning balance was \$8,872.01. With new memberships, Eagles donation, 5k sponsorships, paying for the new Mineral City banner and ads for the AmeriCorps position, the new total comes to \$10,035.13. Bo Hysong motioned to accept the report. Jim Toms seconded and all voted unanimously.

Without our secretary present, the minutes were still approved. Belle Everett motioned to accept and John Slack seconded. All voted to accept.

Members were reminded to renew their dues and two individual memberships and two family memberships were bought on the spot.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

AmeriCorps New Hire: Maureen Wise reported that five interviews were conducted (with six scheduled) and Melissa Thorne was selected. Melissa is from Canton, recently graduated from Malone College, has worked with her local Health Department and taught in schools. Bo, Ed, Maureen and Amber all helped with the interviews and agreed that she was the most qualified. Melissa will start her term August 10 with her first day at Huff Run on August 13, two work days before Party in the Park!

It was announced that Amber's last day would be July 31. A good bye lunch for her was scheduled at Dante's in New Philadelphia at 11:30am.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Project/ Grants Update: Maureen Wise gave an update about many current restoration projects. The forfeiture site near our HR-25 being reclaimed by ODNR will have a prebid meeting on 8-5-09. The Lyons Phase II project is 30% designed but is on hold for now while Belden Phase II and Fern Hill Phase II are designed. These latter sites are much smaller and may be put out to a letter bid and constructed for under \$10,000 hopefully before the fall. The Thomas Project still does not have a preconstruction meeting set but

the contract is in progress. Construction should commence in July or early August. The Mineral Zoar Project is progressing, if slowly. Beaver is dewatering the site with three well points to be able to work in the project area easier. The southern relocated channel is completed as well as the collection channel. A quarter of the northern relocated channel is also done. Beaver requested a change order for shale to be put in place so they can work in the wetter areas of the project. This is increasing the project cost \$15,000 and ODNR agreed to it.

Amber completed her OEEF grant which will be administered through Rural Action if awarded. Funds were requested for Awareness Day 2010 and extra money for the tree planting with Sandy Valley.

Mine Discussion: The group discussed the mine being proposed by Buckeye Industrial Mining Company on Heritage Road in Huff Run. Maureen stated that as the only advocates for the stream, that the Partnership should further discuss any issues that the mine would cause the watershed. Cheryl Socotch from ODNR was present to help with the discussion and said that she has seen recent mines producing AMD with the mine pools filling up much faster than expected. The application that has been turned in to ODNR does not give proper assurances that this will not happen here. It should be expected that the mine will open within the year but the Partnership will have time to make comments, especially if there are revisions to the plan. Cheryl said that we should be mindful of elevated suspended solids in the stream and keep an eye out for people whose water wells change. Maureen had heard that any changes to the mine plan (after initially approved) would have to be published in the Free Press Standard. She had looked up prices for it to be delivered to the office but Cheryl said that the revisions will also be listed on ODNR's webpage. The Partnership expressed concern about the proximity of the mine entrance to Huff Run – only about 100 feet away. It was decided that a letter would be drafted for the next meeting to be sent to ODNR (Mitch Farley), Buckeye Industrial, Sean Logan (the director of ODNR), and local papers stating these concerns and that we want assurances that Huff Run will not be damaged by the mine. A motion was called by Eric Earnhardt to send the letter and seconded by Belle Everett. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Party in the Park: The event will be held on Sunday August 16. Crafts, “river games” (similar to last year's H<sub>2</sub>Olympics), AMD tie-dyeing have all been planned. The 5K & Fun Mile will start at 7pm with registration at 6pm. Volunteers are needed to help with all these items as well as putting up the tent on Saturday. It was agreed to meet at the Mineral City Park on Aug 15 at 9:30am to put up the tent.

Ag Newsletter: Amber passed around the latest edition of her Ag Newsletter to be sent to farmers in the watershed.

New Fundraising Ideas: This topic was tabled without Marissa there to present. Merv Burton bought up a concern that the former Alexander property behind his house has been bought by a new owner. This land is the Huff Run AML project that had enormous erosion gullies which was done in the 90s. The new landowner has logged the land and is now planning on cutting hay and planting soybeans. Merv was

concerned that the soil (spoil) would not stay in place in the steeper areas which would be very detrimental to the stream. The Partnership agreed that ODNR needs to secure their investments and have something written into the deed. Maureen will call the SWCD and Mitch from ODNR. Perhaps a letter written to ODNR would be helpful here too.

Correspondence: A thank you note to the Eagles for their generous donation of \$1000 was passed around to be signed by HRWRP members.  
Ed Taggart adjourned the meeting at 7:14.

Respectfully submitted by Maureen Wise, Huff Run Watershed Coordinator.

---

## **Minutes for Huff Run Meeting September 16, 2009**

### **Meeting Attendance**

Maureen Wise, Edward Taggart, Merv Burton, John Slack, Bo Hysong, Belle Everett, Melissa Thorne

### **Call to Order: 5:34**

### **Old business**

**Letters:** The "mine letter" was approved last month. All in attendance signed letter. This letter will be sent to ODNR's, Mitch Farley, Sean Logan, Kyle Thorp as well as the Times Reporter and Buckeye Industrial Mining. We feel we need to have a written record of our concerns.

The second letter will be sent to the property behind Merv's house. Property owner is Norman Sheppler. Decision is to invite him to the November Huff Run Meeting to discuss our concerns with the cutting down of trees. Also we would like the opportunity to visit the property first and take a look. We decided against sending him a letter at this point in time.

**Brick Dam Update:** Marissa Geib and Maureen Wise did further investigation on the dam of bricks downstream of HR24. This is the property adjoining Ed Taggart's owned by Ed Kaiser. It was determined that Dan McCurry does not need to be hired to dig up the bricks from the bank. It would be nearly impossible to get his equipment in place. Marissa and Maureen instead went to work on the dam with shovels and made enough room for fish passage and water flow.

**Water bottles:** The original design we wanted was out of stock. Bottles that we ordered are on back order. The style was changed twice. We received a better quality and style for same great low price. We purchased 75 (25 oz. bottles) for \$3.14 and the bottles will be sold for \$15.00.

**Fall Tour:** Maureen confirmed that the Tour will be Thursday, October 8, 2009. She will rent two 15 passenger vans. We will meet at 11:00 for lunch at Crossroads, then tour. The projects that might be possible for viewing: Mineral Zoar, Thomas, Linden, Belden, Lyons, and Fern Hill. We would like to show two or three projects for the tour.

**Project updates.** There was a project list that accompanied. Mineral Zoar is 95% done. What was done was the pipes for the RAPS were installed. Aerobic wetland almost done. Anaerobic 95% done completion date October 4, 2009.

As of September 10, 2009 Thomas almost dewatered. They have cleared 5 acres - 15% of earth work. Mine drains problems should be rectified. Completion by November. Belden Gob pile may be constructed this winter. HR42, Lyons III both are almost done and will be bid on by the end of the month.

### **Grants**

OEEF grant will fund our awareness days, equipment, bussing, and classroom presentations. Melissa Thorne explained the grant further.

ODNR intern grant is closed.

Maureen is preparing to write for the MWCD to fund a grant for septic tanks, illegal dumping. Grant is due in early October.

Linda Thornton to be at the next Huff Run Meeting to talk about next year's budget.

### **Correspondence** by Edward Taggart

RC&D council meeting on 9/25/2009. The group will pay for Ed's lunch.

Ed, Maureen and Melissa will accept the OSM 2009 AML reclamation award at the Ohio Mineland Partnership meeting in mid October.

Belle financial reporting. \$10,271.63 minus \$180.99 in outstanding checks makes \$10,090.64.

**6:47:** Adjourn of meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Thorne, Huff Run AmeriCorps member.

---

### **HRWRP November 17, 2009 meeting**

There were 8 people in attendance at the Huff Run Meeting. They were: Ed Taggart, Merv Burton, Bo Hysong, Bob Farnsworth, Belle Everett, Melissa Thorne, Jim Toms, and Maureen Wise.

The Huff Run Meeting was called to order by Ed Taggart at 5:32p.m.

Belle Everett began the meeting with the treasurer's report. As of today, the group has a balance of \$10, 621.36. Deposits totaled \$275 and a mileage check was given to Ed Taggart for \$107.00

No minutes were submitted for approval.

## **Old Business**

Riparian Zoning: Maureen has been attending the Sandy Township Zoning Commission meetings for about a year to enact zoning setback along riparian areas. At a recent meeting they unanimously approved an amendment to the sandy township zoning resolution. The amendments has been sent to the planning committee for review. More changes were made. The discussion now is with the township trustee we want no building in riparian corridor. The rules will be: 120ft away from –stream with watersheds larger than 20 square miles, 75feet away from streams with 20<sup>2</sup> miles, 25ft to 5<sup>2</sup> miles additions for slopes. Maureen showed maps.

OSM Award: We now have our copy of our Office of Surface Mining Regional Award for Excellence in Reclamation for Belden.

Water Bottles: Maureen contacted someone about the Valley Merry Christmas to sell water bottles there. At this time there are no tables. All were encouraged to take some home to sell. So far we have sold 20 water bottles.

Mine News: The letter that we wrote to ODNR and BIMCo about the mine was also sent to the Times-Reporter. Surprisingly, it became a story and was on the front page of the paper. Our entire letter was published throughout the newspaper article. Many citizens were able to share their comments online. We will also send a letter to EPA as they will do the NPS permitting for pond. On Monday November 23, 2009 Ed, Maureen and Melissa will be meeting with ODNR at 9:00a.m. Bo and Belle also agreed to go. Several members in attendance suggested that we contact Lee Morrison and put a retraction in the paper making it clear that we are not opposed to the mine we have concerns for the safety and health of the Huff Run. Also, that we are not officials. Send Sean's letter to Lee was also suggested.

## **New Business**

Project/Grant update: Mineral Zoar is complete. The Thomas project may be put off until the spring. One of the two "sites" on Thomas is complete.

MWCD grant - we will probably hear later in December about the grant that Maureen wrote for the septic system updates and maintenance as well as open dumping removal.



December Meeting: With the upcoming holidays the question was posed, "Do we want a December meeting?" The members of the group decided that we will have a meeting on December 15, 2009, the third Tuesday of the month.

5k ideas: Maureen asked what the group thought about having the 5k on the Saturday before the Party in the Park. In the morning, many of the volunteers would already be there to set up the tent. Most racers like to run on Saturday mornings and it would make for a shorter day on Sunday. It was agreed that Maureen should do a survey of past runners to see what they think and get back to the group. Additionally, it was discussed that in the past we have given out t-shirts and some of our runners participate every year. Do we want to give something else to those who always participate? It was agreed that it is important to include sponsors names on the back of the shirts and this would be hard to include in a different format.

#### Correspondence

Ed Taggart attend the Crossroads RC&D meeting where they a pie auction.

#### Adjourn:

The meeting was called to close at 6:33.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Thorne, AmeriCorps member

---

### **Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership |December 15, 2009 5:30 at the Huff Run Office**

In attendance: Ed Taggart, Maureen Wise, Melissa Thorne, Merv Burton, Jim Toms, Bo Hysong, Bob Farnsworth, Gary Alkire, John Slack, Tyler Issacs, Marissa Geib, Mike Steinmaus via Skype.

Ed Taggart called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

Taggart also gave the Treasurer's Report that Belle Everett sent via email: \$10,621.36 at beginning of month with \$100 deposit of water bottle money making the current balance \$10,721.36 with one outstanding check from a photo contest winner. T. Issacs motioned to accept the report and J. Slack seconded. The motion was passed.

Melissa Thorne presented minutes from the November meeting. B. Hysong motioned to accept the minutes and T. Issacs seconded. The motion was passed.

#### **Old Business**

M. Wise gave an update about how many water bottles had been sold and encouraged those present to take some to sell.

Mine News – Wise then gave an update about the meeting between ODNR and Huff Run about the BIMCo mine on Heritage Road held on November 23, 2009. Everett, Taggart, Thorne and Cheryl Socotch were all present. ODNR agreed that they do not

want to further pollute Huff Run. They will be further reviewing the application and asking for more information from BIMCo. ODNR might (no promises) not grant the variance for the sediment pond in Huff Run's riparian area and also ask to move the entry back out of previously reclaimed areas. A discussion was had about how up dip Number Six Coal seeps at stream level in the Huff Run Watershed. This geologically should not happen but does in the watershed. They may ask BIMCo to put in two sed. Ponds. There will be no disposal of spoil on site. It was a good meeting although not necessarily productive as no decisions were made.

## **New Business**

Project and Grant Updates – M. Wise said that she will be helping ODNR sample Mineral Zoar that week and will let the group know in the future about results. The site looks good and is complete.

The Thomas Project is under construction and is about 70% done. Malcuit is not going to quit working in the winter but does want to try to get it done as soon as possible. Site Two still needs its primary OLC constructed, two riser pipes installed and an emergency spillway both associated with the settling pond on that side of the project. The completion date may be in mid- January.

Wise told the group that their US EPA grant as well as both OSM grants for Thomas and Mineral Zoar will be closing soon. No word yet on the MWCD grant submitted in the Fall. She is considering applying for a new OEPA grant if that one is not successful for the same projects.

B. Farnsworth said that the work on HR-25 by ODNR, ALM division has been going onto his property.

Lease – M. Wise passed around the lease agreement with Mineral City. There were no changes this year except the decrease in price to stay within the grant funding. Taggart and Hysong signed the agreement.

E. Taggart stated that he thought that the group should help with bills in 2010 if funds are not found to pay them all beyond what is made with the water bottles.

MOU with Rural Action – M. Wise and M. Steinmaus addressed the MOU with Rural Action. Steinmaus is working on making some changes that give more detail about what the HRWRP will do in the agreement as most of it only states with RA does for the Partnership.

Correspondence – Gary Alkire told the group of a new remining task force created by ODNR . New rules will make remining easier and cheaper for mining companies to help restore AMD causing mines.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Maureen Wise, Watershed Coordinator.

