

Russell Township Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees: Tuesday, November 9, 2010

RE: Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP) and area residents of Hillbrook Road locations impacted by the Griswold Creek Corridor

Trustees in Attendance: Jim Mueller, Jim Dickinson, Kristina Port

Invited Guests: Amy Brennan, CRWP Director; Diana Steffan, Russell Zoning; Chip Hess, Hess and Associates; and Hillbrook Road residents

The special meeting was called to order by Jim Mueller at 7: 05 pm. The role was taken, with Mr. Mueller, Mr. Dickinson, and Ms. Port acknowledging attendance.

Ms. Port introduced the speaker and facilitator of the meeting, Amy Brennan, CRWP Director. The meeting presentation was for the purpose of presenting an overview of the Griswold Creek corridor that impacted the riparian area impacted by Griswold Creek and determine if the residents wished to go forward with a grant application for a comprehensive study of the corridor for possible mitigation or remediation solutions.

Mrs. Brennan presented a historical perspective over the past 20 plus years of changes that occurred with Griswold Creek, and especially highlighting damages sustained from the May 2010 flooding.

The trustees asked the residents if there was an interest on behalf of the township to apply for a grant that would be available with a 50% match for the purpose of doing a hydraulic analysis and comprehensive study of the Griswold Creek corridor. Ms. Brennan outlined the various grant opportunities. Mr. Dickinson commented that the township cannot use tax dollars to pay for a grant match that would be directed for a study that impacted private property owners. Residents were apprised that if the grant were initiated by Russell Township, the work would be coordinated through the CRWP, yet the match dollars would be needed from the local residents impacted by the Griswold Creek and its tributaries. Invitations were sent to 27 or 28 land owners, yet others may own land on tributaries of the Griswold Creek and could increase the number of affected parcels. If the residents wished to accept grant funds for this purpose, a question arose if the township needed to set up an escrow account, and this question will be asked to the assistant county prosecutor. Residents were presented options and discussed having updates regarding the process for a grant.

A motion was made by Ms. Port "For Russell Township to be the lead applicant, with the assistance of the Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP) to apply for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Coastal Management Assistance Grant, with the stipulation that no township dollars would be used for the local match". Mr. Dickinson seconded the motion. A roll call was taken:

Mr. Mueller: Yes Mr. Dickinson: Yes Ms. Port: Yes

As a follow up, letters will be sent out by the CRWP apprising land owners of funding need, as well as using the Russell Township Government Time Warner Cable Channel 20 to promote resident awareness.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Mr. Mueller, Seconded by Jim Dickinson. Affirmative votes by all.
Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Recorded by Kristina Port

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