

Stormwater Manual Adopted as Management Tool for Township

Springfield Township in Lucas County has recently passed a resolution to adopt TMACOG's newly revised *Stormwater Management Standards Manual*. Management of stormwater is a priority in the township. "We have lots of open ditches," said Township Trustee Andy Glenn. "We need to manage water flow here, for our own sake and because it's a significant issue to people downstream." Adopting standards outlined in the new manual is practical and proactive he added. "We don't often have flooding problems in the township now, and we don't want it to be a problem in the future. As we become more urban, and add more pavement, establishing good practice is important."

Springfield Township is the third largest jurisdiction in Lucas County, with a population of 25,000. Development is moving forward in the township with residential developments planned or under construction in a half dozen sites.

Township Administrator Bob Anderson said that the next step is to share information about stormwater standards with the builders and with residents of the township. "We will be working to get the knowledge out, to educate citizens. What people do in individual yards affects water for everybody."

The *Stormwater Management Standards Manual* describes best management practices for protection of water at construction sites, and for management of stormwater after construction. The manual also includes model language that can be adopted by jurisdictions as they establish regulations for conservation development and riparian setbacks. The complete manual is posted on www.tmacog.org. For more information contact Kurt Erichsen at 419.241.9155 ext. 126.

Full Swan Creek Pilot Watershed Committee to Review Proposed Maps

Members of the Swan Creek Pilot Watershed Project have been evaluating how to identify priority conservation and priority development areas in their 23 jurisdictions.

The technical committee has now drafted suitability maps using the criteria that members agreed upon. The full committee will review and discuss the draft maps Thursday, December 14, 7 p.m. at the Springfield Township Hall. The goal of the

Swan Creek Pilot Watershed Project is to identify areas that residents and jurisdictions want to preserve, and which areas they would develop. A completed plan will guide conservation efforts, and direct builders and developers. For more information contact Matt Horvat, 419.241.9155 ext. 123.

Metroparks are Recipient of Clean Ohio Funds

The Lucas County Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) has evaluated applications for the preservation of open spaces in the county. NRAC recommended providing \$1,757,040 from the Clean Ohio Fund to the Howard Farms project of the Metroparks of the Toledo Area. The Ohio commission reviewing local decisions indicates that they will accept the NRAC recommendation. With the Clean Ohio funds, the Metroparks will purchase 959 acres of agricultural property in eastern Jerusalem Township for future wetland and coastal habitat restoration. The total cost of the Howard Farms project is estimated to be \$6 million.

The Clean Ohio Fund was funded by taxpayers only through 2006. Unless Ohio reinstates the program, this project is exhausted. Since 2000, the fund returned more than \$5 million to Lucas County.

Environmental Consultant Contracts out for Bid

Proposals are currently being evaluated for two environmental remediation projects that are long-time concerns of TMACOG and its partners. Requests for Proposals (RFPs) have already been accepted for the Maumee Bay Wetland Restoration project. Proposals describe a plan for a wetland system that will protect the park beaches from contamination from pathogens, while providing natural habitat, eco-tourism, and shoreline restoration. A second RFP is asking for proposals to inventory resources of potential habitat restoration sites along the Ottawa River. The inventory will be provided to state and federal agencies for restoration and mitigation projects. Deadline for the Ottawa River proposal is mid-March, 2007.

More information on both consultant contracts is available on www.tmacog.org. Navigate to the Environment page. For more information, contact Kurt Erichsen at 419.241.9155 ext. 126.



UPDATE

Roadway Safety Workshop – December 7

New Initiative to Reduce Traffic Fatalities

TMACOG and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) have organized a workshop for first responders, school leaders, traffic engineers, and others concerned with identifying traffic dangers in Lucas and Wood counties.

The workshop is Thursday, December 7, 7:30 a.m. - noon, at the Grand Lobby of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza. The first part of the program will describe resources for improving safety - from state and federal funding available for education and enforcement, to accident reporting protocol. The Ohio Department of Public Safety has developed an electronic system to record crash locations that will generate much more accurate data than what has been available. In the second part of the workshop, those attending will identify high crash areas and other safety problems in Lucas and Wood counties and discuss strategies to address these locations.

All those attending will take away a 200-page handbook of crash data information prepared by ODOT. For more information on the workshop or to register, contact Sujatha Mohanakrishnan at 419.241.9155 ext. 119.

TMACOG Leadership and Committee Assignments at Winter General Assembly

The winter general assembly is the TMACOG meeting where new leadership is elected and members can select which committees and councils they will serve on. "All TMACOG members are encouraged to get involved," says TMACOG Chair John Davoli. "By getting involved and lending your expertise, I can guarantee that you will be rewarded in return by a wealth of information from other members," he adds. The 2007 winter meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 30 at the Holiday Inn French Quarter in Perrysburg. The schedule of events has changed from previous years. Caucus sessions, where members elect their representatives to the board of trustees, will be at 2:15 p.m. The full business meeting for the election of leadership will follow at 3 p.m.

There are councils and administrative committees that direct the work of TMACOG. The four councils are: Commuter Services, Environmental, Transportation, and Growth Strategies (which meets as requested by members). The administrative committees accepting nominations are: Communications, Finance & Audit, Long Range Planning & Resource Development, and Membership.

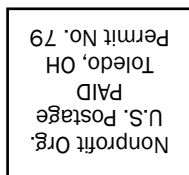
Members will receive an invitation for the assembly. For questions or to learn more about opportunities on TMACOG councils or committees, please call Greg Gettum, marketing manager, at 419.241.9155 ext. 132.

Car Buy Clients Learn Defensive Driving Skills

Families that are part of the Car Buy Program at TMACOG learn how to get the most out of their investment in a good used car. In addition to car maintenance and budgeting classes, people who are buying cars through the TMACOG program also attend an 8-hour defensive driving class through the Safety Council of Northwest Ohio.

People who attend the class learn how to avoid accidents: keep safe distance, be aware of blind spots, how to use mirrors, and adjust to snow and rain. They also learn how to reduce the chance of injury if an accident happens by correctly using seatbelts and child restraint devices. Additional presentations cover rules of the road around emergency vehicles and schools, and the damage caused by driving under the influence.

"We want Car Buy clients to have tools to protect their families, and to protect their investment in their vehicles," notes Russ Stasiak, Car Buy Program manager. Some insurance companies recognize the value of the training by offering a discount to drivers who complete a defensive driving course.



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