

Minutes

April 1, 2021

Commissioners present: Timothy Bechtol, Michael Pepple and William Bateson.

Also Present: Tammy Erwin, Lucinda Land, Jim Maurer, Rich Daugherty, Adam Witteman and Mary Ann LaRoche.

Commissioner Bechtol opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioner's 1st floor conference room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Minutes from March 30th, 2021 meeting were read with William Bateson making a motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Assistant Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #182-21 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification – Commissioners to appropriate to Inmate Services Fund. William Bateson made a motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #183-21 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification – Commissioners to appropriate to Ditch Maintenance. William Bateson made a motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #184-21 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification – Commissioners to appropriate to Redevelopment Tax Equivalent Fund. William Bateson made a motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

William Bateson made a motion to approve the Warrant Journal. Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Commissioners signed the Explosive Gas Monitoring Report and a travel request for the Sheriff's office.

Lucinda Land presented the following resolution for consideration:

Resolution#185-21 – Resolution authorizing the Hancock County Commissioners to enter into a contract with Charles Beagle D.B.A. Charles Beagle Electric, 10416 C.R. 26, Findlay, Ohio, for the installation of LED lights in the interior and the exterior of buildings owned by the County. William Bateson made a motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Lucinda requested an executive session to discuss personnel as it relates to discipline.

Meetings/Reports

William Bateson stated that he sat in on his first Economic Development meeting this morning. Yesterday, he met with the Structural Engineer out at the JFS building for his review on what to do with the roof situation along with the other two Commissioners.

Michael Pepple attended the Hancock County Firefighter Association Peace meeting last night and they had Life Flight come in. All Fire Chiefs now have an app on their smart phone to request Life Flight to be dispatched and can set a pin on where they can land. He also received an update on the Blanchard Township Fire Station. Additional money was received so they will be able to build a new building.

Timothy Bechtol had no meetings to report on however, he did want to share that they are going through the State of the County video at this time to make any necessary adjustments and it should be ready to go out to the public sometime next week.

At 9:38 a.m., Timothy Bechtol made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel as it relates to discipline. Michael Pepple seconded. Roll call resulted as follows: Timothy Bechtol, yes; Michael Pepple, yes; William Bateson, yes. At 10:25 a.m., Timothy Bechtol made a motion to come out of executive session having discussed personnel in regards to discipline with no action taken. Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

At 11:00 a.m., the Commissioners met with Lauren Sandhu and Bill Doyle from the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership regarding development of wetlands in the area. Others present included Tammy Erwin, Jim Maurer, Adam Witteman and Phil Johnson. Lauren gave an update regarding grant funds that are now available through the Great Lakes Commission for wetlands development. The funds are through their Great Lakes Sediment & Nutrient Reduction Program to reduce runoff into the river. Sitting along Township Road 89, it is the area right across the street from the site that was done in 2019 on CR 140 involving 15 acres of wetlands. If they pursue that area, which is county owned, the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership would apply for the grant funding and the Nature Conservancy would help out with public outreach for volunteer work. Lauren stated that you can ask for a maximum of \$200,000 and the application is due by 5:00 p.m. on April 16th. If they do apply for the grant, they would find out in July if they received it and the start of the grant would be October 1, 2021. It is a 3-year duration to get the project done. There is only a 25% match, so she talked with the Nature Conservancy where their match came from and a lot of it came from public outreach and volunteers to plant the trees and also an easement that they talked about. She stated that they work with the West Central Ohio Land Conservancy and they could be another group to help with the easement. Phil Johnson stated that they gave a "temporary work easement" over the property that the work was being done on. When the project was finished, they signed a "land owner agreement" that defines what exactly may or may not go on the property for a 20-year period. Phil thought that we did not sign the contracts, the Nature Conservancy did. Lauren stated that the Nature

Conservancy would handle the construction and engineering design and she would need letters of support to pursue the project. She would estimate the cost to be around \$75,000-\$100,000 to do the project. Timothy Bechtol stated he would support excavating as much as possible and the county could always use the dirt. William Bateson agreed. He would not recommend putting any trees there because the area is so low and would prefer to seed it for a grassy area. Lauren stated that by not planting the trees, that could reduce the cost down to around \$50,000. She also said that invasive removal could be included and the Commissioners agreed that this would be beneficial. Any updates that she receives from the Nature Conservancy, will be emailed to the Commissioners along with any final details and the application will be sent for their review. The County Engineer will be involved and a letter of support will be requested from the Mayor and the Soil & Water Conservation District. The Commissioners were all in support of the project with the agreement of no trees being planted and agreed to provide a letter of support. In closing, Timothy Bechtol wanted to pass along best wishes to Stephanie Bishop on her recent appointment here by the Governor for Findlay Municipal Court. She will be filling out that term until the election in November for the un-expired remainder of the term for Judge Miller, whom we also like to congratulate for winning the Appeals Court.

Respectfully submitted,



Tammy Erwin, Assistant Clerk

Reviewed and approved by:



Timothy K. Bechtol



Michael W. Pepple



William L. Bateson

Restored Floodplain: A Case Study

Blanchard River Watershed Hancock County, Ohio



Hancock Soil & Water
Conservation District



Restored floodplains and constructed infiltration areas are a best management practice to alleviate flooding, retain sediments and nutrients, and support wildlife habitat. In a landscape dominated by agriculture production, constructed and restored infiltration areas usually are places along rivers and streams, frequently flooded bottom ground, or areas where production is poor that are set aside for the purpose of storing floodwaters and reducing the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus that reaches streams and rivers.

We re-graded 3 acres to capture surface and subsurface water runoff and create a space for flood storage when the Blanchard River tops its banks. We planted 15 acres with 2,000 native trees, shrubs and ground cover. The native vegetation will create habitat, provide roots to help filter and clean the flood water, and offer year-round beauty for those passing by. Hancock County Commissioners own the property and wanted to demonstrate how restored floodplains, native vegetation and agricultural production can all fit into the landscape to provide clean water for both residents and for the Western Lake Erie Basin watershed. Partners will use the highly visible site for outreach and as a living laboratory for students.

Partners on this project include the Hancock County Commissioners, The Nature Conservancy, Blanchard River Watershed Partnership, and Hancock Soil and Water Conservation District. An Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Section 319 Grant, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and The Nature Conservancy provided funding for implementation of the project. Hull & Associates performed the engineering and design. Mark Haynes Construction, Inc. performed the excavation and site seeding. Williams Forestry & Associates provided and planted the native shrubs and trees along with 124 hours of local volunteer time. For more information about this project, contact The Nature Conservancy at (419)782-0652.



Before Construction



During Construction



After Construction



The Western Lake Erie Basin
Agriculture Project Office
210 Clinton Street
Defiance, OH 43512
nature.org/ohio

Restored Floodplain: A Case Study

Blanchard River

Hancock County, OH

Site Physical Characteristics

- Land use: Farm field in corn-soybean rotation

Project Scope

- Total constructed project area, 15 acres
- Infiltration/water storage area, 3 acres

Project Costs

Total Project Costs: \$206,496

Earthwork: \$95,921

- Mobilization
- Earthwork, Cut and Fill (13,520 cu.yd.)
- Restoration Area Disking (15.2 acres)
- Rock Construction Entrance
- Inlet Protection
- Straw Wattle (6,855 linear ft)

Trees and Shrubs: \$40,940

- Native trees/shrubs, 2,000 one-gallon containerized
225 Smooth alder, 225 Black chokeberry, 225 Buttonbush, 225
Silky dogwood, 225 Red-osier dogwood, 225 Ninebark, 225 Black
Willow, 225 Elderberry, 200 Swamp Rose

Seed: \$58,454

- Northeast Ohio Meadow Mix, 5 acres
- Ohio Floodplain II Mix, 10.2 acres
- Erosion control annual mix
- Seeding/Mulching Labor

Engineering and design: \$11,181

****Blanchard River Watershed Partners, residents, and Hancock Soil and Water Conservation District provided additional technical assistance and volunteer time on the project**



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