

Communities of the Future Advisory Committee (CFAC) Sixth CFAC Meeting Summary

May 20, 2011

2pm – 4pm at MSD Conference & Administrative Center

In Attendance:

Diane Alecusan, ODOD
Laith Alfaqih, MSD
Nick Ashbolt, US EPA
Karen Ball, Hamilton County
Gena Bell, Office of Commissioner Monzel
Brian Bohl, Hamilton County Soil & Water
Bonnie Buthker, Ohio EPA
Mike Chapman, Emersion Design
Barry Cholak
James Cunningham, HUD
Denise Driehaus, State Representative
Elliott Ellis, South Fairmount Community Council
Markiea Gore, Cincinnati Community Development
Jon Grosshans, USEPA Region 5
Steve Johns, Cincinnati OEQ
Todd Kinskey, HCP&D
Cecilia Kloecker, Sierra Club
Alicia Kravitz, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful
Dustin Lester, City Planning & Buildings
MaryLynn Lodor, MSD
David Lorei, MSD
Colleen McCafferty, Hamilton County
Michael Miller, University of Cincinnati

LaToya Moore, South Fairmount Community Council
Bob Newport, USEPA Region 5
Dean Niemeyer, HCP&D
Mark Norman, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease
Jennifer O'Donnell, Office of the Vice Mayor
Tony Parrott, MSD
Katie Perica, Santa Maria Community Services
Marianne Piekutowski, Ohio EPA
Jeff Proctor, Hamilton County Monitor
Mary Beth McGrew, University of Cincinnati
Cheri Rekow, City Planning & Buildings
Cameron Ross, City Planning & Buildings
William Shuster, US EPA
Kathy Schwab, LISC
Dennis Smith, South Fairmount Business Association
Ken Smith, Price Hill Will
Sam Stephens, Cincinnati Community Development
Joe Thoman, South Fairmount Business Association
Marilyn Wall, Sierra Club
Brian Wamsley, HCP&D
Margo Warminski, Cincinnati Historic P. Association
Bob Weimar, Hamilton County Monitor

Background and Sixth CFAC Meeting's Accomplishments:

The Sixth CFAC Meeting brought together over 45 community leaders from a broad array of organizations focused on furthering Projects Groundwork's goals. About seven new members to the CFAC attended this presentation. The agenda of the Sixth CFAC meeting integrated several topics including:

- I. Update on Progress for Lower Mill Watershed including talks with USEPA Region 5 and Ohio EPA (Tony Parrott, MSD)
 - a. MSD met with USEPA Region 5 and Ohio EPA in April 2011 to hold a detailed Source Control discussion. MSD obtained concurrence to refine current model by using more dynamic tools and updates. A follow up meeting w/ technical review of model updates is planned for June 2011. The meeting also included a technical discussion of Lick Run watershed and strategic separation was as well as an overview of West Fork Sustainable Infrastructure (this project concept was presented to CFAC in December 2010 and March 2011). The meeting with USEPA ended on a tour of Lick Run Watershed to "ground truth" current conditions & assumptions.
 - b. On April 20, 2011 USEPA issued a Guidance Memo from the Office of Water and Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance, supporting and encouraging the use of large scale green infrastructure and highlighted Lick Run as a promising project.

- c. Lick Run public outreach and communication efforts to date were summarized. It is important to keep in mind that the CFAC is only one element of MSD's community involvement process. Community engagement is critical to the success of Project Groundwork, and MSD has undertaken a comprehensive effort for more than a year to ensure ratepayers and citizens have a voice in the complex decisions required to meet the USEPA Consent Decree requirements. Rather than rely solely on one outreach pathway, we are employing multiple communication channels to ensure all voices within the community are heard and considered, including www.projectgroundwork.org and:
- An MSD representative attends each meeting of the South Fairmount Community Council to answer questions and provide project updates and has for several months. Upon request, presentations are made to this group and any others addressing specific areas of concern. Project update articles are also frequently placed in the South Fairmount community newsletter and have been since spring 2010.
 - A letter was recently mailed to every property owner within the Lick Run watershed and corridor – approximately 6,500 - providing an update on the project, answers to Frequently Asked Questions, and a point of contact.
 - MSD has met one-on-one with property owners and residents in the area who have requested additional information, and has maintained an ongoing dialogue with these individuals.
 - In January 2011, MSD conducted an informational open house that was attended by more than 120 interested property owners and citizens; MSD had more than 30 volunteers talking one-on-one with attendees about the potential Lick Run solution and the default project and timeline. Extensive information was provided on the overall effort, as well as concepts under consideration for the Lick Run watershed. Attendees were able to speak directly with MSD and other representatives to have their concerns addressed and issues documented.
 - Beginning in July 2011, MSD will be conducting a series of three interactive community workshops giving community members an opportunity to provide specific input on proposed project designs. These workshops will allow all voices within the watershed to share their unique perspectives and offer direct feedback on how their area may be transformed by the alternative solution. www.projectgroundwork.org/lickrun
2. USEPA Strategic Integration Plan Presentation (Jon Grosshans, USEPA Region 5)
- a. A summary of the Plan was provided and a link to it can be found on www.projectgroundwork.org
3. Update on the Lick Run Community Design Workshops (MaryLynn Lodor, MSD)
- a. Beginning in July 2011 (Tentatively Scheduled for July 19), MSD will conduct a series of three interactive Community Design Workshops. MSD, with participation by Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission and Communities of the Future Advisory Committee will publicly present the Lick Run Master Plan to the Lick Run watershed community. Workshops give community members an opportunity to provide specific input on proposed project concepts.
 - i. **The first workshop**, anticipated for July 2011, will be a public awareness workshop probe community preferences, needs, desires, priorities and concerns regarding open space, the business district, housing and transportation, etc. The outcome will be a preferred design framework (i.e., preferred concept and preferences).

- ii. **The second workshop**, anticipated for October 2011, will present alternatives for each topic area (e.g., transportation alternatives, business district alternatives) based on the preferred design framework. The community will provide input on the strengths and weaknesses of each alternative. The outcome will be a draft Lick Run Master Plan.
 - iii. **The third workshop**, anticipated for February 2012, will focus on refining details and filling gaps on the draft Lick Run Master Plan. The outcome will be a final Master Plan. Following the development of a Master Plan, MSD will proceed with design of the project.
 - b. Next Steps are to prepare for the workshops by data gathering, interviews, outreach and inform and influencing. Committees should begin convening to plan for how best to prepare and feed into the workshop planning. Public Involvement in Historic & Cultural Section 106 Review is underway for Lick Run given the acquisition of some properties. Section 106 is a process for public involvement triggered by Federal Action or Funding. MSD shall designate CFAC as a consulting party in 106 review, providing information about project impacts, mitigation plans and approaches.
 - c. An update on other Lower Mill Creek source control watershed solutions for the Bloody Run Sustainable Watershed Evaluation Plan was introduced, which is in the very early stages of evaluation and planning. Additional information will be gathered and evaluated in coming months for input and involvement from committee members.
- 4. Project Groundwork Partners Program (MaryLynn Lodor, MSD)
 - a. A PG Partner program will recognize stakeholders whose support is important to the successful approval and implementation of the Lower Mill Creek alternative, to formalize partnerships with community groups, critical property owners, and businesses within the Lick Run watershed, to provide a value proposition for those stakeholders by offering recognition for their commitment to the Project Groundwork principles and the enhancement of quality of life in their community.
 - b. Partners agree with the following Key Principles critical to the success of Project Groundwork:
 - i. Environmental and Public Health protection is essential to the quality of life of communities, and reducing combined sewer overflows is critical to that protection.
 - ii. Economic Revitalization is a cornerstone of strong communities, and Project Groundwork can be a catalyst for business growth and job creation.
 - iii. Social and Recreational Opportunities add value to local communities and connect citizens with their natural environment.
 - iv. Partners agree to support MSD in its efforts to successfully gain approval for Project Groundwork, and to work within their local watershed to ensure its principles are fulfilled.
 - c. MSD will be formalizing this effort and getting more information out about this effort.

CFAC Feedback:

For this meeting, the CFAC did not break out into the three subgroups for smaller group discussion with the USEPA present to present and discuss the Strategic Integration Plan. However, there was opportunity after each presenter to ask for questions and comments. Here are summaries of some of those remarks:

- Getting all of the various CFAC member organizations to commit to fulfilling Project Groundwork's goals could be a difficult task. Even just getting the transportation department and water and sewer departments to work together to lower costs and cut out on construction delays would be a major improvement. One suggestion is a written agreement that would have consequences for an agency that does not follow through on their pledged commitments.

- With all of the City and County organizations in one room, we should be able to find a way to do innovative projects – such as geothermal energy development to private industry rather than allowing regulations and control to hamper its progress. Oklahoma University is a great resource for those interested in geothermal. Lund, Sweden has one large geothermal district heating pump that has been in operation for 20 years and powers 40% of the city's energy demand.
- In regards to the Lick Run Community Workshops, the first meeting should be similar to the Open House because we have to assume that new members will be there that are not familiar with the project. There should be a sit down presentation at the beginning to establish a baseline understanding and to uncover details about the community given by the residents. This presentation should not be about MSD's problems and instead should focus on the outcomes for the local communities.
- In regards to the LDC, has there been any progress in developing new codes that allow rainwater harvesting techniques that are currently limited by existing building code regulations? Jennifer O'Donnell from Vice Mayor Qualls Office said that they are working to integrate stormwater reuse more completely into the LDC than the current building codes allow.
- Margo Warminski from the Cincinnati Historic Preservation Association informed the CFAC that the historic preservation site assessments were underway for selected properties in the Lick Run Watershed.
- The Board of County Commissioners and the City Council need to be informed all along the way. In addition, Plan Cincinnati should present to Advisory Committee.
- What is the engineering component that will control high and low flows for the Lick Run Alternative project? Could the stream go completely dry?

Handouts:

CFAC May 20, 2011 Meeting Agenda

Lick Run Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

CFAC Jan 2011-May 2012 Prospective Meeting Schedule and Agenda (revised on June 1, 2011)

Looking Ahead:

The next CFAC meeting is scheduled for Friday Aug. 19, 2011 at 10am. In the meantime, there could be individual meetings in June and July for the Inform and Influence, Economic Development and Policy Development subgroups. These subgroup meetings could be focused on preparations for the Lick Run Public Awareness Design Workshop that is tentatively scheduled for August 9, 2011 at Orion Academy, and the formation of the Project Groundwork Partners program. MSD and Hamilton County will keep all CFAC members aware of these subgroup meetings so that those interested can help.