

Green Sanctuary Minutes
February 21,2021

Present: Dawn Hewitt (chair), Adeline Bailey, Mike Bailey, Joe Baker, George Banziger, Vic Elam, Jim Grecni, Chris Jacobs, Kelcey Jacobs, Maggie Meyer, Ginnie McNeil, Debra Miller, Rebecca Phillips, Cindy Taylor, Patty Troisi

1. Approval of minutes from January meeting. Approved
2. Update on Riverbank Project: Maggie Meyer, Dawn Hewitt, George Banziger, and Jim Grecni checked and repinned the plastic when necessary. Volunteers for the next month:

Week of

Feb 28 Vic

March 7 Maggie

March 14 Dawn

March 21 Rebecca

March 28 George and Jim

3. Update on Solar Bench project.

At the Feb. 9 meeting,

- Marietta Safety Services Director Steve Wetz announced that the city is about to enter into a contract for the harbor project design with Spencer Kimball of Pickering and Associates and that siting for a solar charging bench would be part of the design.
- Jay Warmke reported on the cost of adding a solar array to the bench style used in the current city bench donation program, roughly \$2000 per bench, allowing for cost overruns. The benches currently used in the city program cost an additional \$1200 per bench.
- Those present at the meeting agreed to Jay's design and to use any leftover funds to approach the donor of an existing bench regarding adding solar to it.

In a follow-up e-mail, Mike Chisholm re-shared the design of an integral bench/charger unit available for roughly \$4000. Mayor Schlicher has approved this design (a variance from the city's regular bench donation program) for use in the harbor project, so the expectation now is that Pickering will incorporate this design into the harbor project. The charging bench committee will meet again on March 9.

1. Update on Deep Rock Horizon spill/Injection wells

George reported that he had heard that the Buckeye Environmental Network is arranging for testimony to the state legislature on injection wells. He expressed interest but has not yet heard anything since that first announcement about two weeks ago.

There has been at least one spill associated with Deep Rock.

- Dawn wrote the county commissioners; the response from Kevin Ritter was that the county is not the appropriate governmental agency to deal with the problem.
- George has contacted both the ODNR and asked if they had contacted USEPA since the spill may have affected the waters of the Ohio River. There have been no media reports, so it is not known how serious the contamination is, whether the company was fined, or whether remediation has begun.
- Dawn and George have contacted Janelle Patterson of the *Marietta Times*, but there has been no

media response as of yet.

- Vic reported a frack waste spill in Noble County, involving a surface spill of fracking brine, contamination of Taylor Fork, and a fish kill. The spill was from an abandoned well that was required to be plugged but had not been. ([Columbus Dispatch article](#))
- Vic reported the presence of perhaps 40 abandoned wells on Muskingum Island of ORINWR. He has been contacted by a philanthropist who has offered to plug wells; he and an engineer visited the island and learned that erosion has put some wells underwater, with exposed pipes and silt intrusion. Plugging a single well under these conditions is estimated to cost \$100 million. There is a danger of eruption as abandoned and old wells are the most dangerous and emit the most methane.
- Ginnie reported that the Ohio Health Project is looking at a Noble County event to register people for the health study, possibly in May. The purpose of the event would be to raise awareness of health effects and seek input from local residents. She noted the need to build relationships with county residents and is looking for community coordinators as well as volunteer registrars. Another possible outcome would be healing circles for those who have been injured. She will send information to the Green Sanctuary list.
- There was discussion of the Sandra Steingraber presentation cosponsored by MOVCA and other organizations. Frack Tracker notes that SE Ohio major frack site. Dawn suggested that perhaps GS could create a factual release and send to the *Times*. Maggie stressed the need to educate about the number of wells, number of spills, and health effects. Ginnie offered to approach the Health Project's messaging expert with a request to compile such a document. George noted that Washington County is an injection rather than a drill site, so our media should focus on this issue. Rebecca noted earlier air pollution research that found increased incidence of learning disabilities in the county and will look at more recent research.
- There has been a recent study of the economics of fracking that found no economic benefit. ([Columbus Dispatch article](#))

1. Update on water well field protection. Dawn—nothing new since last meeting.
2. Update on April 18 service: Annie will do the reflection; Rebecca will serve as worship associate. Annie is looking for stories about resilience and sustainability and asks that they be sent to her. Ginnie suggested that registration for the Health Project could be introduced during the service. Adeline announced that she purchased the Interfaith Power and Light Earth Week package, which includes the right to show the film *Kiss the Ground*, which concerns regenerative agriculture.
3. Marietta Earth Day. Dawn is a member of the planning committee. The regular celebration at the Armory will not be held this year. Dawn will lead a Kroger Wetland bird walk on 4/24. There is interest in a bicycle parade, perhaps to highlight Marietta's bicycle initiative. Ginnie suggested a Health Project registration event if MED is interested. Other ideas: screen a film in a safe outdoor setting, set up a table to help citizens communicate w/legislators
4. CCL update. George Banziger and Dave Ballantyne met with Johnson's legislative aide on 1/28, when they expressed concerns about Johnson's objection to election results, which seems to contradict his membership in the “problem solvers caucus.” Despite recent support for renewables from business leaders, Johnson still does not support carbon fee and dividend. George expressed concern about the viability of a relationship with Johnson. He sent Department of Labor information about the growth in renewable energy jobs but has received

no response. Dawn recommends that more people write the congressman.

5. MOVCA update. Discussion of Steingraber program. Cindy stated that the contract does not allow rebroadcast and recommends informational links on the MOVCA website.
6. George recommended that GS members read Al Tuttle's e-mail about proposed changes to regulations regarding aboveground storage tanks in West Virginia
7. Harmar Bridge update. George gave the history of the ODOT grant proposal he and Paul Lewis wrote after consultation with the mayor. City Council declined to pass a resolution in favor of applying for the grant even though the local match will be higher in subsequent years.
8. Vic announced the awarding of federal loans for the creation of kayak launches in Vienna and Williamstown.
9. Charley and Dennis Lumbatis have begun a Saturday take-out lunch program. The committee expressed interest in providing recyclable/compostable containers. Kelcey noted that the Cozy Kitchen uses biodegradable containers and will get more information. Stassa Phillips has information about the containers used for the community meal program.
10. Cindy announced the upcoming launch of the Bike Marietta program, which will feature the installation of bike racks and signage along with other services.