**Muskingum Watershed Master Plan – Comments**

On January 6, 2022 Ted Auch, Randi Pokladnik, and I (along with several others representing various groups around the state of Ohio) participated in a public-comment session sponsored by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers, which had developed the master plan. The three of us were surprised and upset that there was no mention in the report about the impact of the oil & gas industry on the watershed. We coordinated our comments among the three of us. In my comments I mentioned the impact of injection wells on the watershed and cited the several spills, leaks, and accidents presented by the abundance of injection wells in Washington County. I also underscored comments made by Randi about the tremendous amounts of fresh water (about 1 million gallons per well) required for the production of hydraulic fracturing of oil & gas In her comments, which were referenced with peer-reviewed studies, Randi mentioned: the chemicals involved in fracking, land use (well pads, service roads, etc.), contamination of water in the watershed area, risk to aquifers, pipe line, land disturbance, and other issues. During the 60-minute public session on January 6, 10 minutes were devoted to introductions, 34 minutes to the presenter who merely described USACE facilities in the watershed, leaving less than 20 minutes for other comments. Our first request was for another public-comment session. During the public session Randi was able to assert some mention of the impact of the oil & gas industry on the watershed (about two minutes). The USACE responded that the Corps is not interested in or responsible for actions outside of their land & water jurisdiction. Both Randi and I sent our comments to Senator Sherrod Brown, asking for intervention by his office.

Please provide your own comment about the lack of attention to the impact of the oil & gas industry on the watershed via email message to:

MuskingumRiverMasterPlan@usace.army.mil

George Banziger