

PACE-EH MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2009, 8:30a.m.
County Administrative Building
140 N. SANDUSKY STREET



Present:

Paul Huttlin	Recreation Unlimited
Susan Sutherland	Delaware General Health District
Debra Sparks	Delaware General Health District
Dick Tuttle	Resident
Jann Ichida	OWU
Andrew Brenner	Delaware County Recorder
Todd Hanks	Delaware County Commissioner
Brian McCombs	City of Delaware, Upper Olenangy Watershed
Rita Au	Preservation Parks of Delaware County
Larry Ufferman	Delaware Soil & Water Conservation District
Scott Sanders	Regional Planning
Jules Lapp	The Nature Conservancy
Nancy Shapiro	Delaware General Health District
Ruth Shrock	Resident – Genoa Township
Kelly Thiel	Ohio EPA
Marty Bell	Delaware County Regional Sewer District
Tom Yurick	PPG
Shoreh Elhami	Delaware County Auditor’s Office/GIS
Barbara Revard	Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
Darren Hurley	City of Delaware Parks & Recreation
Stephanie DeGenaro	Delaware General Health District
Stephan Ruckman	Delaware General Health District
Sandra Stults	Scioto Township
Paul Wise	Genoa Township
Ken Rosenbaum	Olenangy Environmental Control Center
Leslie Strader	MORPC
Mike Sapp	Ohio EPA

- I. Welcome and Introductions-Chair Paul Huttlin welcomed everyone, and everyone introduced themselves.
- II. Review of minutes from June 25, 2009, Meeting
Minutes are posted on the Delaware General Health District’s Web site:
www.delawarehealth.org/pace.htm. All information will be posted on this site.
- III. Conducting the PACE-EH assessment

Susan said that there was concern at the last meeting about holding the environmental assessment again and obtaining the same results as we did in 1998. She discussed other ways in which the survey could be done if necessary:

- Surveying subpopulations like aging population and their environmental concerns. In Columbus, they conducted an assessment for only the Somalia population and found out that they wanted fresh fruit in their local grocery store;
- Neighborhood assessment such as environmental justice issues, and possibly applying for Brownfield grant money to help revitalize these communities;
- Conducting an assessment with an adjoining county;
- Asking the questions in a different manner such as:
 - “What are your environmental concerns (out of a list of pre-selected environmental issues).”
 - “What is important to you about a healthy environmental community?”
 - “What is important for a sustainable environmental community?”
 - “What is occurring or might occur that affect the environmental health of our community?”
 - What opportunities or threats are generated by these occurrences?”

IV. Defining the assessment and the community

Rita said that the new center of Delaware County is Cheshire Road.

Shoreh stated that the community has changed since the last environmental assessment. The population has doubled in size.

Dick said that the word “Environmental Health” can have different interpretations by people. Therefore, we should define the terms.

Rita said that people may not know what a sustainable community means. Some individuals will not understand the terminology; we need to cognize of that.

Paul summarized some of the points from the above statements:

- The population has doubled in size.
- Survey – keep focused.
- Define Environmental Health.

Ruth suggested that we list examples to clarify Environmental Health. She also said that we should asked residents what are their biggest concerns for each large population, and look at the hard data. We could ask residents: “What are the most serious issues?”, “What has gone well, and not well?”, and what are your suggestions for improvement. She said that terms need to be defined. Lastly, we should compare data from the last assessment.

Dick said that these concerns are resident’s perceptions of environmental concerns. He said that we need data and research to show that it is in fact an issue. We should have the committee look at the data to see if these perceptions are really environmental issues. Also, we should have a committee to continue to work on the issues.

Susan said that part of the process is looking at the data. We can do an education and awareness plan to inform residents about their perceptions and the data. We can perform a health impact assessment on programs or projects in which residents are environmentally concerned about.

Shoreh said that there has been change in the economic make up of the additional population increase since the last assessment. And that there should be a county wide study. Currently the 2000 Census data is being used and in 18 months, the 2010 Census figures will be available.

Rita said that if we ask open-ended questions without much perimeter, it leaves too much room for the committee to interpret what was being said.

Andrew asked what were the top environmental issues from 1998. Susan listed the four top priorities:

1. County growth and development-loss of farmland, need for more bike and walking trails. A coalition is putting together parks, bike and walking trails and coming up with priority areas.
2. Water Quality-Residents are concerned about failing sewage systems entering their water supply. A 319 grant was obtained to inspect all the sewage system along the Olentangy and Alum Creek watersheds, and to require repair of failing systems.
3. Environmental education-residents wanted their children to have an understanding and appreciation for the natural environment. The Delaware Environmental Education Partnership (DEEP) is sponsoring Hands on the Land Natural Resources Conservation Fair along with other environmental education opportunities.
4. Litter prevention and need for more recycling-The litter summit was held, and there were over 50 in attendance that can effect change. There is now a Sheriffs hotline to report illegal dumping.

Nancy asked what percentage of housing will switch to central sewer (in reference #2 above). Stephan responded that if the existing system works the majority will not hook into central sewer. Sandra also discussed the considerable economical impact of people hooking up to central sewer.

Dick Tuttle voiced concern of the water quality of Olentangy watershed (in reference #2 above). He said that developers are continuing to develop on land in the flood plain even when the Ohio EPA has discussed the impact. He suggested that we need to invite a developer to be on the committee. Susan will follow up on that.

In summary, Paul said that the general consensus seems to be that the assessment should be county wide with some direction given due to the multiple changes in the county make up.

V. Determining the goals and objectives

Susan said that these were the goals and objectives from 1998:

- Identify health risk in the community and reduce risk
- Enhance collaboration
- Better deployment of governmental resources
- Mobilize community
- Well informed public
- Building community support
- Improve health status of the community

- Assessment of resources available
- Identify anchors in the community
- Develop a “sense of community”

Everyone agreed that we should keep these objectives, and add:

- Sustainability-going green education and awareness. (Rita mentioned that she is having a going green event with her park opening on August 30 at Deerhaven.)
- Identify political leaders in the community to assist in addressing the environmental priorities. (It was suggested to identify positive environmental principle leaders as well as negative ones.)
- Communication of needs.
- A buy-in community.
- The assessment will be achieved through research, public education and implementation of a healthy Delaware plan. The plan will promote public policy on issues impacting environmental quality, sustainable development, health risk, and quality of life.

VI. Mission/Vision Review

Susan referred to the 1998 mission and vision and distributed missions/visions from other communities:

1998 PACE Mission

PACE is a dynamic collaborative process, which exists to assess, protect, and improve the community’s environmental quality and health.

This will be achieved through research, public education and implementation of a healthy Delaware plan.

The plan will promote public policy on issues impacting environmental quality, sustainable development, health risk, and quality of life.”

It was suggested to delete paragraph two and three of the mission, and that only paragraph one will be the mission statement. Paragraphs two and three will be included in the goals and objectives.

1998 PACE Vision

“The people of Delaware County live, work, and play in a healthy environment in every stage of their life while they preserve and enjoy their county’s natural heritage, and an enhanced quality of life.”

It was suggested to keep the vision the same.

VII. Review of Delaware data to characterize the community

Susan thanked everyone who sent data sets to help complete the document. It is at 64-pages and is still a work in progress. Shoreh asked that Susan let the committee know what data sets are still needed. Susan said she will let everyone know and that the document will be posted on the Health District’s Web site. Paul wanted to know what the document would be called. It will be called “Delaware County Data”.

VIII. Review and discussion of survey methodologies

Susan distributed a list of potential survey methodologies.

Susan reviewed the previous survey methodologies that were used: facilitated discussions at civic associations and township trustee meetings; professional facilitated focus groups in five regions; PACE-EH committee; key informant interviews; Delaware County fair attendees; senior government classes; and, also the Health District's community newsletter survey. We sent out 40,000 newsletters with an environmental survey included, and 1,200 surveys were returned. The Health District's community newsletter is sent out in the fall and in the spring. It was suggested that if we repeat this method, to wait until the spring since we need to develop the questionnaire. Paul said that if we do a survey in the community newsletters in order to get people's attention, we need to put bold letters "ATTENTION SURVEY".

Rita said that she could have a kiyosh for people to complete an environmental survey at her park opening. She said that if we just do the county fair, we are not taking in the southern portion of our county. Rita also suggested to survey people at grocery stores in order to reach a cross section of individuals.

Sandra said she could do an environmental survey of the boy scouts.

Ruth said the McNamara Park is expanding, and it is quite clear that there are different needs among the different age groups. Her point being that we need to consider different age groups and different environmental concerns. We could do an e-mail or a web survey. It was suggested to possibly do something on Facebook. We should also survey the college students.

Andrew asked if the original assessment was a scientific study. The previous assessment was scientifically done and we met the demographics of our community at that time. He also said that most people now use cell phones and no longer have land lines. It will be more difficult to do phone surveys.

Nancy suggested that we form a sub-committee to look at the different methodologies, how to conduct the assessment, and how to get representation of our demographics. Paul said once we determine the demographics, we can pick out groups to survey that represent our demographics. We also need to determine the number of participants to survey. Susan said that the Health District conducted a Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey on 1,065 residents. Rita thought we should do more than 1,065 residents perhaps as many as 1,400. We can look at what margin of error that the committee would like.

Larry said that OSU Extension would be a good resource for survey methodologies.

Next PACE Meeting: The methodology sub-committee will meet in early September and the PACE-EH committee will meet in late September (after the fair.) Susan will send out a meeting wizard e-mail to find out the best date for everyone.

Meeting adjourned by Paul Huttlin, Chair at 9:40 a.m.