

Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE-EH)

June 25, 2009 Meeting Minutes

ODNR, Division of Watercraft, Horace Collins Lab

I. Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves. A list of committee members is attached.

II. Review of the PACE-EH process

Susan reviewed the 13 task process:

Task 1. Determine community capacity

Essential skills and capacities related to PACE-EH:

- Community mobilization
- Qualitative data management
- Coalition building
- Strategic planning
- Survey methodology
- Epidemiology
- Public relations/marketing
- Political savvy
- Leadership
- Public Outreach
- Communications
- Time management
- Data collection
- Access to technical support

Task 2. Define and characterize the community

- A community can be as small as a neighborhood or as large as a multi-political jurisdiction;
- Community boundaries may be defined along health-agency jurisdiction lines,
- City limits or county lines;
- The definition can be based on geographic boundaries, voting districts, cultural or ethnic groupings, or socioeconomic delineations;
- A community can also be defined as a watershed area or other topographical boundary, and;
- Depending on the goals of the assessment, geological conditions or ecological regions may define the community.

Task 3. Assemble a community-based environmental health assessment team

The PACE-EH committee contact list is attached.

Task 4. Define the goals, objectives, and scope of the assessment. The PACE-EH 1998 committee selected the following goals and objectives:

- 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”

Scope:

Delaware Data to Characterize the Community

- Demographic
- Health Data
- Socioeconomic
- Educational
- Cultural
- Religion
- Political structure
- History
- Social development
- Civic activity
- Finance
- Recreational
- What data sets are there?
- Transportation
- Energy
- Water
- Agricultural
- Wildlife and populations

Susan asked that if committee members had any of the data above (that characterized our community), to forward it to her so she can compile the information into the report.

Task 5. Generate a list of community-specific environmental health issues. Paul Huttlin asked if we could use the previous data in some manner. There was concern that we may reach the same conclusions after the process. Susan said she would check with other PACE sites and the national government to see what others have done. She will report this information at the next meeting.

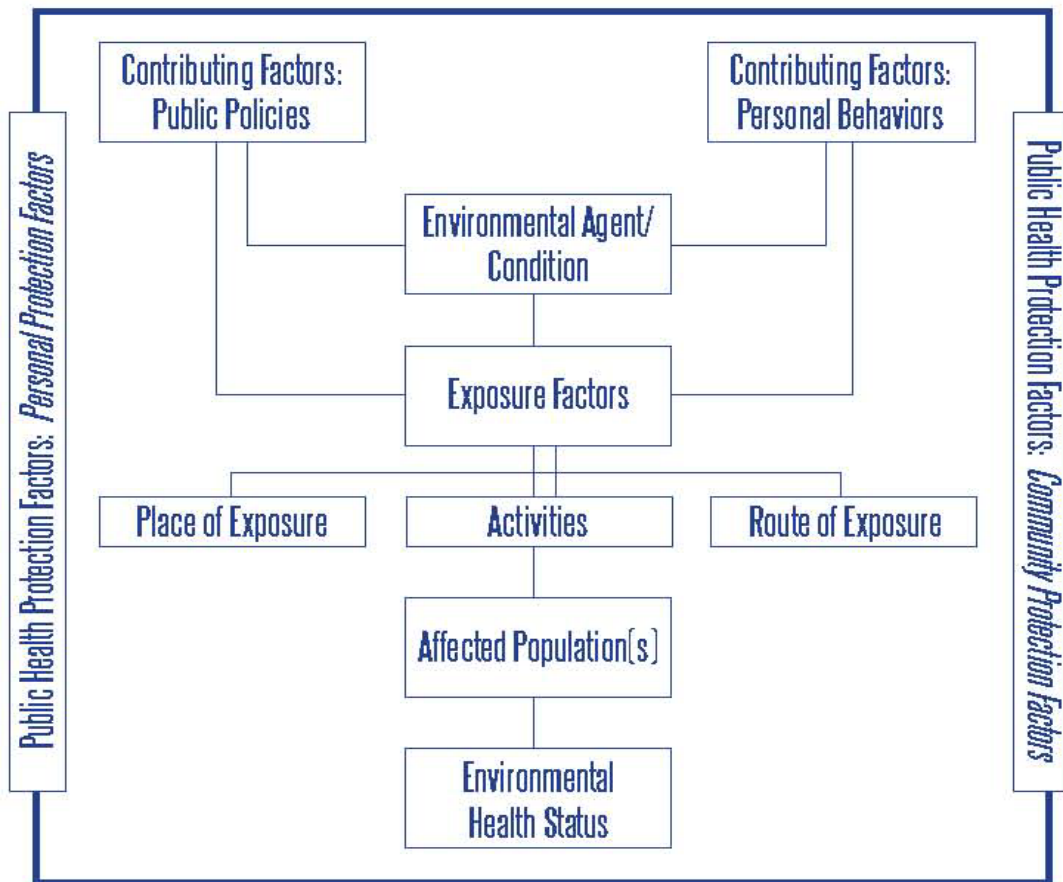
The previous survey methodologies used included:

- 5 Focus groups-professional facilitated
- 24 Facilitated discussions at Township Trustee meetings, Civic Associations, etc.
- 25 PACE Committee members surveys
- 26 Key professional informants
 - 3 other surveys selected by the committee, but results were not used in determining priorities:
 - 40,000 newsletters Sent-1200 returned the survey
 - 200 Delaware County fair attendees
 - 500 senior government class at 5 local high schools

Task 6. Analyze the issues with a systems framework

Analyzing Framework

Topic: _____



Helps identify the connection among health status, affected populations, exposure factors, environmental agent, and interventions.

Task 7. Develop locally appropriate indicators

- Indicators are tools for quantifying the environmental health issue
 - Indicators developed by Committee were comprehensive

- Indicators were not written based on data availability
- Indicators were for determining current status of the community
- Examples of indicators/data for outdoor air quality:
 - Number (or %) of regulated(permitted) sources meeting air quality standards (or have high emission levels of airborne chemical pollutants)
 - Number of asthma hospitalizations or doctor office visits
 - Number of tons/year of toxic releases into the air
 - Prevalence of asthma cases; clusters
 - Number of burn permits issued by local fire officials
 - Number of roadways miles with condition D-F rating

Task 8. Select standards against which local status can be compared

- Standards or benchmarks provide a point of comparison for the community's environmental health status.
- Standards from National, State, and Local:
 - Healthy People 2010
 - Reduce the proportion of persons exposed to air that does not meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's health-based standards for ozone.
 - Reduce the proportion of nonsmokers exposed to environmental tobacco smoke.
 - Healthy Communities 2010
 - Ohio Public Health Plan
 -

Task 9. Create issue profiles for the top priorities, the data will include:

- Scope of the issue as perceived by the residents
- Background: different standards: national, local or state
- Brief summary of local conditions, gathering data using the indicators developed
- Healthy People 2000, Objective for the Nation, CDC, and APHA Model Standard Goals and Objective
- Other appropriate goals/standard
- Suggested indicator and data source information
- Characteristics of an indicator: health status, population at risk, exposure/health risk, public health protection factor
- Evaluation-summary of magnitude of problem in the community
- Risk characterization
- Action plan

Task 10. Rank the issues

- Criteria selected previously:
 - Aesthetics; Economic Impact; Fairness; Future Generations; Health Effects; Peace of Mind; Ecological Effects; Scale; Recreation; Sustainability; Ethical, Moral, Social Responsibility; Sense of Community

- The terms were defined
- We completed worksheets and assigned point scores

The subcommittees will perform the following tasks once the priorities have been identified:

Task 11. Set priorities for action

Task 12. Develop an action plan

Task 13. Evaluate progress and plan for the future

III. The “Why you are here” connection

Susan explained that everyone is needed for the process to be successful because of their skill to obtain data, analysis data, manage data and organize data, and for their dedication in improving the quality of life for our residents. PACE-EH provides a clear picture of what are the most pressing environmental concerns of our community.

IV. Brief review of previous accomplishments/action plan

The top four priorities included:

1. County growth and development-loss of farmland, green space and natural resources from rapid county growth
 - Collaborating to address the need for more green space and recreational areas
 - Collaboration includes County Commissioners, Township Trustees, Park Directors, ODNR, Delaware County Regional Planning, Zoning/Code Compliance, ODOT, MORPC (Advisory Board), Developers.
 - Green ways master plan-Preservation Parks and green ways committee
 - Smart Growth principles-Regional Planning
 - Neighborhood trails through sewer easements-Regional Planning
 - Health Benefits of Parks brochure-printed by HER realtors
 - GIS parks map-Dalis Project
 - Land use map-Regional Planning
 - Engaging Policy makers
 - Ohio to Erie Trail grant funding backed by the County Commissioners
 - Green ways Forum at the Columbus Zoo
 - CDC Grand Rounds about our PACE process
2. Litter prevention and need for more recycling
 - Collaborating to address litter prevention and to increase recycling rates
 - Collaboration includes County Commissioners, local law enforcement, Township Trustees, Solid Waste District officials, ODOT, KDCB Board, Litter Advisory Board, Judges and Prosecutors
 - Litter Summit funded by County Commissioners
 - Litter Law enforcement workshop
 - Sheriff’s littering hotline funded by County Commissioners and awareness campaign funded by ODOT
 - Abitibi bins for recycling located throughout county

3. Surface water quality-failing sewage system impacting water quality
 - Developing a strategic plan for identifying and correcting water quality impairments.
 - Collaborating with Watershed Coordinators, sewer and water plant operations, sanitary engineers, developers, geologists, environmental groups, EPA
 - Watershed action plans through watershed coordinators-Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District, FLOW, FACT and Delaware City (Upper Olentangy Watershed)
 - Sewage system inspection and repair
 - grant funded through Ohio EPA
 - Sewage maintenance workshops in conjunction with the Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District
4. Environmental Education
 - Delaware Environmental Education Partnership
 - 25 non-formal Environmental Educators representing:
 - Columbus Zoo, Stratford Ecological Center, ODNR, Ohio EPA, Ohio Wildlife Center, Preservation Parks of Delaware County, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Metro Parks, Recreation Unlimited, Delaware General Health District, FLOW, FACT, Upper Olentangy Watershed, Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District, Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, Corp of Army Engineers, USDA, Highbanks Metro Park, Environmental Education Council of Ohio, Madison County Conservation District, National Wildlife Federation, Keep Delaware County Beautiful, OSU Cooperative Extension, and the Blue Bird Society.
 - Bald Eagle and Osprey viewing for students and adults
 - Hands on the Land Natural Resources Conservation Fair
 - Environmental teachers' workshops for Ashland credit

V. Timeline review

Proposed timeline is attached.

VI. Previous Mission/Vision Statement review

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.”

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.”

VII. Goals, and objectives brief discussion

Previous goals and objectives as determined by the PACE-EH Committee in 1998 were:

- 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
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VIII. Other

Paul Huttlin, Executive Director of Recreation Unlimited has agreed to be chair. It was decided to rotate the meetings throughout the county. Our next meeting will be held at the Delaware County Administrative building, if possible.

IX. Next Meeting

At our next meeting, we will be defining the community, looking at previous mission/vision for possible refining; determining goals and objectives, and survey methodologies. The next meeting will be scheduled through meetingwizard.com via e-mail.