

ROCKY RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

RE: Proposed Biddulph Trail Development

February 20, 2008

City of North Olmsted Planning Commission
5200 Dover Center Rd.
North Olmsted, OH 44070
Attn.: Chairman

Dear Chairman Lasko;


As an organization committed to environmental protection, the Rocky River Watershed Council promotes wise land use decisions and infrastructure improvements which will ultimately protect the water quality of the river and its tributaries.

The Biddulph Trail subdivision, a proposed development of 29 cluster homes bordering Springvale Golf Course with access off of Butternut Ridge Road, raises concern about sanitary sewer capacity downstream of the project. The sewage from this development would discharge into a 36 inch sanitary sewer trunk line which is already unable to handle its existing flow during rain events. The sewer manhole lid located on the property east of this development (5988 Columbia Rd.) has been bolted down due to severe inflow and infiltration problems which previously caused it to pop off following heavy precipitation; spewing untreated sewage into nearby yards. The sewage eventually washes into a tributary of the Rocky River where it may cause a potential public health nuisance by increasing fecal bacteria populations.

This situation is further exacerbated by the fact that approval for Biddulph Trail would require a zoning change to allow cluster homes in an area that is currently zoned for single family housing. Increased housing density will also increase sewer capacity problems.

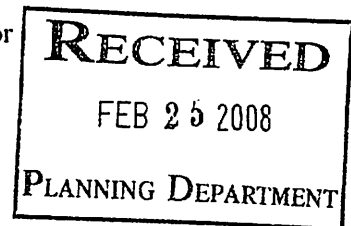
Therefore, the Rocky River Watershed Council strongly advises against approval of this development until all problems with the existing sanitary sewer have been eliminated.

Sincerely,



Ivan Hack, Jr., Chair

cc: Kimberly Wenger, AICP; Planning Director
Barb Seamon; Clerk of Council
Sandy Cappotto; Ohio EPA



Board of Trustees

Ivan Hack
Chair

Michael Durkalec
Vice Chair

Donna Childs
Secretary

Jim Kamps
Treasurer

David Cass
Elva Edger
Lane Kessler
Mark Kolesar
Michael McNutt
Daniel Miltner
Tom Romito
Sharon Schlemmer
Lisa Vavro
Mary Wells
Marianne Zimmerman

Web: <http://www.myrockyriver.org>



Board of Trustees

*George Remias
Chair*

*Michael Durkalec
Vice Chair*

*Donna Childs
Secretary*

*Jim Kamps
Treasurer*

*David Cass
Elva Edger
Ivan Hack
Lane Kessler
Mark Kolesar
Michael McNutt
John Miller
Dan Miltner
Tom Romito
Lisa Vavro
Marianne Zimmerman*

*c/o: Cuyahoga Soil and Water
Conservation District
6100 West Canal Rd.
Valley View, OH 44125
Phone: 1.216.524.6580 x14
Fax: 1.216.524.6584
Web: <http://www.myrockyriver.org>*

ROCKY RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

AGENDA: RRWC Board Meeting

December 6, 2007 – 6:30 PM

Buffalo Wild Wings

8465 Pearl Rd.

Strongsville, OH 44136

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Committee Reports
4. Status Update: 501c3 Process/filing
5. Status Update: Board Insurance
- ~~6. Action requested re: proposed Biddulph Trail subdivision in N. Olmsted – Donna Childs~~
7. Watershed Coordinator update – Jared Bartley
 - A. Backyard Buffers Program
 - B. Potential Collaboration with Rocky River High School
 - C. Volunteer Monitoring
 - D. Baldwin Creek/319
 - E. January 30th Oil & Gas presentation
 - F. Potential Collaboration with WRLC re: landowner outreach
8. Nominating Committee update – Donna Childs
9. Other Business
10. Next Meeting: January 31st, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the Rocky River Nature Center. Board elections, presentation by Harry Stark re: results of the 319 Implementation Grant.

RRWC Board Meeting Summary
(12/6/07)

Roll Call/General Business: George Remias, Donna Childs, Dave Cass, Elva Edger, Lane Kessler, Mark Kolesar, John Miller, Dan Miltner, and Lisa Vavro were present. Minutes from the October 25th meeting were approved. No treasurer's report due to absence of treasurer. Dan Miltner is still working on obtaining Board of Directors insurance.

Biddulph Trail Subdivision: Donna Childs requested that the RRWC use its Issue/Letter Endorsement Policy to recommend against the approval of this proposed subdivision in North Olmsted unless infiltration problems with the existing sanitary sewer in this area are resolved. She will draft a letter for the Board's consideration.

Watershed Coordinator Update: (Jared Bartley)

- Interest in the Backyards Buffer Program (which provides saplings to riparian landowners) has been overwhelming. So many property owners responded that additional funding will be needed to supply them all with saplings. Jared is also looking for help in coordinating the distribution of the trees.
- A science teacher (Anne Brokaw) at Rocky River High School has implemented a stream monitoring program along the main branch of the Rocky River, and is interested in partnering with the RRWC. Discussion ensued about the possibilities, which could go beyond stream monitoring and include using student help in updating the RRWC website, or any number of volunteer tasks.
- Jared is working to expand stream monitoring activities into the Baldwin Creek watershed.
- A presentation on oil and gas well drilling issues will be held at the Middleburg Heights Library on January 30th.
- Opportunity exists for collaboration between the RRWC and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy to provide educational outreach to riparian landowners.

Nominating Committee: Both Mark Kolesar and Ivan Hack have volunteered to run for Chair. (George Remias is stepping down.) Seven additional Board positions will be on the election ballot this January. These include Donna Childs, Ivan Hack (if not elected Chair), Lane Kessler, Mark Kolesar (if not elected Chair), Tom Romito, Lisa Vavro, and Mary Wells. That leaves one spot to be filled; hopefully by someone representing a municipality in the watershed.

Next Meeting: Board of Trustee elections will be held at our Annual Meeting at 7 P.M. on January 31st, 2008 at the Rocky River Nature Center. As guest speaker, Harry Stark from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health will provide a presentation about the 319 Rocky River Implementation Grant, which concluded at the end of 2006.



Board of Trustees

*George Remias
Chair*

*Michael Durkalec
Vice Chair*

*Donna Childs
Secretary*

*Jim Kamps
Treasurer*

*David Cass
Elva Edger
Ivan Hack
Lane Kessler
Mark Kolesar
Michael McNutt
John Miller
Daniel Miltner
Tom Romito
Lisa Vavro
Marianne Zimmerman*

Web: <http://www.myrockyriver.org>

ROCKY RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

Annual Meeting Agenda

January 31, 2008
7:00 – 9:00 PM

Rocky River Nature Center
24000 Valley Parkway
North Olmsted, OH 44070

1. *** 2008 Board of Trustees Election***
2. Approval of December meeting minutes
3. Treasurer's report
4. ~~Biddulph Trail Subdivision Update~~
5. Recreational River Designation (John Watkins)
6. Old Business (501c3 update, Board insurance)
7. New Business
8. Presentation: Rocky River Implementation 319 Grant (Harry Stark)

RRWC Annual Meeting Summary
(January 31, 2008)

2008 Board of Trustees Election: Ivan Hack was elected Chairman for a one year term commencing on 1/31/08. The following seven board members were also elected to serve a two year term: Donna Childs, Lane Kessler, Mark Kolesar, Tom Romito, Sharon Schlemmer, Lisa Vavro, and Mary Wells. (George Remias and John Miller have resigned from the Board.)

Roll Call: George Remias, Michael Durkalec, Donna Childs, Jim Kamps, Dave Cass, Elva Edger, Ivan Hack, Lane Kessler, Michael McNutt, John Miller, Daniel Miltner, Tom Romito, and Marianne Zimmerman were present. (Also present were newly elected board members Sharon Schlemmer and Mary Wells.) Minutes from the December 2007 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: There is currently \$1,160.93 in the RRWC coffers.

Biddulph Trail Subdivision Update: The Board agreed to send out the previously circulated letter to the City of North Olmsted Planning Commission recommending against the approval of the proposed Biddulph Trail subdivision due to infiltration problems with the existing sanitary sewer. Approval of this subdivision would also require a zoning change from the lowest density one family residential district (A District) to a higher density residential cluster district (RC District).

New Business: Mike Durkalec introduced his supervisor, John Mack, to the Council. Mr. Mack is currently the Chief of Natural Resources at Cleveland Metroparks.

501-c-3 Update: New language must be added to the RRWC's by-laws in order to obtain 501-c-3 status. There was some disagreement because religion was mentioned in this language (under Article II – Purpose) but the Council ultimately agreed to go ahead with the 501-c-3 process.

Rocky River Implementation 319 Grant Presentation: Cuyahoga County Board of Health sponsored this three year grant in partnership with the Cuyahoga County SWCD, Medina County SWCD, Cleveland Metroparks, Lorain and Summit County Health Departments, NOACA, and the Ohio State University Extension. The grant provided \$1,144,381 through the EPA 319 program to help achieve the goals of the Rocky River Watershed Action Plan. Completed in September 2007, it accomplished the following five objectives:

- Administrative support for the Rocky River Watershed Council
- Cost share for the replacement of 42 discharging household sewage treatment systems with non-discharging systems.
- Water quality sampling upstream and downstream of potential agricultural pollution sources (horse stables and other animal farms), as well as effluent sampling of the household sewage treatment systems prior to replacement.
- Cost share for obtaining 230 acres of land conservation easements along the east branch of the Rocky River.
- Educational outreach (including funding the Rocky River Watershed Festival in 2004, 2005, and 2006).