

Meeting Agenda/Brief Recap and Updates  
8pm Monday July 8, 2013



Marion Township Library -Chickasaw, OH

1. **Jim Keller** – Welcome, meeting purpose.
2. **Milt Miller – Insights into proposed Lake Facilities Authority.(LFA)** The LFA has the potential to help all stakeholders. Positives of the LFA are: 1. It sets up a non-profit organization which will address all aspects of lake health. 2 Provides a funding mechanism. Currently funding for addressing lake issues are raised via grants and donations. The LFA would continue those revenue avenues while also having the authority to introduce tax levies for approval by voters. Voters would need to pass the levies but the vote would be addressed to both watershed residents and those living in impacted areas. An example of an impacted area would be St. Marys which is not in the watershed but its economy is tied to the health of the lake. Most palatable is a lodging tax since revenues would be raised from people visiting the area.

Milt added that the recently approved Ohio budget contains money for an additional treatment train to be built on Coldwater Creek as well as funds to purchase a skimmer dredge. Aerial photos from the late 1930's reflect that over 4,000 acres of wetlands (Mother Nature's kidneys) filtered the water flowing from farms. These wet lands have been replaced by development and the treatment trains are being built to replace this lost filtering function. Early results from the recently installed system on Prairie Creek are very promising. The skimmer dredge will remove legacy phosphorous which resides in the top 4 - 6" of silt at the bottom of the lake. Removed silt will be used to build in-lake wetlands adding additional filtering. Rough fish removal is a key factor since their bottom rooting plays havoc with wetlands.

Milt also noted that with the addition of a new dredge last year more silt was removed from the lake than flowed in. Prior to the new dredge, the two dredges were fighting a losing battle – more coming in than being dredged out.

3. **Milt Miller – Impact of newly formed Guardians of the Lake (GOL).** Milt advised that this organization is primarily composed of individuals who were past officers of the LIA. This GOL feels that more aggressive action needs to be taken with the farm community.
4. **Buzz Hoerr and Bryan P. Ducharme - Discuss ElectroCell Technologies' approach to phosphorous separation and concentration.** ElectroCell has a completely self contained unit which is portable and uses 3 phase electricity from a generator to treat swine pit manure. The unit turns the manure into a better product by passing it through reactor tubes. In the

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tubes a patented electrical pulse manipulates ionic bonds destroying pathogens. Much of the phosphorous in the manure is in the cell walls of these pathogens. This process accelerates the settling of phosphorous. Farms in Pennsylvania reflect that the top third of an ElectroCell treated swine pit will only contain about 2 lbs of P per 1,000 gals of manure. Manure odors disappear in that top third to the extent that manure can be spread in close proximity to residential areas without complaint. Soil tilth improves since bacteria which normally suffocates the soil has been killed. Anecdotal evidence reflects that yields improve as well. The presentation generated considerable interest both during the presentation and after the meeting. Terry Mescher is heading up a project to bring a unit to the watershed for trial on several swine operations. Anyone with an interest in trying the unit on their farm can contact Terry at (419) 586-3289 or email: [terry.mescher@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:terry.mescher@dnr.state.oh.us).

5. **Bill Knapke – Latest thoughts on a local digester.** Bill noted that Ringler Farms near Delaware, OH has installed a Quasar digester and will be hosting an open house in August. The Ringler's are very pleased with the installation using the gas from the digester to fuel their fleet of trucks. Bill mentioned a couple of other successful farm digesters so the technology seems to be working well on at least a few operating farms in Ohio. Quasar has grant money for an installation in our watershed and would prefer that it be on a livestock farm. Anyone interested in installing a digester on their farm can contact me directly. The folks from Quasar would like to talk to some local farmers to explain how this could be a beneficial approach for them to adopt.
6. **Updates - Terry Mescher, Bill Knapke, Bro Nick, Jim Keller & group**
  - **Status of \$50,000 grant.** No recent news. The folks in Columbus had advised that they would be meeting with local farmers in late July. No one attending knew if that would occur.
  - **Separation Technologies – transportable manure separator (Mike Ontrop)** No recent news on this project either. The individuals working with this project have been unable to duplicate the good results they had in earlier tests.
  - **Glen Arnold test plots** – Attached to this recap will be a flyer announcing a Western Ohio Manure Application Technology Field Day. Please review it and try to attend.
  - **Greenleaf Advisors - Gypsum test plots needed.** Early tests have shown that dissolved reactive phosphorous is reduced rather dramatically in fields where gypsum is applied. Greenleaf has funding to perform some tests in the watershed. Terry Mescher is working with Greenleaf to acquire suitable test plots. Suitable plots will allow for monitoring of surface and tile water exiting the field. A meeting is scheduled for July 16 to discuss test plots and other aspects of this initiative.
  - **Transfer manure out of watershed.** Technologies such as ElectroCell may make this idea viable since the higher the amount of nutrients that can be concentrated into the smallest volume the more lucrative this idea becomes.
  - **Organic Pond progress.** Milt reported briefly that Organic Pond is focusing on rough fish removal. They plan to embed a couple dozen carp with transmitters

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which will allow them to accurately track and catch schools of carp at certain times of the year when they congregate.

- **Lagoon/swine pit treatments** – Brief discussion on the treatments below which have been introduced to Ag Solutions. Without exhaustive, certifiable studies no one can confidently say how effectively any of these approaches might address our issues. They all have advantages and we encourage individual farmers to study these offerings, pick one that might fit his needs and try it.
  - ✓ ElectroCell Technologies
  - ✓ Agriment
  - ✓ More Than Manure (MTM)
  - ✓ Accelerated Genetics - SOP Lagoon
  - ✓ Ozonation
  - ✓ Lagoon Fix
- **Others???** – Marlay Price from Versailles introduced himself and his wife Gina. Marlay coordinated ElectroCell's attendance at our meeting and will assist with any further interaction with the company. He can be reached at (614) 284-7613 or email: [marlaybprice@gmail.com](mailto:marlaybprice@gmail.com)
- **Ag Solutions ReOrg** – One of the goals of this initiative is to acquire a full time, focused leader to serve in a function similar to the one Milt Miller serves for the LRC. Funding for this approach would likely have to come from Ag businesses. The proposed Progressive Agriculture Convention and Education Center (PACE) is already eyeing local Ag businesses for substantial donations so we're reluctant to pursue that approach. Also unknown at this time is the impact the Lake Facilities Authority will have on the Ag Solutions mission. In the meantime we will continue to hold meetings and share and promote ideas that hold positive potential.

### 7. Updates from the floor - None

Adjournment – next meeting date and time I will be forwarding an email.