

NOACA Final Report

Developing Regional Watershed Based Model Storm Water Permit Implementation Plans



June 2003



The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) is a public Organization serving the counties of and municipalities & townships within Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina (covering an area with 2.1 million people). NOACA is the agency designated or recognized to perform the following functions:

- **Serve as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), with responsibility for comprehensive cooperative and continuous planning for highways, public transit, and bikeways, as defined in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.**
- **Perform continuous water quality, transportation-related air quality and other environmental planning functions.**
- **Administer the area clearinghouse function, which includes providing local government with the opportunity to review a wide variety of local or state applications for federal funds.**
- **Conduct transportation and environmental planning and related demographic, economic and land use research.**
- **Serve as an information center for transportation and environmental and related planning.**
- **At NOACA Governing Board direction, provide transportation and environmental planning assistance to the 172 units of local, general purpose government.**

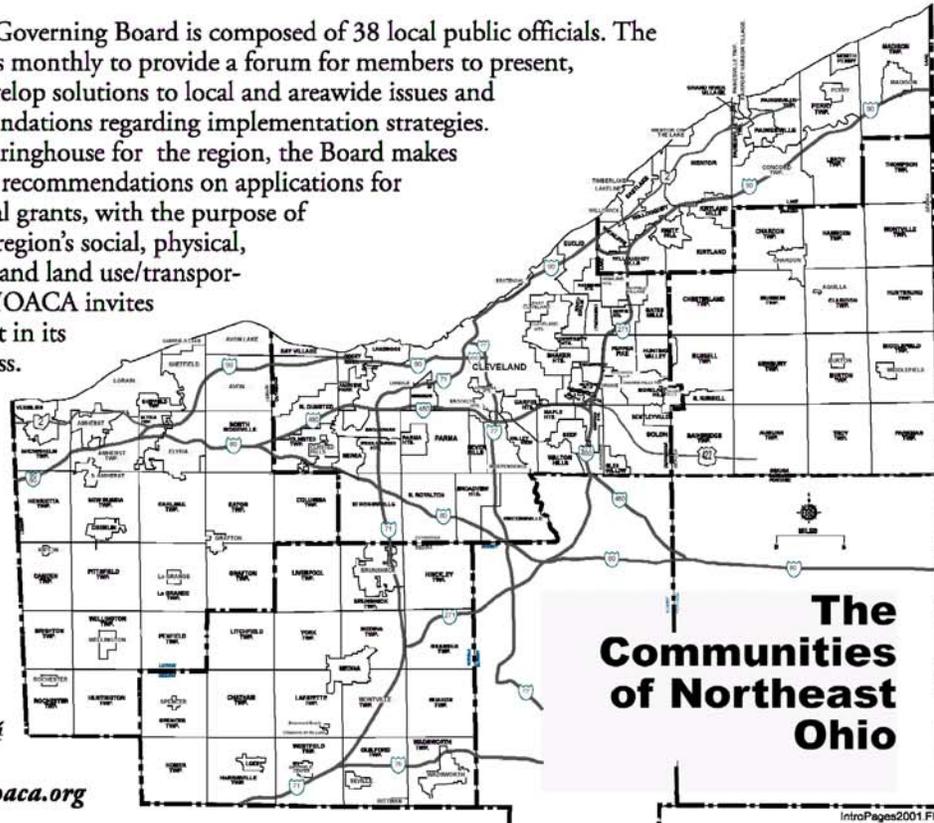
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Feel free to participate, to ask questions and to learn more about areawide planning. For more information, call:

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| 1) Title & Subtitle Developing Regional Watershed Based Model Storm Water Permit Implementation Plans | 2) NOACA Report No. EP-03-01 |
| 3) Author(s): Andy Vidra and John Beeker Contributors: NOACA Regional Storm Water Task Force | 4) Report Date: June 2003 |
| 5) Performing Organization Name & Address Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency 1299 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44114-3204 Phone: (216) 241-2414 FAX: (216) 621-3024 Web site: www.noaca.org | 6) Project Task No.: 103201 (FY 2003) |
| | 7) NOACA Contract/Grant No.: LEPF 01-13 |
| 8) Sponsoring Agency Name & Address Ohio Lake Erie Commission One Maritime Plaza, Fourth Floor Toledo, OH 43604-1866 | 9) Type of Report & Period Covered: Final Report (January 1 2002 – June 30 2003) |
| | 10) Sponsoring Agency Code |
| 11) Supplementary Notes | |
| 12) Abstract NOACA formed a stakeholder-based Model Storm Water Plan Task Force that met from February to December 2002 to assist in the development of a Model Storm Water Management Plan. This plan was prepared to assist those communities that are covered by Ohio EPA's Phase II Storm Water Permit Program. The charge to the Task Force was to develop a plan that <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) met Ohio EPA requirements, b) was sufficient to protect the region's water resources, and c) was likely to be perceived as implementable by communities. <p>NOACA's recommendations include programs that both refine existing community efforts, and new initiatives reflecting state of the art thinking about water resource protection. NOACA's Model Plan also provides guidelines for communities to document and take credit for existing storm water programs under Phase II.</p> <p>NOACA's Model Plan also includes a model ordinance package to address Construction and Post-Construction requirements. This ordinance package addresses soil erosion/sediment control on construction sites, post-construction runoff quantity management, post-construction runoff quality, and setbacks for riparian and wetland protection.</p> <p>The Model Plan development process also included a watershed demonstration component that engaged an informal group of communities in the Euclid Creek Watershed. The objective was to demonstrate how communities in a watershed could collaborate effectively in the development of a Phase II Storm Water Plan.</p> | |
| 13) Key Words & Document Analysis Storm Water Management, Phase II Permits, Watershed Planning, Public Involvement, Public Education, Northeast Ohio, Lake Erie Tributaries, Black River, Rocky River, Cuyahoga River, Chagrin River, Grand River, Regional 208 Planning. | |
| 14) Availability Statement NOACA | 15) No. Pages |
| | 16) Price |

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June 2003

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The preparation of this publication was financed through grants received from the Lake Erie Protection Fund and appropriations from the counties of and municipalities within Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina. The contents do not necessarily reflect official views or policies of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission. This report does not constitute a standard or regulation

Developing Regional Watershed Based Model Storm Water Permit Implementation Plans

**Final Report for the Lake Erie Protection Fund Grant 01-13
June 2003**

Regional Model Development

The NOACA Regional Storm Water Task Force Activities

Task: NOACA will establish a regional task force to develop a model implementation plan to assist regulated communities.

NOACA formed a stakeholder-based Storm Water Task Force that met from February to December 2002 to assist NOACA in the development of a Regional Model Storm Water Plan. The charge to the Task Force was to develop a plan that

- d) met Ohio EPA requirements,
- e) was sufficient to protect the region's water resources, and
- f) was likely to be perceived as implementable by communities.

The Task Force included representatives from the NOACA Governing Board, from regulated communities (including municipalities, townships and counties), county and regional management agencies, watershed organizations, and the two involved regulatory agencies, Ohio EPA and USEPA. Participation of municipal and county representatives helped to guide development of a model that could be implemented locally. Participation of watershed and county and regional public management agencies and the regulatory agencies was important to the formulation of strategies that would be sufficient to protect the region's water resources. Participation of the Ohio EPA helped to assure that Task Force members were kept aware of evolving state guidelines.

The Task Force consisted of an eleven member Steering Committee, three Work Groups, and a general body of interested participants. The Work Groups were organized around themes of a) Construction/Post-Construction, b) Good House-keeping/Illicit Discharges, and c) Public Involvement/Public Education. The Task Force met every two months in a discussion forum format to review Ohio EPA regulations, discuss possible responses to them, provide direction to guide Work Group activities, and review Work Group products. The Work Groups met at least once a month to formulate Model Plan elements addressing their respective areas of focus. NOACA recruited core expertise for each of the Work Groups, but work group participation was open to interested stakeholders. The Steering Committee met periodically to guide and refine the work of the Work Groups and reviewed the Model Storm Water Plan package. Appendix D of Attachment A contains a roster of the NOACA Task Force Steering Committee and Work Groups.

A total of six regularly scheduled Task Force meetings were held. Meetings were scheduled for the afternoon of the first Monday of alternating months beginning with

February 2002. The meeting location was the Brecksville Community Center in Brecksville, Ohio, a location that has easy freeway access from throughout the region. Notices of the meetings were mailed to a list of over 300 names. For each regulated city or village in the region, a notice was sent to the mayor, city manager, or village administrator. Copies were also sent to the service director and/or municipal engineer. County Commissioners and Township Clerks were also notified as well as County Engineers, Sanitary Engineers, Planning Departments, Health Departments, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Notices were also mailed to the Black River and Cuyahoga River RAPs and approximately 20 interested individuals. Over 100 additional people were notified of upcoming meetings by e-mail. Participating partners regularly advertised upcoming meetings in their newsletters as well.

Task Force meetings were well attended, drawing between 60 and 100 attendees. Each meeting was divided into a presentation section and a discussion session. During the presentation section, NOACA staff, work group leaders and Ohio EPA provided an update on the Phase II Program and the work group efforts to develop a model plan that would help regulated communities develop storm water management plans that were consistent with Phase II. The discussion session provided all parties with the opportunity to fashion recommendations that were both responsive to Ohio EPA requirements and supportable by local interests.

Beginning in October 2002, the Task Force Steering Committee began meeting more frequently to review the draft work group recommendations and to provide input in shaping the final recommendations. The Steering Committee met on October 28, November 18, and November 25 before approving the recommendations and directing that they be submitted to the NOACA Water Quality Subcommittee as a prelude to action by the NOACA Board.

The three work groups mentioned above supported the NOACA Storm Water Task Force. These work groups met on Tuesday at the office of the Cuyahoga County Sanitary Engineer in Valley View, Ohio. This is another centralized location that facilitated attendance. Each work group met 21 times between March and November 2002. Subsets of individuals met many more times to prepare the written details to support the deliberations of the work groups.

Model Storm Water Plan Elements

Task: The model storm water implementation plan will include model ordinances that adequately address construction site runoff management, riparian zone setbacks, and nonpoint source related good housekeeping practices.

The model storm water plan developed pursuant to this grant is presented as Attachment A. The following discussion provides a summary of the details of the model plan development

The Construction/Post-Construction Work Group developed the “Ordinance Controlling Construction Site Soil Erosion, Sediment, Storm Water Runoff, Storm Water Quality, Riparian Setback, and Wetlands Protection”. This ordinance is consistent with the requirements contained in the Construction Site Runoff and Post-Construction Runoff minimum control measures in Ohio EPA’s general permit. A copy of this ordinance was contained in the Model Plan document approved by the NOACA Board and subsequently adopted by communities from across the Region. Since that time, the model ordinance package was revised to facilitate adoption and implementation and to account for changes instituted by Ohio EPA as part of their renewal of the General Permit for Construction Activities.

The original model ordinance was a package of initiatives covering several aspects of the construction and post-construction control measures of the Phase II Permit. Taken together, the package was going to cost one community in the Region \$18,000 to codify it due to the length of the ordinance. The Model Plan recognized that there was concern that not all communities were ready to implement riparian and wetland setback requirements during the first year of the permit. Additionally, when Ohio EPA released its Construction Storm Water General Permit, they incorporated additional details that should be included in the local ordinance base as well. In response to these factors, an ordinance work group was established to amend and reorganize the model ordinance package.

The first change made was to separate the comprehensive ordinance into its component parts. The Chagrin River Watershed Partners working with the Lake County and Geauga Soil and Water Conservation Districts updated the Erosion and Sediment Control component. The ordinance work group worked on the post-construction related components. Along with the separation, an update to each section was accomplished so as to insure that the model ordinance was compatible with Ohio EPA’s Construction Permit. Following this update, work progressed on simplifying the ordinances by extracting as much technical detail as was feasible and referencing it to appropriate technical manuals. This step not only decreases the length of the ordinance but also allows for technical standards to be updated as necessary without readopting the entire ordinance. The revised model ordinance package is undergoing legal review. It is fully expected that the package will be available to local communities well in advance of December 2003 when the Regional Model calls for communities to initiate the legislative process to enact the package.

Task: The plan will identify the minimum measures that must be implemented coincident with the concept of reducing pollutant loadings to the maximum extent practicable.

The model plan has six plan elements. The first provides a series of recommended steps that each community can use to develop and implement a coordinated Storm Water Management Plan. The remaining five elements provide the minimum measures recommended by the NOACA Storm Water Task Force that are coincident with the concept of reducing pollutant loadings to the maximum extent practicable. These recommendations were crafted so as to provide a program that would be effective at

preserving and protecting local water resources using initiatives that can be embraced and implemented by local communities. The model plan elements correspond to the six minimum measures identified in Ohio EPA's permit. The Public Education and Public Involvement Minimum Measures have been combined into a single plan element because of the high degree of overlap in these initiatives.

Each individual plan element identifies the specific requirements contained in the Ohio EPA permit and presents the Task Force's recommendation for meeting each requirement. The plan elements also identify measurable goals for each mechanism and a suggested implementation schedule. Each community can adopt a given recommendation or can identify a suitable alternative that meets the same objective. All of the recommendations made in the plan elements are summarized in tabular format in Appendix C of Attachment A.

Task: The plan will incorporate the concept of a watershed based stewardship program whereby communities in a watershed collaborate in the implementation of the public education and public involvement elements of Phase II by sharing resources for this common effort.

The NOACA Model Plan recommends that the Phase II Regulated communities commit to addressing Public Involvement/Public Education (PIPE) storm water requirements on a watershed basis. Watershed approaches are more practical, are efficient, and are more economical. The Storm Water Phase II Minimum Control Measures for Public Involvement and Public Education (PIPE) Measures can be met in a unified approach by following the Model Plan step by step. The Model Plan recommends that PIPE activities be implemented on a multi-community or watershed basis, whereby a watershed-based provider can plan, coordinate and implement the model plan for the community as a watershed or multi-community approach. In the event that the Model Plan recommended approach is not followed, each community will be individually responsible for providing public education and public involvement activities.

Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Cuyahoga River RAP, the Lorain County Alliance, the Euclid Creek Stewardship Committee, the Chagrin River Watershed Partners, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and others have organized to assist communities in the formation of the watershed groups recommended in this plan element.

Task: NOACA will complete the development of a model implementation plan by December 2002

NOACA presented a draft model plan to the NOACA Board on November 8, 2002. Two meetings of the Task Force Steering Committee were devoted to the review of this draft. These meetings were held on November 18 and November 25, 2002. The Steering Committee subsequently authorized the submission of the amended draft plan to the NOACA Water Quality Subcommittee. On December 18, 2002, the Subcommittee recommended submittal of the draft to the NOACA Board for final action. On January

10, 2003, the NOACA Board unanimously adopted the “NOACA Model Approach to the Phase II Storm Water Management Plan”. (See Attachment A.)

Task: Implement a second phase of the Model Plan Development project to promote the model implementation plan to the regulated communities. Hold a series of meetings to introduce the model plan to local communities in advance of the March 10, 2003 submittal date. Continue to work with the communities through June 2003 to help them take the initial steps to implement their storm water plans on a cooperative basis.

Model Plan Adoption: NOACA worked with six groups to inform local communities about the Regional Model Storm Water Management Plan. These groups provided coverage of the Region’s regulated communities with some overlap. The Chagrin River Watershed Partners provide the lead for local assistance in Lake and Geauga Counties. All of the Geauga County regulated communities are members of the Partners. Several Lake County regulated communities fall outside of the Chagrin River Watershed, but participated in the Partner’s program through interaction with the Lake County Engineer’s Office. The Lake County Engineer coordinated services throughout the County in concert with the Partner’s effort. The Chagrin River Watershed Partners had an integral role on the Regional Task Force and its Work Groups. They met with the communities in their service area regularly to review the model plan as it was being developed. The Partners drafted a model plan submission document based on the Regional Model’s recommendations. They conducted a workshop on the use of this document for local communities on January 28, 2003 with NOACA’s assistance.

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District represents communities in most of Cuyahoga County and several outside of the County. They invited all of their communities and communities from the surrounding area to a workshop on the Regional Model Plan held on January 29, 2003. Over 70 communities were represented at this workshop. Participants were supplied with electronic versions of the Model Plan and supplemental guidance information at the workshop as an aid in the preparation of their plan submittals in March.

The Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District worked with the Medina County Engineer’s Office to coordinate planning activities in Medina County. The Medina County SWCD, like the Chagrin River Watershed Partners and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District was an integral partner on the Regional Task Force’s Work Groups. They helped the regulated communities in Medina County submit plans consistent with the Model Plan recommendations.

The Lorain Alliance is an organization formed to coordinate activities among the communities of Lorain County. The Alliance provided the forum for storm water management discussions in Lorain County. NOACA took part in a series of three discussion sessions that presented the Regional Model Plan as a tool to help Lorain communities comply with the Phase II regulations. These sessions were held on January 15, January 22, and February 7, 2003. The result of the Lorain Alliance’s efforts was that

the regulated Lorain County communities overwhelmingly adapted management programs based on the Regional Model Plan.

The Rocky River Watershed Council provided an opportunity for communities in northwest Cuyahoga County to stay informed of the development of the Regional Model Plan. Several of these communities are not in the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's service area and are not covered by any other entity dealing with storm water issues. NOACA staff provided the lead in reaching out to these communities. The City of Berea played an instrumental role in this effort. Berea developed a very detailed storm water management program that serves as a model for other communities as they look to document their progress in implementing their own storm water management programs. This model was shared with the communities in the Rocky River at a meeting of the Watershed Council held on February 12, 2003.

The sixth group that NOACA worked with to provide outreach to local communities is the Euclid Creek Watershed Council representing the ten communities in the watershed. These communities were integrally involved in the development of the Regional Model Plan as discussed below. As such, they were prepared to adopt the model in advance of most of the rest of the Region.

Model Plan Implementation: Once the communities of Northeast Ohio adopted the Regional Model Plan's recommendations and submitted their storm water plans to Ohio EPA on March 10, 2003, the implementation clock started ticking. On April 16, NOACA convened two Implementation Work Groups. The first was charged with establishing a Storm Water Management Training Initiative. The second was charged with developing a PIPE Coordination effort. Both groups were asked to develop a short-term initiative to provide assistance to local communities prior to December 2003 as each community begins to implement their storm water plan. The work groups were also asked to begin considering the form and nature of long-term assistance needs.

The PIPE Coordination Committee identified two objectives. The first was to encourage and help set-up watershed-based PIPE planning groups. The second was to provide guidance and training to PIPE coordinators to help them design effective and efficient programming. It soon became apparent that the Storm Water Task's Force PIPE Coordination Committee should merge its efforts with an informal association of local Soil and Water Conservation Districts who were working together to help provide PIPE coordination services to local communities. Meetings of the combined committee have been held on May 13 and June 13, 2003. The PIPE Committee is planning to hold a workshop on PIPE programming in the Fall of 2003. They are also establishing a common agenda with annual themes to be used by all PIPE programs in the region. A common logo is also being developed in order to present a unifying theme for all materials produced with the intent of constantly reinforcing the watershed and regional aspects of storm water management.

The Training Committee recognized the need to implement two training programs during 2003. The first is a workshop for storm water managers in each regulated community.

The second is to provide training to site inspectors who are involved with active construction sites. The Storm Water Managers Workshop was given a fast track priority with a June timeframe for holding it. The training of site inspectors was targeted for Fall, 2003 as the construction season winds down and inspectors have more time available for training.

The Training Committee set several objectives for the Storm Water Managers Workshop. The workshop needed to focus on a review of the activities that communities had to begin to implement in 2003. This includes a review of what Ohio EPA expects of them as they implement their programs. Managers also need to learn about Ohio EPA's newly released Construction Storm Water Permit. Ohio EPA expects that communities will incorporate the requirements of this permit in the ordinances that the communities will be adopting as part of their storm water management effort. Another component of the workshop is to identify some of the problems that are encountered on construction sites relative to the installation and maintenance of best management practices. The last component of the workshop is to provide an introduction to the new initiatives coming under the Post-Construction Minimum Measure that involve both structural and nonstructural control elements.

It was decided to hold workshops on three different dates at three locations spread around the region. This would serve to keep sessions to a manageable size, provide ample opportunities for attendance, and minimize travel time for the majority of attendees. Each workshop contained the same content and presentation format. The Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District hosted workshops in Cuyahoga Heights on June 12 and in Rocky River on June 17, 2003. The Chagrin River Watershed Partners hosted the workshop held in Willoughby on June 18, 2003. The total registered attendance was in excess of 150 people representing about 90 communities throughout Northeast Ohio.

One outcome of the Workshop was that community engineers requested that an additional training session be added to the Training Committee's agenda. That workshop would target the engineers that will be designing or reviewing the storm water basins that are to be required on larger construction sites. The Training Committee will look to accommodate this request with a workshop likely to be scheduled in the Fall in conjunction with the State's release of the updated "Rainwater and Land Development" Manual.

NOACA held a workshop on the next steps that communities need to take to begin implementing their storm water programs. This workshop targeted public officials and was held on June 13, 2003 as part of the annual NOACA State of the Region Summit. This workshop concentrated on the need to begin the model ordinance review and adoption process. It also encouraged local officials to organize and initiate their public outreach programs. The workshop reached 30 attendees.

Euclid Creek Pilot Project

The Euclid Creek Pilot Project was designed to work with the communities represented on the Euclid Creek Watershed Council to accomplish two objectives: fast track the development of draft compliance plans in order to test the model plan for suitability and form a Stewardship Committee in Euclid Creek. NOACA entered into a partnership with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to act in the role of a watershed pilot coordinator. The following discussion provides an update on the Pilot Project.

Euclid Creek Stewardship Committee

Task: Working with the Euclid Creek Watershed Council, form a Stewardship Committee on Euclid Creek. This committee will be used to demonstrate the role and costs associated with complying with the public involvement and the public education requirements of the Phase II Program. Develop funding strategies to support sustainability of its watershed based stewardship program implementation. The emphasis will be placed on identifying costs of implementation and funding alternatives, including self-financing.

Public Involvement and Public Education (PIPE) Work Group

To facilitate public involvement and public education within the Euclid Creek Watershed, a PIPE Work Group was created. The PIPE Work Group began meeting in February. Work group members were appointed by the mayor or were asked to join based on their interest in the storm water issues. Citizen representatives were also invited and often attended the meetings. The goal of this work group was to help identify activities that comply with the PIPE minimum control measures required in the NPDES Phase II Permit. This group was vital to raising the awareness of the effectiveness of coordinating public involvement and public education activities on a watershed basis. In addition, the work group members helped secure information from their respective communities to aid in the development of the public involvement and public education compliance plan for the model storm water management plan.

The Public Involvement Public Education (PIPE) Work Group met monthly, typically on the 4th Friday of the month, in South Euclid. This group was appointed by the watershed mayors to serve as the liaison between the watershed coordinator (the Cuyahoga SWCD), the administration and the community. Information about Phase II and the planning process was provided to the group. PIPE members were charged with taking information about PIPE activities back to their respective cities, helping to promote activities and, if necessary, providing volunteer services.

A draft of a Public Involvement/Public Education Plan was prepared and distributed to work group members for their suggestions. Preliminary compliance plans for the Euclid Creek communities have been developed by the NOACA Storm Water Task Force Plan Drafting Group.

Watershed Stewardship Committee Activities:

Watershed Tour and Teacher Training, Coordinated by Friends of Euclid Creek and held on April 27, 2002 in the Euclid Creek Reservation. Event featured a tour of the watershed narrated by Jeff Duke, NEORSD and Kristyn Albro, Cuyahoga SWCD. Nine teachers attended and were trained in storm drain stenciling techniques.

River Day Walk & Talk, was held on May 18, 2002 in the Euclid Creek Reservation. Cuyahoga SWCD staff designed a program for Cleveland Hiking Club members and Euclid Creek watershed residents to raise awareness of the creek, watershed issues and to encourage involvement in future activities. The hike was 2.5 miles in each direction. Along the way, the group stopped at various locations to look at creek conditions, including stream modification, floodplains, erosion, and habitat. Thirty people attended.

Public Meetings-held on June 19, 2002 at the South Euclid Community Center and on June 20, 2002-at the Highland Heights Community Center. The two community meetings were scheduled to increase awareness of the watershed, involve residents in a discussion of problems and possible solutions, and to ask for their involvement in stewardship activities. The meetings included an overview of the watershed (slide presentation), a brief discussion of the work that has started (Euclid Creek Watershed Council and Friends of Euclid Creek), and an opportunity for residents to provide input to the storm water and watershed planning process.

One very direct benefit accrued as a result of the public meetings. A watershed resident identified a location that consisted of open space that supported unique plant species. The Mayor of Highland Heights led an effort to submit a Clean Ohio application to preserve the property. That application was subsequently approved and the land acquisition has been funded.

Home Days Celebrations: Days varied by community throughout the summer of 2002. A Euclid Creek watershed brochure was developed, along with a flier about upcoming events, and a watershed map. These items were displayed at Home Days Celebrations with Friends of Euclid Creek literature. A “stewardship registration” form was also included. Community Action Poster sized watershed maps and sticky dots were provided to each municipality. PIPE Work Group members felt it would be useful to begin creating dialogue about the watershed and working with the public to help them relate to how they contribute to watershed health. In addition, CD’s were distributed to each community with the Explore Euclid Creek brochure, which could be used, as needed, by each community. The watershed presentation and a map were also included on the CD.

Water Quality Monitoring Training held on August 17. Citizen volunteers were encouraged to get involved in their watershed. As watershed watchdogs, citizen volunteers can provide information to municipal leaders that can alert them to poor application of best management practices. On August 17 2002, eight volunteers were trained, with support from the Ohio Environmental Council and Cuyahoga County Farm

Bureau on how to monitor water quality using the macro-invertebrate sampling technique. The Farm Bureau demonstrated the chemical sampling kits they have for loan to volunteers. Volunteers were also trained to use a sediment stick to measure turbidity.

Volunteers are now monitoring two locations in the vicinity of Legacy Village, a developing commercial complex along the mainstem of Euclid Creek. Monitoring will continue at these locations throughout the life of the development action.

Watershed Improvement Day-September 28: Since littering along the stream banks is limited in the watershed, the work group decided to initiate a Watershed Improvement Day aimed at securing at least one activity in each community. Activities planned included a clean up, drain stenciling training and implementation, motor oil collections, and an educational program at a wetland site. The activity was held on September 28, 2002. Fliers were mailed to watershed residents living within 500 feet of the creek (6000 mailed). Additional fliers were mailed to post offices and provided to members of the PIPE Work Group. Press releases were issued and there was press coverage in the Sun Newspapers. The event attracted 45 volunteers: at 5 events and 3 motor oil collection sites.

Water Festival: Coordination of the Water Festival began with a site visit and initial mailing to all the middle schools in the watershed. A follow up letter was mailed in late August. The event was scheduled for October 4, 2002 at Richmond Heights Community Park. Various resource people from governmental agencies, universities, and non-profit agencies assisted by providing demonstrations and presentations. Teachers were presented with a 60 pages of instructional materials that were tied to state science standards. A binder/handbook was created with all the information regarding the process followed to implement the water festival; this handbook also includes volunteer names. The event attracted 50 presenters & volunteers and 150 students.

River Day Watershed Tour: The Euclid Creek Watershed is part of the Cuyahoga River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Area of Concern. On May 31, 2003, the Cuyahoga River RAP again participated in the annual Cuyahoga River Day. The Euclid Creek Stewardship Committee sponsored a bus tour of the Euclid Creek Watershed as part of the Cuyahoga River Day event. 42 people interested in Euclid Creek including two mayors from the watershed's communities attended this tour.

Euclid Creek Watershed Funding Strategy

Watershed Coordinator Grant Application: In an effort to perpetuate the efforts of the Watershed Council and the Friends of Euclid Creek, a grant application was submitted to ODNR for a watershed coordinator. The grant was funded. ODNR will provide \$192,000 over six years, which must be matched with community funds. The watershed coordinator who began in January 2003 will work with local stakeholders to assist with Phase II, develop a watershed management plan, seek additional funding and implement projects in support of improving water quality in the Euclid Creek watershed. The ten communities in the Euclid Creek Watershed, who have joined together to form the Euclid

Creek Watershed Council, have committed to providing the local match for the watershed coordinator program over its six-year life.

The watershed coordinator grant is a useful mechanism for sustaining a watershed planning effort over time. It does require a six-year commitment on the part of local communities. Where funding support is not available for a watershed coordinator, PIPE activities can still be effectively and efficiently provided through a Watershed Stewardship Coordinator position sponsored by the local Soil and Water Conservation District or other PIPE provider.

Euclid Creek Demonstration Project

Task: Work with the 10 communities that lie within the Euclid Creek Watershed to develop draft storm water management plans by October 2002. These plans will use the draft model implementation plan being developed by the NOACA Storm Water Task Force to draft permit applications by choosing the best set of alternatives for their communities and Euclid Creek. Identify specific local concerns that need to be addressed and develop mechanisms that allow the maximization of cost-sharing opportunities. Meet any training needs that arise as the model plan is being developed.

Draft storm water permit applications were to be completed by the Euclid Creek communities in October 2002. The intent was to use these drafts as a measure of how implementable the NOACA Regional Task Force's model plan was. Instead, a series of working meetings with representatives of the communities were used to help fashion the recommendations to be included in the Regional Plan. The communities were kept actively involved in the planning process and were used to provide feedback at every stage of model plan development. The following activities highlight how this was accomplished.

Model Ordinance Development: The first activity undertaken to assist Euclid Creek communities in the development of their storm water management plans for Phase II was to create a Model Ordinance Task Force. The Task Force met monthly to develop model ordinances for Erosion & Sediment Control and Post-Construction Storm Water Management in communities that are as fully developed as those in Euclid Creek. This model was to build on the model ordinance package being developed by the NOACA Regional Storm Water Task Force that was concentrating on developing ordinances for developing areas.

The Task Force completed their drafting of the Urbanized Area Erosion and Sediment Control Model Ordinance and the Post Construction Storm Water Ordinance. Copies of the ordinances were provided to each city for review by their law department and other relevant departments. The Watershed Council set a goal of Summer 2003 for adoption of the ordinances by all communities in the watershed. Due to the fact that the model ordinance base is being updated to incorporate initiatives contained in the Ohio EPA Construction Storm Water Permit, this introduction will likely be delayed until the Fall.

A **Municipal Assessment Tool** was created to help gather information from each community that can be used in the storm water management plan. This tool helped communities inventory those actions that they were already implementing to manage storm water. This inventory could then be used to determine those areas that need to be expanded to meet the NOACA Regional Storm Water Task Force model plan.

The **Watershed Council** was convened, including mayors, law directors, service directors, engineers and council representatives to develop a legislative strategy related to the ordinances and adoption of the model plan. A timetable was outlined for the submittal of the NPDES Phase II permit.

Assistance was provided to municipalities to aid in drafting the storm water management plans. An electronic plan template, with corresponding implementation tables, was provided to each city's engineer.

The **Complete Guide to Construction Site BMPs**, a training-session was held on July 17, 2002 in Highland Heights. This program was designed to educate local officials about Phase II and Best Management Practices. After a brief overview of the new regulations and recommended BMPs by Soil & Water Conservation District and Ohio EPA, participants visited an active construction site to review BMPs in action. This training was targeted to city engineers, building inspectors, park maintenance employees, service directors and other interested personnel. This workshop was attended by representatives from Beachwood, Lyndhurst, South Euclid, Euclid, Highland Heights, Highland Hills, Mayfield Village, Orange, Willoughby Hills, Forest City Land Group, Friends of Euclid Creek and the Chagrin River Watershed Partners.

A **Special Steering Committee Meeting** was held on September 18, 2002 with 25 participants. The Steering Committee meeting was scheduled to provide each community with the latest information, including a permit package, the model storm water compliance plans, and the proposed model ordinances. It was recommended that each community consider creating a storm water management team to help draft and then comply with the NPDES Phase II permit.

Meetings with Individual Communities were initiated in October 2002 and carried out through December 2002. These meetings addressed two issues. The first was generating support for the pursuit of a watershed coordinator position to assist the watershed communities in implementing an effective Public Involvement/Public Education Program as part of their Phase II Storm Water Plans. This was accomplished by meeting with the individual community mayors. The second initiative was to meet with the city councils throughout the watershed to introduce them to the requirements of the Phase II program and to solicit their support for carrying out a watershed PIPE initiative.

The result of these meetings was the generation of a commitment by the watershed communities to participate in, and partially fund, a Watershed Coordinator position housed in the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District.

Information Dissemination

The central output of this project is the NOACA Model Approach to the Phase II Storm Water Management Plan report that is presented in Attachment A. This report was distributed to the regulated communities in the Region after the NOACA Board adopted it in January 2003. Copies were also mailed to those communities outside of the NOACA Planning Area that participated in Task Force activities.

Progress of the Euclid Creek Demonstration Project were summarized and distributed to watershed communities through a series of mailings. Notices of all activities of the Euclid Creek Stewardship Committee were supplied to each community so that they could include it in their newsletters. Notices were also published in the “Friends of Euclid Creek Newsletter”.

Following the release of the Model Plan, NOACA participated in discussions with local officials to foster an understanding of the intricacies of the Model Plan. Staff participated in programs hosted by the Chagrin River Watershed Partners, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and the Lorain Alliance. Individual telephone discussions were also held with numerous communities.

Regular mailings were made to over 300 individuals or agencies. These mailings included notices of all Task Force meetings and provided updated materials for review and comment as part of each of those meetings.

NOACA established a web page that was maintained throughout the life of this project. The web page can be accessed through NOACA’s site at www.noaca.org. The model plan and all of its components can be viewed on the site. Individual documents can also be downloaded.