

2016

Activity Report

Celebrating 10 Years of Success!

2006 - 2016



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Eagle Creek Representative
Ottawa Creek Representative
Riley Creek Representative
Cranberry Creek Representative
City of Findlay Representative
Village of Bluffton
Village of Ottawa Representative
At-Large #1 Representative
At-Large #2 Representative
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Don Croy
Robert Antibus
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Grant Russel
Judy Augsburger
Tim Macke
Tim Brugeman
Chad Kirchner
Jane McCleary
Elaine Reynolds
William Doyle
Phil Martin*

*non voting

2016 Executive Committee

President	Theresa Allen	Vice President	Don Croy
Treasurer	Tim Macke	Secretary	Bob Connour
Past President	Tim Brugeman		

2016 Board Governance Committee

Jane McCleary	Theresa Allen
Tim Brugeman	Elaine Reynolds
Phil Martin	

2016 Contact Information

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Thank You Supporters

2016 Members, Corporate Sponsors and Major Donors

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City of Findlay
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Legacy Farmers Coop.

Bluffton University
Hancock County Farm
Bureau
Putnam SWCD

And THANKS to the MANY farmers, landowners and residents along the Blanchard and creeks of the subwatersheds for their ongoing cooperation and permission with water quality monitoring, stream observation walks and assistance discussing watershed action plans. **Add your name to this list in 2017, get involved, volunteer and donate to the BRWP!**

Special thanks to all the local, state, and federal agencies for the help and support!

Partnership Activities

this past year!

December 2015

- ◇ Erected signage on fields that were enrolled in the three Great Lakes Basin grants in the Upper Riley Creek, Middle Riley Creek and Lower Riley Creek watersheds. The grants are being administrated by the BRWP. In 2015 there were 2,199.25 acres enrolled in cover crops and 2,653.35 acres enrolled in conservation tillage. The top picture to the right shows the signage placed on one of the fields.
- ◇ The BRWP, in partnership with the City of Findlay, Village of Ottawa and the Hancock Park District, completed planting of 944 trees using money from a \$99,984.80 GLRI Emerald Ash Mitigation grant received in 2015. The BRWP wrote the grant, served as the fiscal agent, and completed all reports. The bottom picture to the right shows one of the planting sites in Ottawa
- ◇ Completed the BRWP Water Quality report to the ODNR, Division of Wildlife. The BRWP monitored 21 sites on the Blanchard River, Little Riley Creek, Lye Creek and Riley Creek using macroinvertebrate identification.



January 2016

- ◇ State of Ohio and grant reports were completed and submitted.
- ◇ Hancock County Commissioners accepted a **\$150,000** grant from the Ohio EPA to repair/replace failing Home Septic Treatment Systems in Hancock County. The BRWP wrote the grant with the help of the Hancock Public Health Department. All three partners will work together to implement the grant.
- ◇ 2016 BRWP Planning meeting was held at the Hancock County Engineer's meeting room.



February 2016

- ◇ Eleven area high schools entered 30 rain barrels in our "Rain Barrel Decorating Contest" in the area high school. The decorated barrels were displayed at the Greater Findlay Home Show held the Findlay Village Mall. Several of the barrels were sponsored by local businesses. The remaining barrels were sold to the public.
- ◇ Two farmers enrolled 100.90 acres in conservation tillage and cover crops in the Middle Riley Creek watershed
- ◇ The BRWP sponsored the watershed category at the Putnam County Science Fair held in Ottawa.



March 2016

- ◇ Coordinator attended farmer share breakfast in Hancock County.
- ◇ Coordinator attended The Nature Conservancy's event at Ohio Northern University to kick-off a grant they have in the watershed.
- ◇ Coordinator met with Hull & Associates, Hancock County Commissioners and the City of Findlay to review the Assessment Study done on the sediment and debris behind the Riverside Dam.
- ◇ Coordinator wrote a **\$197,652** Great Lakes Basin grant for the Bear Creek and Cranberry Creek watersheds located in Putnam County. The grant was for implementing Best Management Practices on agricultural land. The grant was submitted through the Putnam Soil & Water Conservation District (PSWCD). **Grant was awarded to the PSWCD.**
- ◇ Coordinator wrote a **\$199,356** Great Lakes Basin grant for the Brights Ditch watershed. The grant was for implementing Best Management Practices on agricultural land. The grant was submitted through the Hancock Soil & Water Conservation District (HSWCD). **Grant was awarded to the HSWCD.**
- ◇ The coordinator helped write a 319 Grant that was awarded to the PSWCD. The grant was for implementing Best Management Practices on agricultural land in the Deer Creek-Blanchard River watershed. **Grant was awarded to the PSWCD.**
- ◇ Sierra Club's Chemical testing resumed at 70+ sites in the watershed. The testing is being done by the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership's Board members and volunteers.
- ◇ The NRCS and the Ohio Farmer Bureau Federation committed \$1 million to a five-year project to do Best Management Practices research on three Blanchard River Demonstration Farms in the watershed. The coordinator attended the Advisory Committee meeting Columbus for the Blanchard River Demonstration Farms being done by NRCS and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation.
- ◇ Hull & Associates made their presentation to the Hancock County Commissioners and the City of Findlay on the Assessment Study on how best to handle the sediment and debris behind Riverside Dam.
- ◇ Coordinator attended the Western Lake Erie Basin Coordinator's meeting at Wood SWCD.



April 2016

- ◇ Hull & Associates was hired by the City of Findlay and Hancock County Commissioners to complete a mussel study on the area behind Riverside Dam.
- ◇ The coordinator met with Randy Tucker, Streamside Systems, and the City of Findlay to look at an EPA grant that Mr. Tucker has received to install an in-river sediment collector.
- ◇ Signage was completed at the "Kid's Place" located at Jefferson Primary School. The sign was apart of the Rain Garden the BRWP helped build in 2015.
- ◇ Sierra Club's Chemical testing occurred at 70+ sites in the watershed. The testing is being done by the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership's Board members and volunteers.
- ◇ Completed and submitted all state and grant reports.



May 2016

- ◇ Spring maintenance on the trees that were planted as a part of the Forestry grant was started by the City of Findlay, the Village of Ottawa, and the Hancock Park District.
- ◇ The coordinator wrote a request for **\$25,000** extension of the coordinator's grant through June 30, 2017. The requested was submitted through the Putnam SWCD. **The request was approved by the state.**
- ◇ Two low income Home Septic Treatment Systems projects were started as a part of the **\$150,000** WPCLF grant.
- ◇ Sierra Club's Chemical testing occurred at 70+ sites in the watershed. The testing is being done by the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership's Board members and volunteers.

June 2016

- ◇ The BRWP had a display at the Putnam County Fair in Ottawa
- ◇ The coordinator attended Western Lake Erie Basin meeting in Bowling Green.
- ◇ Completed the spring Water Quality monitoring using macroinvertebrates on the Blanchard River and Lye Creek.
- ◇ Sierra Club's Chemical testing occurred at 70+ sites in the watershed. The testing is being done by the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership's Board members and volunteers.

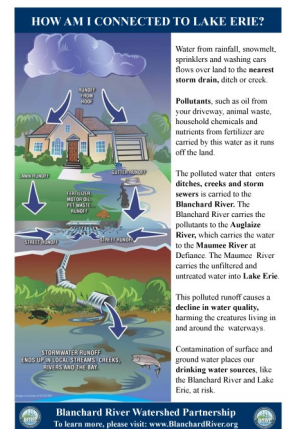


July 2016

- ◇ Completed the spring Water Quality monitoring using macroinvertebrate on Riley Creek and Little Riley Creek.
- ◇ **The National Water Quality Research Center** at Heidelberg University added 3 water quality testing sites in the Blanchard River. The coordinator worked with Dr. Johnson to identify sites that would be the most beneficial to understanding where there are impairments the watershed. Three new sites will be added at the water intake on the Blanchard River for the City of Findlay, at SR 37 north of Mt. Blanchard and on CR 6 in Putnam County where the road crosses Riley Creek.
- ◇ Sierra Club's Chemical testing occurred at 70+ sites in the watershed. The testing is being done by the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership's Board members and volunteers.

August 2016

- ◇ The coordinator attended the Maumee River Basin Council of Local Governments and the Toledo Metropolitan Area of Government Council.
- ◇ The BRWP had a display at the Allen County Fair.
- ◇ The BRWP created, published and distributed a poster "How Am I Connected to Lake Erie" to the area schools, libraries and partners.
- ◇ The BRWP created, published and distribute the brochure "A Citizen's Guide to the Blanchard River Watershed."
- ◇ Attended the Blanchard River Demonstration Farm field day on the 26th.
- ◇ The Education / Outreach committee created a new brochure, "We Are the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership."
- ◇ The BRWP sponsored a river clean-up with 14 incoming freshman from the University of Findlay.
- ◇ Sierra Club's Chemical testing occurred at 70+ sites in the watershed. The testing is being done by the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership's Board members and volunteers.



Picture 1: Two-stage ditch and blind inlet

The pictures to the right and left are pictures from the Demonstration Farm Fields held south of Dunkirk on August 26th. The picture to the right shows a two stage ditch with a blind inlet that is still being installed. The picture to the left shows a field edge monitoring set-up.



September 2016

- ◇ The BRWP had a display at the Hancock County and Hardin County Fairs.
- ◇ The coordinator attended the Ohio Watershed Leadership Conference (OWLS) in Cincinnati on September 8th and 9th.
- ◇ The coordinator attended the “Understanding Algal Blooms: State of the Science Conference” in Toledo.
- ◇ The BRWP sponsored the Western Farm - University of Findlay site as a part of the HSWCD Farm Tour.
- ◇ Completed the fall Water Quality monitoring using macroinvertebrate on the Blanchard River and Lye Creek. Thanks to Sarah Betts from Hancock Park District for her help.
- ◇ The BRWP had a display at the Marathon Petroleum Company’s Health Day.
- ◇ The coordinator attended the Maumee River Basin Modeling Conference at Heidelberg University.
- ◇ Sierra Club’s Chemical testing occurred at 70+ sites in the watershed. The testing is being done by the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership’s Board members and volunteers.
- ◇ The 2017 Rain Barrel Decorating Contest was announced to the area schools.



October 2016

- ◇ The coordinator attended the WLEB Coordinator’s meeting at Defiance SWCD.
- ◇ Two additional low income HSTS project were started.
- ◇ The coordinator taught classes at Arlington High School and Liberty Benton High School concerning our Water Quality Monitoring project. The coordinator led a field trip with each school to sites on the Blanchard River.
- ◇ The coordinator met with a doctorate student from The Ohio State University who is doing her dissertation on the Blanchard River Watershed.
- ◇ The coordinator delivered 24 rain barrels that have been entered in the 2017 contest.
- ◇ Sierra Club’s Chemical testing occurred at 70+ sites in the watershed. The testing is being done by the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership’s Board members and volunteers.
- ◇ Completed the fall Water Quality monitoring using macroinvertebrates on Riley Creek and Little Riley Creek. The data collected from the fall monitoring will be posted on our web site by January 1, 2017. Thanks to **Sarah Betts** from Hancock Park District for her help.
- ◇ Final maintenance and re-planting of dead trees in the Village of Ottawa, City of Findlay and the Hancock Park District was completed as a part of the GLRI Forestry grant.



November 2016

- ◇ GLRI Forestry grant ends December 1, 2016. Final reports will be due.
- ◇ Signage will be placed on the fields enrolled in the Great Lakes Basin grants in the Middle Riley Creek watershed and the Lower Riley Creek watershed.
- ◇ Active grants are being updated, cost-share payments made, and reports completed.



2016 Active and Award Grants

GRANTS AWARDED OR ACTIVE	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	GRANT WRITER & ORGANIZATION	GRANT ENDING DATE
Great Lakes Basin Mimi grant for the Allen County portion of the Lower Riley Creek watershed	\$29,899	210 acres of cover crops and conservation tillage acres enrolled each year for three years.	Written by the BRWP coordinator and submitted through the BRWP	December 31, 2016
GLRI Emerald Ash Mitigation Forestry grant	\$93,470	Grant includes the Village of Ottawa, City of Findlay, and the Hancock Park District. The BRWP is the fiscal agent. 920 trees have been planted by the three partners. Last two jobs to get done are the signage and the final paperwork.	Written by the BRWP coordinator and partners and submitted through the BRWP	December 1, 2016
Great Lakes Basin Grant for the Miller City Cutoff and Pike Run-Blanchard River watersheds	\$247,763	Precision Nutrient Management Plan (PNMP) includes soil testing precise application of fertilizer, cover crops and conservation tillage. All the money has been encumbered. PSWCD has enrolled 233 acres in cover crops, 700 acres in conservation tillage, 1 acre in grass waterway and 448 acres in PNMP.	Written by coordinator and submitted through and received by Putnam SWCD	December 31, 2018
Great Lakes Basin mini grant for the Middle Riley Creek watershed	\$29,930	The grant contract has been signed and implementation has started. Four farmers have enrolled 348 acres in cover crops and 317 acres in conservation tillage.	Written by the coordinator and submitted through the BRWP	December 31, 2018
Ohio EPA 319 grant for the Deer Creek-Blanchard River watershed	\$404,303	The final total was \$404,303 with a \$226,343 match. The grant will address agricultural sediment and nutrient loadings by using various Best Management Practices (BMPs).	Initially written by BRWP coordinator and PSWCD. The grant was submitted through the PSWCD.	June 30, 2019
Great Lakes Basin grant for the Bear Creek and Cranberry Creek watershed	\$197,652	The grant contract has been signed and implementation has started.	Written by the coordinator and submitted through the PSWCD	December 31, 2019
Great Lakes Basin grant for the Brights Ditch watershed	\$199,356	The grant contract has been signed and implementation has started.	Written by the coordinator and submitted through the PSWCD	December 31, 2019
Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF)	\$150,000	The grant was submitted through the Hancock County Commissioners. Grant is for repairing / replacing HSTS for low income families in Hancock County.	Written by BRWP coordinator and Hancock County Board of Health	December 31, 2017
TOTAL GRANT FUNDING RECEIVED	\$1,352,373			

2017 Projects

- Continue implementation of all active grants.
- Provide support for partners in seeking grants for projects such as:
 1. removal of debris behind Riverside Dam,
 2. replacement of trees lost to the emerald ash borer,
 3. restoration of brownfield and riparian areas and
 4. other projects as identified by our stakeholders and / or partners.
- Continuation of existing BRWP projects:
 1. water quality monitoring,
 2. Ohio Sentinel Program with the Sierra Club and
 3. Rain Barrel Decorating Contest.
- Seek funding for Coordinator's position. The present grant runs out on June 30, 2017
- Seek funding for the BRWP. Our main source of support is from our membership dues and sponsorships.

How can you help?

• Become a member and volunteer!

How Can You Stay in Touch?

• Follow us on Facebook at:

[Blanchard River Watershed Partnership](#)

• and on Our Web Page at:

www.blanchardriver.org