

## Wayne County Ag Success Team Minutes

February 10, 2011

In attendance: Ann Obrecht, Duane Wood, Jessica Eikleberry, Brian Gwin, Maryanna Biggio, Katie Myers-Griffith, Casey Hoy, Chris Finney, Wesley Green, Fred Myers, and Ron Becker.

Media (late arrival): Bobby Warren, the Daily Record

Approval of the Minutes from January 6, 2011. Moved by Duane, motion seconded by Maryanna.

**Treasurers Report (Chris Finney)** small gain, total \$4,063.40

### **WEDC Report (Brian Gwin)**

Biohio did receive the job ready sites status. Nortech provided 15K in funds to look at how to set up a governance of the park. Some sort of board structure is likely. OBEC is looking at bio mass funding for Stephen Myers and team. Letters of support were sent in from Orrville, Smith Dairy, Nortech, and WEDC. A regional leadership team will be put together soon. Brian passed out a one pager fact sheet about Wayne County agriculture, this included slides from a presentation that he put together in order to get people to think outside the box. The point is to prove opportunity exists in the community. He asks what policies within the business arena and helps make every day count? What is the uniqueness of our community? Who is marketing our assets and how do we bring businesses like Chipotle to our community? What new revenue generation possibilities do we have?

Ag Bio Cluster meeting scheduled for Monday Feb. 14, 2011 all of Ag Success Team is invited.

Paul Naumoff – owner of a family farm in Baughman Township was awarded \$25K to move forward with a feasibility study for a community based bio digester.

### **Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant (Katie Myers-Griffith)**

Katie informed the AST about the recent grant awarded to NEO 4.25million to create a regional plan. Wayne County is part of this region, due to the Akron Metro Area Transportation (Chippewa Twp). There are 7 objectives and potential outcomes. The worry is the watersheds. Once an executive director is appointed, Wayne County will request a meeting to discuss our role in the planning process.

### **Round Table**

Casey H. – Ag Bio Cluster meeting reminder. Recent study in Cleveland about a 25% shift in local food production and consumption reveals a set of recommendations. Will get this recommendation to the AST.

Maryanna B- ASA public hearing tonight in Baughman Township, will approve about 4000 total acres and consider a tax exemption for one operation within the ASA. Clinton and Plain Township also interested.

Fred M- Grazing conference had @ 700 people, Leah Miller did a great job! He also attended the recent Oil and Gas meeting hosted by Farm Bureau and OSU extension, thought it was very well presented and is looking forward to the follow up meeting on Feb. 23, 2011 at Fisher Hall.

Chris F. - Also attended the Gas and Oil Lease meeting, was also impressed and will be speaking at the follow up meeting.

Ron B. - Also attended the Gas and Oil Lease Meeting, OSU sponsored the evening and was surprised at the number of non-traditional farmers there. Will be hosting gardening and canning classes this summer at the library.

Wes G. – ATI is building a new beef working facility. Designed from the animal behavior point of view and will start construction in spring.

Duane W. – Tree and fish sales are going on now. SWCD is hosting an Equine Program March 22, mostly about pasturage and forage. They are also hosting a Pond Management clinic April 5, 2011. They are also designing a compost barn for an organic dairy. The new website will be up soon  
[www.wayneswcd.org](http://www.wayneswcd.org)

Jessica E. - Local Roots needs more cold weather production. Construction will begin Monday on new kitchen and restrooms. Looking for donations, and working with United Way to do a community garden.

Meeting Adjourned. Will send out next meeting request. Noted it will be the last meeting for Lois Grant, as she is moving to New Mexico.