



HAMILTON COUNTY  
**First  
Suburbs  
Consortium**

# Executive Committee

June 4, 2012  
8:30 AM–10:00 AM  
Deer Park – Silverton Fire District  
7050 Blue Ash Road

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## Meeting Summary

**ATTENDANCE:** Andy Dobson, Dean Niemeyer (RPC), Brian Wamsley (RPC) Todd Kinskey, Catalina Landivar, Cheri Bush (MSD), Jim O'Reilly, John Smith, Amy Bancroft (North College Hill), Mark Weber, Paul Brehm

### AGENDA

1. Review of meeting notes
2. Membership meeting—when are we having it?
3. Membership meeting—what are we going to talk about?
  - Shared IT Services presentation from Hamilton Clermont Cooperative Assn.
  - Project Groundwork Presentation from Metropolitan Sewer District
4. Project Groundwork Introduction and Discussion
5. Bicycle Friendly Destinations Discussion
6. Membership Update
7. Hamilton County Land Bank update (letter in packet)
8. Other Business
9. Adjourn

### Agenda Item 1

Andy asked for any comments or corrections on May's meeting notes. There were none

### Agenda Item 2 and 3

Andy has contacted Meijer Wines for possible meeting dates but has not received any response. He asked if we should select a date that works for the group, and then have John Smith reserve the banquet room for us. After discussion the group decided to schedule the membership meeting for July 18 from 6:00 to 8:00 with July 25 as a backup date.

The agenda among other things will include a presentation by HCAA about sharing information technology services, and a presentation by MSD about the Project Groundwork initiative.

### Agenda Item 4

Andy gave a brief overview of Project Groundwork what has been done in the Lick Run area in Cincinnati, and how several first suburbs communities will now be involved in the next stage of the project. Dean Niemeyer, Brian Wamsley, and Cheri Bush also discussed different aspects of the program.

Essentially, MSD is under a federal decree to eliminate stormwater infiltration into its sanitary sewer systems in order to stop the horrendous blowouts of raw sewage into our regions streams and rivers. This is a long-term problem and is happening in many cities across the country that were built around century-old sewer systems. MSD estimates that solving the problem and eliminating sewage bypass into our rivers will cost between \$2 and \$3 billion.

The default solution is to use traditional engineering approaches of pipes, underground vaults, and other “hard” infrastructure approaches to store stormwater overflows and then release it slowly into streams and rivers. Project Groundwork along with an allied program called Communities of the Future takes a sustainable and flexible approach to blend “hard” infrastructure with “green infrastructure” and wherever possible reintroduce natural drainage patterns and the ability of the natural landscape to mitigate stormwater flows. Instead of spending the billions necessary on purely hard infrastructure, MSD wants to partner with communities to leverage this money into long-lasting, sustainable community improvements. In some cases, the possibilities are truly community-changing

South Fairmont and the Lick Run is the pilot for the entire program. It is also the location of the worst combined sewer overflow into the Mill Creek, making it a natural place to start. Proposals under consideration include “daylighting” the Lick Run which has been encased in a culvert buried underground, creating a lush greenspace and park along this newly revealed stream, and combining all the capital improvements and investments with various economic development and community revitalization strategies to transform the neighborhood into a vibrant place. That is the possibility that Communities of the Future represents, and MSD is a pathfinder nationally in attempting to do this.

The next step is for MSD to make a formal presentation at our next Membership Meeting to educate our communities about their work. This will set the stage for a long-term series of workshops, design charettes, and other events as MSD partners with different jurisdictions on various capital improvement projects, policy recommendations, and other measures to consider in order to carry out Project Groundwork goals. The end goal is a better, more sustainable, and more affordable solution to stormwater infiltration and management of our regions sewer systems.

## **Agenda Item 5**

Andy gave a brief overview of the Queen City Bike Bicycle Friendly Destination program and encouraged member communities to sign up for it as local government organizations, and to promote it in their local business communities. Hamilton County recently signed on to the

Bicycle Friendly Destination program and will be exploring different ways to make doing business with the County easier for cyclists.

#### **Agenda Item 6**

We have still not heard back definitively from Elmwood Place, Lincoln Heights, Milford, or Springdale as to whether they will be joining first suburbs. Andy will contact Tonya Keys in Lincoln Heights and John Smith will contact the other communities.

#### **Agenda Item 7**

A letter from the Port Authority was included in our packets giving an update on the Hamilton County Land Bank. At some point in the future, we should schedule a meeting between them and the Executive Committee to discuss what policies and groundwork needs to be done in order for the land bank to operate in our member communities.

#### **Agenda Item 8**

Amy Bancroft was officially designated an Executive Committee member from North College Hill.