

June 24, 2011

Big Creek Watershed Planning Partnership  
c/o James White, Executive Director  
Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization  
1299 Superior Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Dear Big Creek Watershed Planning Partnership:

On behalf of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission, I would like to congratulate you on your successful effort to achieve endorsement for the *Big Creek Watershed Balanced Growth Plan*. At its June 15, 2011 meeting, the Commission unanimously approved endorsement of the Plan.

It is important for you to know that the Commission members did make an exception to their 75% criteria required for the number of units of government that must have adopted resolutions of support for this Plan. The Commission members agreed to endorse the Plan because the five municipalities of Cleveland, Parma, Parma Heights, Brooklyn, and Brook Park have adopted resolutions of support and represent 98% of the population and 95% of the land area in the watershed. Therefore, the Commission members fully agreed that their support meets the intent of achieving a significant local support in this case.

The areas which you have selected as Priority Development Areas and Priority Conservation Areas will now serve as direction to the agencies of the State of Ohio. This Plan offers the opportunity for state and local collaboration to encourage well planned development while conserving critical areas across the watershed. The State looks to the Friends of Big Creek, serving as the Big Creek Watershed Planning Partnership, and to the local governments within the watershed to keep the plan current; implement the recommendations contained in the plan and honor the Priority Areas that have been locally identified.

State Agencies will assist your implementation efforts by providing special program incentives for projects in the areas that conform to your designations and honor your plan's intentions. These special incentives are maintained as a current list at the Ohio Lake Erie Commission Website (<http://balancedgrowth.ohio.gov/BalancedGrowthStrategy.aspx> - *Balanced Growth Program - Special Incentives – January 14, 2011*). A copy of the current list is also attached.

In order to maintain the plan and maintain your endorsement status, it will be necessary to complete the following as part of an annual update to the Ohio Lake Erie Commission which would be due one year following this endorsement. The next annual update would be due no later than June 30, 2012.

- Identify one individual to be the contact for the Watershed Planning Partnership and liaison between the members of the Partnership and the Commission. It is important that you immediately notify the Commission of any change to this contact person.

- Notify the Commission of any changes to plan as adopted according to the local process to amend the plan. These updates should be provided as they happen, and summarized in a year-end update.
- List any changes to the members of the Watershed Planning Partnership;
- List any units of government that either endorse the BG Plan or withdraw their endorsement; and
- List implementation outcomes of the plan, identifying local government or watershed planning partnership actions.

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission believes that development and conservation decisions are best made at the local level. We are committed to using your endorsed plan as a means to leverage state support and assistance for the implementation of local decisions through the Balanced Growth Program.

Please accept our congratulations on your successful planning effort and our offer to continue to provide assistance and coordination at the state level as you embark upon Balanced Growth.

Please contact me if I can help or contact Sandra Kosek-Sills, Balanced Growth Coordinator at the Ohio Lake Erie Commission, if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Mustine". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

David Mustine,  
Chairman; Ohio Lake Erie Commission and  
Director; Ohio Department of Natural Resources

DM/sks

pc: Members of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission  
Big Creek Planning Partnership Members