

**River Roundtable**  
**February 12, 2004**  
**9 a.m.**

**Meeting location:** Columbia Bowling Lanes, Hamilton, OH

**In Attendance:** Mark Fritsch, and Rob Sanders, Friends of the Great Miami; Angela Manuszak, Miami Conservancy District; Brian Bohl, Hamilton SWCD; Jerry Lanich, St. Clair Township, Butler County; Tim McLelland, Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium; Dave Shanks, Miami University at Hamilton; Mike Samoviski and Gail Thornton, City of Hamilton; Bob Lentz, Butler County Storm Water District (see end for contact info).

**Group Goal Statement:** We will create a better understanding of the Great Miami River and treat the river corridor as a precious natural resource. (*source: January 7, 2003 minutes*)

**Current Project:**

Great Miami River Days: Friday – Sunday, September 10 – 12, 2004

**Overview**

Rob Sanders summarized our vision for this regional river festival for the benefit of leaders from the City of Hamilton and from Miami University at Hamilton. He also summarized what we think we might need in terms of assistance from both entities.

From the City of Hamilton:

- Closure of Neilan Blvd.
- Access to the stage equipment
- Access to potable water
- Access to electricity
- Assistance with security

We will continue to work out the details with Gail Thornton or Bill Phelps from the City. Bill will come next week to the planning meeting. Gail Thornton agreed to check calendars for other local events on that weekend. Mike will verify the amount of liability insurance that the city will need the group to acquire. Gail requested that we also consider handicap access to the event.

From Miami University at Hamilton:

- Use of grounds for parking (entering off Peck Blvd.)
- Use of grounds for RV and boat displays, etc.

Dave Shanks mentioned that Dr. Hall (campus director) will need to approve all use of campus grounds prior to our moving forward. He volunteered to bring it up with him, but we will also need to send a letter with some details. It should be permissible to charge for parking on the grounds. They will also plan to mow the lot 2-3 days prior to the event. We'll need to mark off the area we plan to use prior to the weekend.

We will contact a color guard representing the Eagles, Boy Scouts, or military recruiters to assist in a brief memorial service for the victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks. There is a flagpole at street level near the dam overlook and parking lot.

### **Seating**

We will need to determine our requirements for bleacher seating or chairs at the various venues.

### **River Access**

Access to the river for vehicles towing motorized watercraft should be available near the Columbia Bridge or below Two-Mile Creek. We will need to determine where to direct boaters.

### **Other entities to contact:**

Fairfield for access to Joyce Park for running race

Butler County Sheriff for water safety and rescue during events

Hamilton Boat Club for above dam “catchers”

Local service groups for volunteers (National Concessions will recruit and share profits).

### **Alcohol**

The group decided that this would be an alcohol free event due to high liability insurance costs and logistical restrictions. If a sponsor will completely underwrite containment and insurance, we will reconsider.

### **Noise**

Any entertainment related noise should die down between 10 and 11, but we shouldn't have great conflicts about noise since the area has few residential homes.

### **Volunteers**

We will offer parking pass and perhaps a T-shirt or food certificate for volunteers.

*Thanks to Mark Fritsch for arranging the meeting place, coffee, and doughnuts!*

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 17, 2004; 9 a.m. at Columbia Bowling Lanes

## Contact Info from recent meeting participants

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