

**APPENDIX C1  
PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE INITIAL  
NATURAL RESOURCE RESTORATION PLAN & ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT FOR THE ASHTABULA RIVER AND HARBOR SITE**

# 1

*Mark J. Astorino  
4390 Stonegate Drive  
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004*

RECEIVED  
MAY 02 2008  
OHIO EPA NEDO

April 28, 2008

Mr. Regan S. Williams  
Division of Emergency & Remedial Response  
Northeast District Office  
2110 East Aurora Road  
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

Re: Draft Natural Resource Restoration Plan & Environmental Assessment for the  
Ashtabula River and Harbor Site

Dear Mr. Williams,

I am writing as a resident of Ashtabula, Ohio, in particular support of restoration  
Alternative C, as outlined in the above captioned plan.

While it is true that the affected area(s) have suffered great natural resource injury, what  
is also true is the resulting devastating impact on the local economy and the associated  
health risks that ensued for over a decade.

True reparation and true justice to those who live in the community are not simply to  
fund "fish" projects. What is also required are results that are tangible and visible, and  
that create a sense of reparation, while at the same time supportive of the natural habitat.  
This is evidenced by the project in Fox River, which I am sure you are familiar.

In closing, I implore your support for Alternative C and I will indeed pray for the same.

Sincerely yours,



Mark J. Astorino

**From:** NEIL N BARTON <greatbartoni@sbcglobal.net>  
**To:** <regan.williams@epa.state.oh.us>  
**Date:** 4/27/2008 11:26:14 AM  
**Subject:** Ashtabula breakwall walkway project

Dear Mr. Williams,

April 27, 2008

My name is Neil Barton. I write this letter to you on behalf of my wife and myself with the hopes and expectations that it will and should sway and convince you that the distribution of the settlement funds should absolutely included the Ashtabula breakwater walkway project. I address this opportunity from a unique perspective that is different in a real sense than most people could not have. Not necessarily better but indeed different. Having served in the Coast Guard I had the distinct privilege of spending two years of that time on the Ashtabula lighthouse at a time when it was being maned by the Coast Guard personnel. I came to know not only the lighthouse like the back of my hand but also the surroundings, the people, the fishermen, the traffic, the boats, the water and its environment. Presently my wife and I are members of the Ashtabula Marine and Coast Guard Musieum and also the Ashtabula Lighthouse Preservation And Restoration Society. It is my most firm belief that it has been adaquately demonstrated that man and nature do not and cannot live in separation from each other and therefor have a direct and constant impact upon each other. In this case the beneficial consideration of the fish can best be accomplished by the inclusion of man and his environment, which is inextracably involved with the fish and the man's habits when it comes to his desire and need to fish. A mans involvement with fish and fishing enhances his concern for and about the fish. This can only be good for the fish. The more positive involvement of man the more good for the fish. This is not only a truism for now but obviously includes future generations.

All this brings us to how the Ashtabula water walkway would be the perfect solution for man and fish living in beneficial and mutual harmony. If you are not familiar with the Ashabula area, its harbor, its waterfront, its beaches, its breakwater, and its lighthouse (which is in process of restoration), a simple examination will reveal that it is rich with history and has always been a vital part of its economy and its people in general. There has never been a time when the breakwater has not been an item of great necessity and fascination with all who are aware of its presence. Many have and still do walk the breakwater for fishing and excursion. Because of the somewhat present ruggedness required of the challenge to do so, this can be accomplished only by the harty and the adventurous. The proposed walkway would dramatically and emphatically change this. The proposed walkway would now be accessible and available to almost everyone. With periodic fishing areas running out for a mile and benches for strollers we would witness the entire area come alive as never it has dreamed before. The positive impact on the economy could only be a boon to the entire area. There would be nothing else like it.

With the education center on the beach more people than ever would be exposed to the nature surrounding them and their environmental impact with the water, the fish and their involvement with them. A hightened awareness of this can only be good for the fish and man and the wildlife in general. Again, you can't involve one without involving the other. For the sake of the fish and mankind, who are destined to live with each other, we emlore you to give due consideration to make this a reality. We see this as your responsible debt to both the fish and the people of this area. This is a very rare, one time opportunity, to resolve the deserving need of many; the water, the fish, mankind and the furture of all of them. We ask you to be so understanding, appreciative, compassionate and emphatic that you too would insist that it must be done. You will never know just how many will be forever grateful for your foresight.

We thank you for your honest and forthright consideraton, Neil and Susan Barton

**CC:** Bob Anne Frisbie <bobanne@alltel.net>

**From:** "Matthew Cuthbert" <matthew.cuthbert@gmail.com>  
**To:** <regan.williams@epa.state.oh.us>  
**Date:** 4/29/2008 5:03:32 PM  
**Subject:** Natural Resource Restoration Plan & Environmental Assessment for the Ashtabula River and Harbor

Dear Mr. Williams et al,

This e-mail contains questions and comments on the Restoration of the Ashtabula River and Harbor project. First the questions:

1. Previous monies were awarded to the Ashtabula Township Park Commission for the acquisition of land along the Ashtabula River inside the City of Ashtabula. What were the total monies awarded for that project?
2. What other monies were awarded from that source?
3. How much money is still available from that source?
4. The City of Ashtabula acquired a Beach Cleaner they have used to eliminate some of the threatened and endangered species along the beach area of Walnut Beach. Were any monies used from any funds associated with the Ashtabula River Project for the acquisition of the Beach Cleaner?

In reference to the Draft Natural Resource Restoration Plan & Environmental Assessment for the Ashtabula River and Harbor Site I offer the following comments:

I prefer Alternative B. However, unless the acquisition of land is near the Walnut Beach area I am opposed to it. The land near Walnut Beach has the greatest potential for eco-tourism and would reap the greatest reward via the preservation of threatened and endangered species. Also, the elimination of the various invasive plant species, most notably Phragmites australis, would not only secure the area by safely removing a fire hazard from nearly 100,000 tons of coal stored next to it, but it would go a long way to restoring the area for native flora and fauna.

I wrote a proposal for this purpose during the time that resulted in the

award of the Brockway property to the Ashtabula Township Park Commission. You may review it as a further comment on this money.

In closing, I would like to remark on three individuals that attended the trustees meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at the Lakeside High School.

Phil Schmidt has been against restoring the area near Walnut Beach to preserve native plants nearly since the beginning. When the Ashtabula City Park Board, of which I was an officer, utilized the Sam Wharram Nature Club, of which I was also an officer, to clean-cut, the invasive tree species, notably the Aspens, he was the only person in the entire city to complain. He has personal issues with Jim Bissell and the Cleveland Natural History Museum. When I wrote the city's first proposal, I utilized both the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in conjunction with Jim Bissell and the Holden Arboretum.

Kevin Grippi has bounced from project to project and from group to group in effect "building a resume." His interests in this project, or any other, are purely self-serving. He knows little about habitat restoration and cares even less. I was offended that he pressured the trustees by opining, "We need a break," which appeared as the Star-Beacon's headline the day following the trustee's meeting at Lakeside.

Tony Cantagallo, Ashtabula's City Manager, is at the center of a hostile regime with his own ideas for Walnut Beach. If possible, he knows even less and cares even less than Mr. Grippi about eco-tourism and habitat restoration. His goal is legacy building, instead of moving forward with a plan (mine) that would benefit nature and people alike. His ideas are ill conceived and shortsighted.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and ask questions. I look forward to your answers from your earliest convenience.

Yours,

Ken Beacon

#5

RECEIVED

APR 28 2008

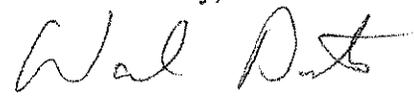
OHIO EPA NEDO

Apr. 24, 2008

Dear Mr. Williams,

As a resident and local business owner for over 54 years I recommend Plan C for the final Ashtabula River clean up phase. The more people can get involved in the wonderful resource of the river and lake the better. The industry the polluted our river and lake is now all gone. We only have the river and lake as a resource now. Up stream is very shallow so it has a very limited use. North of W 24 st. is where boaters and fisherman spend their time and money. A walkway on the break wall would be a huge tourist attraction. People could fish without a boat. Walkers could enjoy the view. I think the people aspect of this project should be emphasized the most. Different plants won't change a thing.

Yours truly,



Ward Bennett

#6

RECEIVED

APR 28 2008

OHIO EPA NEDO

OH EPA,  
Dear Ohio Division of Wildlife,

I am writing concerning the settlement from all the pollution damage created by the chemical industries and other industries that contaminated Lake Erie, Ashtabula River and Fields Brook and other streams in this area during the 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's. I remember as a boy Fields Brook was full of brook trout and other trout & fish. Also the Ashtabula River, Lake Erie was teeming in the 50's with Lake trout, blue lake, pickerel, Bass both small and largemouth, Northern Pike, Muskie, Yellow and White Perch, Gumbo Perch also, Sturgeon, Smelt, Creek Chubs, and probably even native trout. I remember my father use to have an old thermos with all the Lake Erie fish on it. He bought it in the 50's. So I would like to see the fish that were in the Lake and streams restored to what it was in the 50's. On any night you could go along the Lake night or day and see fisherman's boats as far as the eye could see. That's because the fishing was great. Some of the same fish mentioned above still exist in places like the Hartstown Swamp Lake (Pickerel namely) and other lakes in the area. As I understand it in ancient times these were part of Lake Erie. So check it out! Also I've heard some blues still exist in Canadian waters. Also check some of the old ponds around here as I know some fisherman stocked their ponds in the 50's. Yes there were a lot of excesses back then too, not all of them by industry. There was some waste of fish resources too because fish were so plentiful. Some people used them for garden fertilizer. That must never be allowed to happen again. Whether it be by industry or commercial fishing or the average Joe on the street who recreationally fishes or the commercial shipping interests that dump their bilges full of sea

(next page)

Lamprea. They should replace 10X the fish destroyed. In 1950's terms that would be millions of fish of different species. Where some are extant replacements could be used and encouraged. Even the accidental Golden Trout should be encouraged as they seemed to thrive in Cowels Creek and the Lake. More of Arcola Creek and Wheelers Creeks should be opened to public access thru parks and stocked with various types of trout. Especially since Arcola suffered a chemical spill at its peak fishing period that killed most of its fish. Cranky Land owners who oppose fisherman should be bought out, but at the same time fisherman who don't respect the resource or water or property rates should be dealt with harshly as well as litter bugs. On all streams as well. aka Pop Cans, Tires, Wrappers Garbage and what have you should be banned. Respect the Resource signs erected at the parking lot or near the stream. Also containers for broken line instead of littering. Also line should be biodegradable but strong. All others should be banned. Again Respect the Stream & Nature. Also Respect the Resource and protect it from over hunting and over fishing. I fear that has been done already here in the state with our deer population and some of our fish (Waleye) in Lake Erie. I suggest a 5 year moratorium to allow populations to recover. After all I am a sportsman and many friends who come out of state prize our wildlife here in Ohio for its record size's and quantity. We would lose their attention if they always come up empty. Imagine the economic loss of that to the state and northern Ohio which is already hurting. I urge the State to use this time to obtain new game lands in vast tracts to restore habitat for the deer. Especially along Ohio's eastern border where

in Pt Deer are plentiful. They would enter Ohio more if there were protected Game Lands in Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties, also Southwestern Ashtabula and Geauga and Southern Lake Counties where their terrain is ideal for all wildlife and crosses the Grand River. A concentrated cleanup of the Grand and restoration of its Dam and spillway and its fish ladder repaired wouldn't hurt either. Right now the fish can't get up stream because of the broken ladder, also there's too much silt and debris behind the Harpersfield Dam. It needs a good dredging above the Dam & Logs removed from Dam as well as the repairs. Also an old water plant needs either restored or its canal opened and dredged or removed all together and added to the park. Also north side or east should be park for canoe access - Boat access with same above rules of respect. The Resource and Heavy Various Fish stocking: Namely Various Trout, Muskie, Bass (small & large), Perch, Northern, Walleye, Crappie you name it. In short I want to see the Grand crawling with fish as well as local streams and Lake Erie. In short I want that tourist to thoroughly be able to enjoy his visit as long as he respects the Resource and contributes to its further improvement and doesn't abuse the privilege. Leave the booze at home. Don't litter the resource with beer cans & trash.

Please ODNR Do it Right! Don't Wait till all of Ohio my beautiful Ohio is Wall to Wall Concrete & Houses to try and restore what is already will be lost. Buy the Game Lands Now & Don't allow them to cover Ohio in concrete completely. I'm for progress as long as it respects the Resource and the God who made it and the state's motto. Remember the Wildlife were here first and were suppose to share this planet with them and they are here for our enjoyment.

also I want to remind the state EPA to do a better job of tracking down these private small dumps that may or may not contain chemical contaminants as well. Some of them may have been buried and forgotten about and could cause health problems to us and the wildlife. Dig a little deeper, question a little longer and ask the right questions of the right people and don't take it on surface.

on the settlement as I said I want a thorough cleanup as in Plan with replacement & restoration of all species lost as I stated. I want to see access also to those resources with the proviso mentioned in C. I would like to see the boat rental & launch restored at Lake Shore Park also its boat dock similar to Conneaut. Also one at Geneva State Park. More fisherman access at this park also closer fishing to water again similar to Conneaut. Also restoration of all contaminated rivers & streams with their fish restored 10 fold. I know they will say it is too expensive, but they didn't worry or think when they polluted them. All they thought about was making \$ money they would make. They didn't even think about people's health. They simply didn't care. So let this be a lesson to them not to pollute anymore & respect the resource. Restore what's made. Oh and Dredge the Ashtabula River all the way to Main Avenue for more boating access & docks. Replace East 24th bridge with a lift bridge & maybe main again for the above reason and the economy could use the lift. I hope to see more fish like the one in the star beacon photo more numerous and plentiful in Lake Erie. The Grand, Arcola, Wheeler Creeks, Cowles Creek, and Conneaut Creeks of all species. Also in Pymatuning. Harts Town Shesago Watershed. By the way the settlement should include EPA on New York Watersheds also for their pollution companies parts in the destruction of Lake Erie.

Sincerely,

Diane L. Clark

P.S. Restore Huge amounts of Bait fish first like  
The Smelt, Creek Chubs, minnows, Sunfish, Bluegill,  
Cats, sheepshead and any other small fish before adding the  
major fish. Like Lake Trout, Sturgeon, Gar, Walleye, Bass  
Both Small & Large, King Salmon, Steelhead-Rainbow Trout,  
Brown Trout, Dolly Varden Trout, Brook Trout, Golden Trout,  
Blue Pike (if Can be found), Pickrel, Atlantic Salmon, Pacific Salmon,  
Chinook Salmon, Northern only after major fish are established  
Muskie, Perch, Both White & Yellow, Strippers, Rock Bass,  
Black Bass, Crappies and any other major fish that  
could tolerate Lake Erie and not destroy other parts of  
the fishery or imbalance it.

P.S.D. Would love to see Pickrel and Blue Pike Back if you can  
find them. Check as I suggested! Also go back and see what  
was formerly in Lake Erie and try to reintroduce those  
species if available. You would have to do several nettings  
at Hartstown, Canada Lake Erie streams with their permission,  
and the various ponds & lakes in this area ~~near~~ <sup>near</sup> the ponds near  
I 90 near Conneaut. I'm told there might be some in there from  
years ago on the Ft. Line & One Pond owned by the City of Conneaut.  
These ponds were built when I 90 was built in the 60's. Liked  
said previously fisherman placed their catches in those  
ponds hoping someday to have good fishing in the ponds.  
Some of them may be Blue Pike or Pickrel. Please  
let me know if you find anything or if I've been of any help.  
Here's Hoping We Have Good Fishing Again!

U407466-3412

Rayne E. Clark  
541 South E. Street  
Geneva, Ohio 44143



For Willard, Ohio  
Charles H. Hartman, Director  
240 East Lincoln Road  
Lynchburg, Ohio 43101

#7

Mr. Regan Williams  
April 30, 2008  
Ohio EPA's Northeast District Office  
2110 East Aurora Road  
Twinsburg, Ohio, 44087

Dear Sir:

I was born at 427 East 16<sup>th</sup>. Street, Ashtabula ,Ohio, on 11/18/34, located on the south side of Fields Brook, swam and fished in fields brook and the Ashtabula River as a young Boy. Was devastated by the demise of Fields Brook and the Ashtabula River, in 1968 World Book Encyclopedia states: 5 Chemical Industries pour waste into Fields Brook turning it white or sometime green or red, one of the most polluted streams in the United States.

I'm appalled that the Public Hearing was not held in the City of Ashtabula like all the other hearings that were at Ashtabula Kent State, it's almost like you did not want a lot of people to attend because your minds are made up to were this money is going, that is sad for the City of Ashtabula.

The Citizens of Ashtabula have suffered because of this pollution, the cancer deaths in East Ashtabula have been much more than normal, in fact a study was done in the 1980's stated that fact.

I feel this money should be given to the City of Ashtabula or the Ashtabula City Port Authority for the walkway on the Walnut Beech Breakwater. 90% of the residents of Ashtabula County do not have boats so they could use this Breakwater, which ever 30 or 40 yards would be a plate form with a bench to fish from. I'm sure a lot of people would like to through a line into Lake Erie , catch a Walleye, Perch, Bass, or whatever. This concept would be a boom to the City of Ashtabula and Ashtabula County.

Sincerely

Carmen(Lefty) Corbissero  
2943 West 13 th. Street  
Ashtabula ,Ohio 44004

cec  
file

Mr. Regan Williams  
Ohio EPA's Northeast District Office  
2110 East Aurora Road  
Twinsburg, Ohio, 44087

April 30, 2008

Dear Sir:

I was born at 427 East 16<sup>th</sup>. Street, Ashtabula ,Ohio, on 11/18/34, located on the south side of Fields Brook, swam and fished in fields brook and the Ashtabula River as a young Boy. Was devastated by the demise of Fields Brook and the Ashtabula River, in 1968 World Book Encyclopedia states: 5 Chemical Industries pour waste into Fields Brook turning it white or sometime green or red, one of the most polluted streams in the United States.

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Sincerely

  
Carmen(Lefty) Corbissero  
2943 West 13 th. Street  
Ashtabula ,Ohio 44004

cec  
file

# 8

**From:** leonard eames <water47man@yahoo.com>  
**To:** Regan Williams <regan.williams@epa.state.oh.us>  
**Date:** 4/28/2008 6:22:37 PM  
**Subject:** NRDA Comments

Dear Sig,

After reviewing the draft restoration plan it is evident alternative "B" is the only choice plausible. To acquire, restore and rehabilitate habitat closest to the mouth of Fields Brook and downstream to the harbor is of the utmost importance. The 5 1/2 slip and the peninsula adjoining it are prime candidates to help accomplish the goals of the NRDA doctrine.

While breakwall walkways and learning centers are admirable "public works projects" they have little to do with repairing injuries to the environment. They also would be difficult to maintain and require a stewardship hereto for not mentioned by proponents. I commend the hard work and intelligent planning so far displayed by the trustees and ask that you stick to the letter of the law so to speak and not be swayed by public pressure to commit to projects that would only be short term in the scheme of Mother Nature.

Let your guidance be what is best for the environment in the long run, and the human aspects will follow in due time. This project has been ongoing for 25 years or more and it is apparent that humans structures like political careers are only blips in time, the better for nature is the better for mankind.

Respectfully submitted, Leonard E. Eames  
Co-chair, Ash. River Remedial Action Plan

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**From:** Natalie Farber  
**To:** Williams, Regan  
**Date:** 4/30/2008 5:32:43 PM  
**Subject:** NRDA Plan Comments

Sig,

After reviewing the Trustees' draft Ashtabula River Restoration of Natural Resources Plan, I am offering a couple brief comments, as below:

As the Ashtabula River RAP Coordinator, I definitely and wholly support Alternative B to the exclusion of all other Alternatives. Ohio EPA partnered with the Ashtabula community 20 years forming a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Advisory Council whose focus and intention was remedial excavation and disposition of contaminated sediments in the Area of Concern (AOC) designated as the lower two river miles — all remedial work which was completed in 2007. The current RAP focus is upon delisting each of the 6 (14 total) Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs). All 6 BUIs in the Ashtabula AOC are related to contaminated sediments, e.g., do-not-eat-all fish consumption advisory, degraded fish & wildlife populations, fish tumors & deformities, degraded benthos, dredging & disposal restrictions, loss of fish & wildlife habitat. Dredging the lower two miles and removing 60 years of highly contaminated sediments was the very best remedy, however very tough on the river bed physical structure and existing biota, fish, birds, aquatic insects. Among all the Restoration Alternatives listed therein, Alternative B is not only the best idea but critical to restoring, replacing, rehabilitating the AOC's injured and damaged resources. Perhaps more relevantly, Alternative B directly speaks to the AOC Delisting Strategy, e.g.:

- a) With acquisition of coastal areas and riparian areas in the AOC and also within the upper watershed, the lower AOC may be directly restored, enhanced, and protected post-remedy - all of which was envisioned by RAP Advisory Council 20 years ago. ;
- b) The local fishery will be greatly enhanced, especially by restoring existing wetlands at the CDM property and creating new ones where hydric soils and hydrologic regimes are present and complimentary. Once the entire watershed undergoes more restoration and rehabilitation, the human community can similarly reap benefits, as they so choose and desire, in the local economy, tourism, culture, ecology, social fabric.
- c) By far, the most important value of Alternative B's implementation is the rapid restoration, replacement, and rehabilitation that will undoubtedly occur, than if the AOC is simply left to recover on its own post-remedy. Frankly, that scenario will likely require another 50-60 years! An otherwise lengthy restoration timeframe (if no Alt B) stems from RAP members directly observing in 1999 the resumption of large perch, bass, shad, walleye spawns in the AOC. And then in 2000, the return of Great Blue Heron and White Egret actively wading and fishing near the 5 ½ slip peninsula. RAP members excitedly remarked that none of these populations had been much in evidence throughout the AOC since after Fields Brook and river industry commenced in earnest 60 years ago, followed soon after by widespread and prolonged natural resource damages.

I hope these remarks are helpful to you. If you wish to discuss or have questions, I may be reached at

Natalie Farber  
Ashtabula RAP Coordinator  
(614) 644-2143  
natalie.farber@epa.state.oh.us

Natalie Farber  
Environmental Scientist  
Ashtabula River RAP/NPS Unit  
(614) 644-2143

(614) 644-2745 FAX  
natalie.farber@epa.state.oh.us

**From:** "Frisbie" <bobanne@alltel.net>  
**To:** <regan.williams@epa.state.oh.us>  
**Date:** 4/28/2008 12:37:52 AM  
**Subject:** Comments

Dear Mr. Regan Williams, Ohio EPA Northeast District Office

It was evident at the meeting on April 22nd 2008 that the Trustees had their minds made up that option "B" was the only one they supported. As Mr. Phil Schmidt of Geneva mentioned in his comments to the Trustees, each idea presented needs to be weighed as it is placed on the chart so all ideas receive the same value. Those that were presented to the selection process at present seem to all show a bias to the "Fish & Game" and little or no value to "Human Use"!

Many of us that attended felt the fish and river should get the bulk of the attention, and the "Human Use" part of the project should also get a helping hand. The polluted river was vacated by many of the polluters who left town with their profits and we on the other hand are still here! Signs stating the river was polluted chased who knows how many people, industries and potential industries, away thus leaving those of us who are still living or visiting here the "economic losers"! The pollution has killed or is slowly killing who knows how many "HUMANS" and fish.

If the City of Ashtabula and the interested citizens of Ashtabula County could use a portion of the Ashtabula River and Harbor monetary settlement to revive an industry that is slowly being cultivated in the county, "Tourism", maybe the constant reminder of economic depression would be significantly lessened! We feel that if we are given equal opportunity and a portion of the settlement money to apply towards our suggested projects (Option "C" - The Interpretive Center at Walnut Beach & The Break Wall Walkway to the Ashtabula Lighthouse); we could make the Tourism Industry come true for the area.

EVERY person who hears about the Walkway Project says, "That is a great idea and people would come from all over to be that close to the water, the sport fishing and the lighthouse too!"

My only question now is why hasn't the portion of the Fields Brook settlement funds that is still available been set aside for the Ashtabula Township (Brockway property) HUMAN USE and left out of this equation?

Thank You for considering our request for a portion of the funds to assist in the HUMAN USE portion of the project!

Bob Frisbie - Director

Anne Frisbie - Treasurer

Ashtabula Marine Museum

P.O. Box 1546

1071 Walnut Blvd.

Ashtabula, Ohio 44005-1546

E-mail Address: [bobanne@alitel.net](mailto:bobanne@alitel.net)

Website: [ashtabulamarinemuseum.org](http://ashtabulamarinemuseum.org)

**From:** "paul goode" <cahillbb@apk.net>  
**To:** <regan.williams@epa.state.oh.us>  
**Date:** 4/29/2008 9:34:34 PM  
**Subject:** river remediation

Mr. Williams,

My wife and I attended the meeting at Lakeside H.S. last week and briefly spoke with you afterwards. I am writing to put in my 2 cents on the matter of designation of resources to further correct deficiencies caused by the Ashtabula River pollution.

Neither of us can claim any proficiency or training directly related to the clean-up matters. Neither of us are native Ashtabula Countians! However, we have, I believe, lived closer than anyone else to the river (1084 Walnut Blvd.) for 35 years, and have observed the "fits and starts" related to residential, economic, and aesthetic realities of life at the lower Ashtabula River.

Economic realities in the Harbor, once responsible for sustaining livelihoods, traditions, culture, have changed here as elsewhere in the "rust belt" We are left only with the coal dock exercising its environmental and aesthetic stranglehold over the entranceway to a river being proposed as a "scenic river"! Only today I received a response from Sen. Latourette's office saying the NS dock operators refused to meet with area residents about our dust and noise concerns.

We agree with the principle that further remediation resources should be principally directed toward further river reconstruction, improving public access and contingent properties. But, given the harmful effect of the river pollution on the human community of the Harbor, it would not be misplaced justice to urge direction of some resources to a project such as the Lighthouse/Walnut Beach Access. At a minimum, funding for a feasibility study for this or other such projects would begin to address this aspect of community damage.

Thanks for the efforts you have already put into the river cleanup and for the opportunity to offer these views.

Respectfully,  
Paul & Pat Goode  
1084 Walnut Blvd.  
440-964-8449

**From:** "Lorna Greicius" <lornadoonekdg@alltel.net>  
**To:** <regan.williams@epa.state.oh.us>  
**Date:** 4/22/2008 8:13:34 AM  
**Subject:** Lakeside H.S. meeting

Dear Trustees,

This letter is in regard to the meeting slated for this evening at Lakeside High School in Ashtabula Ohio.

I am unable to attend this meeting however; I would like to add my voice to those of many who believe that the plan submitted to you by our city government, concerning the settlement of the companies responsible for the pollution of our river and harbor. I understand that you have determined that the proposed plan to build a walkway out to our lighthouse in conjunction with an interpretative educational center at Walnut Beach do not meet your requirements. Although the city and county would benefit greatly by the implementation of these two projects, as an educator, I strongly believe the environment and habitat of wildlife would also benefit. By instilling in our children, a respect and wonder for this vital area in our county, they, as future caretakers, would help to insure its safe keeping for many generations to come. Our lighthouse is a national treasure and its history is also the history of the harbor. By providing a "bridge" to the past, with the instillation of a walkway, we are also promoting a secure path and a strong "light" for the future. Without an appreciation of this river, its history, and those who came before, the next generation will not protect or value this area.

As an environmental activist, I am well aware of the consequences this disaster has had on the wildlife and water in this area. However, this pollution occurred over many years and has also had a devastating effect on human lives. Although, I was not raised in this county, I have taught students here for over thirty years. These children need to feel a sense of pride in their history as well as an appreciation for all the beauty that surrounds them.

Please consider these two projects to be worth of your attention and support.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Lorna Greicius

**From:** "barb.hale" <barb.hale@neomin.org>  
**To:** <regan.williams@epa.state.oh.us>  
**Date:** 4/22/2008 9:15:22 AM  
**Subject:** Meeting in Ashtabula

Dear Trustees,

As we are unable to attend the important meeting at Lakeside High School in Ashtabula this evening, we would still like to voice our opinion. We feel that a walkway to the Ashtabula Lighthouse and an educational center at Walnut Beach will greatly instill our future generations with the respect this historic area deserves. The environment and habitat for wildlife would also benefit in the future because a greater interest would be shown in this area, ensuring its appreciation for many generations to come. Please consider these projects to be worth your attention and support.

Thank you.  
Dennis & Barbara Hale

**From:** "Scott Hill" <shill@wrlc.cc>  
**To:** <Dave\_Devault@fws.gov>, "Regan Williams" <regan.williams@epa.state.oh.us>, "Sheila Abraham" <sheila.abraham@epa.state.oh.us>  
**Date:** 4/23/2008 2:44:25 PM  
**Subject:** Ashtabula River Public Meeting

I wanted to thank you all for your time in the hot seat last night. The City of Ashtabula is in the middle of an extremely serious financial down turn and it was apparent in last nights meeting that many of the citizens are interested in using the funds for an economic stimulus project. I can certainly understand this perspective, but the long term economic stimulus that will come from the fisheries and eco-tourism associated with a vibrant healthy river will be an ongoing revenue stream for the community. Please let me know if there is anything that I can do to assist in the decision making process for the restoration of the natural resources on the Ashtabula River.

Thank you for all your good work,

Scott Hill

Eastern Field Director

Western Reserve Land Conservancy  
 P.O. Box 314  
 Novelty, OH 44072  
 Ph: 440-729-9621  
 Fax: 440-729-9631  
 shill@wrlc.cc <blocked::mailto:shill@wrlc.cc>  
 www.wrlc.cc <blocked::http://www.wrlc.cc/>

The sender of this message represents only the legal interests of Western Reserve Land Conservancy; therefore, any information contained herein, including any attachments or enclosures, relating to tax treatment or other transactional details is strictly informational and is not written or intended to be relied upon, and cannot be relied upon, by any other party as legal or tax advice.

#17

*SANFORD JACOBS  
2019 LAUREL HILL DRIVE  
SOUTH EUCLID, OHIO 44121*

RECEIVED

APR 28 2008

OHIO EPA NEDO

April 26, 2008

Ohio EPA  
Northeast District Office  
Att'n: Regan Williams  
2110 East Aurora Road  
Twinsburg, Ohio  
44087

Dear Mr. Williams:

I am sending this letter to express my concern that the "human factor" be given appropriate weight along with "fish and habitat" in the plan to restore the Ashtabula River environment. My wife and I spend part of the each spring and summer at the Lake in Saybrook Township and have become familiar with the River and the surrounding area. That is why I am writing on this subject.

The damage caused by those responsible for the degradation of the Ashtabula River and the surrounding area has touched and continues to impact the habitat for fish, birds, game and humans in the area. As you look for the best solutions to overcome this tragedy, I ask that you give strong weight to a multifaceted approach; one that works on the fish and habitat restoration, but also one that works to restore the human physical and psychological wellbeing of the community.

A program that would incorporate some of the steps proposed in Plan B and also some of the steps in Plan C would be an appropriate compromise. In Plan C the creation of the western portion of the walkway including the ramps for handicapped persons and the fishing piers could, once again, bring humans close to the beauty and miracles of the waters from which they have been denied much too long due to this tragedy.

I would greatly appreciate your consideration of these thoughts in arriving at a reasonable conclusion.

Very truly yours,



Dear Mr Williams,

I am writing to increase your awareness of the Ashtabula river watershed and potential projects beneficial to habitat restoration.

The river bank is completely armored for the first mile inland from the mouth at lake Erie. A Norfolk and Southern coal dock employee spoke of witnessing a deer and skunk swimming to the point of exhaustion after being washed downstream and trapped by the vertical walls. He was successful in saving both of the critters. These vertical walls, and the developers who installed/maintain them, also block human access to this natural resource. Can we take any action to return a portion of the natural riverbank?

My neighbors have allowed me access to their property to establish a wildlife corridor linking the lakefront wetland with the Ashtabula River. This winter I removed Norway maples, tree of heaven and other invasives. I have also discovered the water table is one foot below ground level on the lowest portion of my property. I will soon dig a small pond with a shovel! This will establish a watering hole for the birds, deer, raccoons, etc, which frequent this area. This "pond" will replace one of many destroyed by Norfolk and Southern and other coal terminal operators. I am not looking for any recognition here but would like to demonstrate how one unfunded individual, working alone, can impact the Ashtabula watershed. It is frustrating to see the time and monetary resources wasting away while action could be taken.

The most cursory observation of the watershed would reveal the presense of Strong Brook, the first tributary on the West bank of the Ashtabula river. I have seen many reports of communities restoring streams to a more natural state. Strong brook offers no vertical blocks to fish migration and could be revived to a natural spawning area for lake Erie fish species. This stream runs through the west harbor, very close to "Ground Zero" the contaminated river.



April 25, 2008

Comment on Ashtabula River & Harbor

To Whom It May Concern:

I am sorry I was unable to attend the recent public meeting on Tuesday. I am very much in favor of Plan B.

The Kevin Grippi comment which made headlines in the Star Beacon was very offensive to me. I believe that it is the environment that "needs a break" from us. The potential availability of funds for this project is a testament to the sorry job we have done in the past with protecting our local environment.

I am a property owner in Ashtabula Township with a parcel that extends to the center of the Ashtabula River. For twenty years I have picked up garbage that has been left by individuals, usually on ATVs or in 4 wheel drive vehicles, who have driven up river from State Road and have "camped", and I use the term loosely, along the river. Garbage typically consists of beer cans, food tins and wrappers, even underwear, baby diapers, and used condoms. People have also "washed" their cars and dumped the ashtrays and other refuse etc. on the bank. A little further down the river people dump construction debris etc. Fortunately for me they don't feel the need to drive further up river.

People have the mistaken belief that anything with running water belongs to the public and it is free to abuse. I don't think these citizens are contributing local tourism dollars. (I have a neighbor who has retired now and patrols the river bottom, on his ATV unfortunately, and the amount of abuse has decreased. He can be pretty scary)

ATV and other traffic in the shallow river bed in the summer tears up the river bed and I frequently find dead or dying creatures that have been crushed in the river rocks, snakes, mud puppies etc. We need more restoration and fewer uneducated people in the Ashtabula River basin. Noise pollution from these vehicles is a whole other issue. The sound of ATVs is greatly magnified by the walls of the river basin they are in. It is very loud and offensive up along the river ridges where I live.

I have never had an issue with people who enjoy walking/hiking, picnicking quietly on my property but the river needs protection. I have always granted the requests of persons who take the trouble to request permission to fish from my property.

I had once considered donating my small piece of river bottom to an entity that would preserve and protect it but I don't think there is one.

Kathleen Kinney  
4200 Caylor Ct.  
Ashtabula OH 44004  
440-997-5629

**From:** "Lichtkoppler, Frank" <Frank.Lichtkoppler@lakecountyohio.gov>  
**To:** "Matthew Smith" <scenicrivers@suite224.net>, <Regan.Williams@epa.state.oh.us>  
**Date:** 4/22/2008 11:46:55 AM  
**Subject:** Ashtabula NRD restoration plan public meeting

Matt & Sig;

I plan to present the attached at the meeting tonight. I think we need to refocus on removing the Area of Concern designation and alternative B will help to do just that. Building nature centers and walkways on the breakwall is putting the cart before the horse.

Frank

>< >< >< >< >< ><

Frank R. Lichtkoppler

Extension Specialist, Sea Grant

99 East Erie Street

Painesville, Ohio 44077

PH 440 / 350-2267

Cell 440 / 364-5946

FAX 440 / 350-5928

<< << << << << <<

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**From:** Matthew Smith [mailto:scenicrivers@suite224.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 21, 2008 2:40 PM  
**To:** Tim Matson; (Regan) Williams; Ashtabula Metro Parks; bbottofrf@alltel.net; Betty Morrison; Bob Gable; Brett Joseph; Carl Anderson; Darryl Senskey; Jim Bissell; Marc Hanneman; Mike Wayman; Nathan Paskey; Phil Hillman; Steve Roloson; 'Tom Swank'; 'Bill Dingedine'; 'Bud Hill'; 'Frank Lichtkoppler'; 'Natalie Farber'; 'Ron Leunberger'; 'Theiry Delorme'  
**Subject:** [SPAM] Ashtabula NRD restoration plan public meeting  
**Importance:** Low

This is a reminder about the public hearing that is being conducted by

the Ashtabula NRD Trustee's on Tuesday April 22nd at 7:00 pm.

Attached is the public announcement in a recent paper. Comments will be received about the plan. I know that there will be opposition to the plan at the hearing and those in opposition will be making public statements.

It would be great for you to review the plan at the web site below and show up and voice your support for the restoration plan.

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/AshtabulaNRDA/>

One of the arguments is that the plan only addresses natural resources and not public use. This is not so. Most if not all of the actions in the current plan will benefit public use.

- Restoration of habitat in the harbor would increase fish spawning habitat, which will benefit fishing. How many fishing charters are based in the Ashtabula Harbor?

- Protection of the wooded riparian river buffers and wetlands will protect the water quality of the river thus protecting the Ashtabula fishery. Steelhead fishermen come from all over the country to fish the Ashtabula River from Indian trails/Cedarquist park to the Haddock ford, from October to April.

Anyways this is just a very brief description of how this plan not only focuses on Natural Resource restoration and protection, but the plan will have a side effect of protecting, providing, and creating human use of the Natural Resource.

Please plan on attending and voicing your support of the plan and the need for natural resource restoration and protection. If you can not attend please send a letter voicing your support of the plan to Ohio EPA by way of Regan Williams as listed in the attached announcement.

Matthew Smith

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Assistant Scenic River Manager

3441 North Ridge West

Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

Office: 440-992-5845

Fax: 440-992-2474

[scenicrivers@suite224.net](mailto:scenicrivers@suite224.net)

[www.dnr.state.oh.us/dnap](http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/dnap)

OEPA Community Meeting on the Restoration of the  
Ashtabula River and Harbor

April 22, 2008 7:00 PM Lakeside High School,  
6600 Sanborn Road, Ashtabula

Hello;

My name is Frank Lichtkoppler. I have been working with the Ashtabula Remedial Action Plan Council (RAP) since 1988. I am a founding member of the Ashtabula River Partnership (ARP) and have worked with the ARP since it was formed in late 1994.

In the early 1980's the International Joint Commission declared the Ashtabula River and Harbor a Great Lakes environmental Area Of Concern (AOC) because pollution of the river had impaired the beneficial use of the River.

The Beneficial Uses Impairments documented for the Ashtabula River and Harbor include:

- 1) Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption
- 2) Degradation of fish and wildlife populations
- 3) Fish tumors or other deformities

- 4) Degradation of benthos (bottom habitat)
- 5) Restriction on dredging activities
- 6) Loss of fish and wildlife habitat

This designation of the Ashtabula River and Harbor a Great Lakes environmental Area of Concern helped to spur on the work of the local Ashtabula Remedial Action Plan Council (RAP). Under the threat of Superfund the Ashtabula River Partnership (ARP) was formed to focus on and find a better way to dredge the contaminated sediments from the Ashtabula River and Harbor. After many years of work this environmental dredging is almost complete. When it is finished it will provide increased commercial and recreational access to the Ashtabula River. However, the environmental restoration and elimination of the beneficial use impairments remains to be accomplished. Natural resource restoration and protection is needed in order to de-list the Ashtabula River from the IJC list of Areas of Concern.

Damages to fish and wildlife populations and habitat in the Ashtabula River and Harbor have been documented and three Natural Resource Restoration alternatives have been proposed.

Alternative A (No action) will do nothing to help restore the beneficial uses of the Ashtabula River and will not help us to de-list the river as an Area of Concern. With Alternative A there will be no increase in public access to Ashtabula River resources and no restoration of those resources.

Alternative C (Human Use) will provide for increased public access and increased public education on the natural resources of the Ashtabula River but those resources will not be restored or improved under Alternative C. This alternative will not help us to remove the Area of Concern stigma from the Ashtabula River and Harbor.

Alternative B (Habitat Restoration and Protection) will: 1) enhance and preserve riparian, flood plain and upland habitat; 2) it will enhance, reestablish and preserve wetlands; and, 3) it will improve the aquatic habitat. These actions will help to eliminate the beneficial use impairments on the Ashtabula River and help us to remove the Ashtabula River from the list of Great Lakes Areas of Concern. This restoration and protection of fish and wildlife habitat will also provide for increased access to the natural resources of the Ashtabula River and

Lake Erie. Alternative B is the only alternative that will increase wetland habitat, increase aquatic habitat, increase fish species diversity, increase fish populations, increase wildlife populations, and improve surface water quality.

Alternative B will help to remove the IJC Area of Concern designation and all the negative publicity and adverse media attention that is associated with that designation. Alternative B will also help to increase the quality of life in the community, increase opportunities for wildlife enjoyment and bird watching, improve fishing (by removing the restrictions on fish consumption) and enhance the local economy via increased nature based tourism, improved boating access and improved fishing opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Natural Resource Plan.

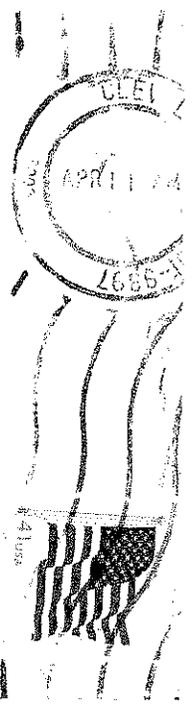
Frank Lichtkoppler

April 22, 2008

# 22

Morris  
2108 Taylor Rd.  
Cockeysville Md 21104

Ohio E.P.A.-N. E. District office  
2110 East Avenue Rowlet  
Twinningburg Md 21107



Attn: Region W ~~21108 Taylor Rd~~ 21108 Taylor Rd  
Cockeysville Md 21104

Ohio EPA, N.E. District Office  
2110 East Aurora Road  
Twinsburg, OH 44087

14 April 08

RECEIVED

APR 15 2008

Attn: Regan Williams:

OHIO EPA NEDO

Dear Mr. Williams,

I am in hopes that the restoration plan for the River + Harbor area will also include the gulf which could be made into an interesting and useable Federal Park.

Our gulf is a God given gift which has been ignored and abused for many years. When I was a kid, the WPA or CCC started to work & improve this area, stairs were built to access the ability to get to the bottom easily; an observation deck; benches, area cleared to picnic. The WW II came along, everyone left and no one had been back since.

I think the Gulf could be a year round recreational center. The River dredged to help fish & fishermen, but people could canoe, or tube along the way. Winter ski, sled, toboggan run; trails for walkers & hikers, ice skaters.

Our town for the most part, was a 2 horse town with the main source of good jobs

Coming from the Railroads and Blocks. When they left and the Chemical Companies came in and made our lake and river toilets. Contaminated the soil and the water. I am under the impression that our County is on the E.P.A.'s Superfund list for contamination. No business will bring good paying jobs to build on contaminated soil. The Gulf maybe the only area not having soil contamination.

What can be done to make our Gulf into a Federal Park? Other states have made parks out of grazing land with a horse trough - we have this marvelous piece of land that could really be made into a tourist attraction. What steps need to be done to make a dream reality?

Hoping for the best, I remain

yours truly,

Mrs Sandra Mosier  
2108 Tryon Road  
Ashtabula OH 44004

**From:** Loretta Panzarella <loretta.panzarella@neomin.org>  
**To:** <regan.williams@epa.state.oh.us>, Loretta Panzarella <loretta.panzarella@neomin.org>  
**Date:** 4/22/2008 12:07:41 PM  
**Subject:** Lakeside High School Meeting/4/22/08 Ashtabula, Ohio

Dear Trustees,

This letter is in regard to the meeting slated for this evening at Lakeside High School in Ashtabula, Ohio

I am unable to attend this meeting however, I would like to add my voice regarding the proposed plan to build a walkway out to the lighthouse.

The city and county would benefit greatly by the implementation of this project. Our lighthouse is a national treasure and its history is also the history of the harbor. By providing a "bridge" to the past, with the instillation of a walkway, we are also promoting a secure path and a strong "light" for the future. Without an appreciation of this river, its history and those who came before, the next generation will not protect or value this area.

Our children need to feel a sense of pride in their history as well as an appreciation for all the beauty that surrounds them. In our "throw away" society we need to work to keep our wonderful old buildings. Please consider this project to be worth your attention and support. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Loretta Panzarella

#24

**From:** michael penna <mlrp75@hotmail.com>  
**To:** Regan Williams <regan.williams@epa.state.oh.us>  
**Date:** 4/21/2008 5:59:06 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Ashtabula Harbor Public Meeting

I have read the draft document and EA for the project and I agree with Alternate B: Natural Resource Based Restoration.

Alternate C is ludicrous and would be a colossal waste of money. Lake Erie would destroy the walk before it was completed. I could just imagine people getting stranded in a storm. Whoever came up with that brainstorm should get a lobotomy.

> Date: Mon, 21 Apr 2008 08:54:34 -0400> From: regan.williams@epa.state.oh.us> To: mlrp75@hotmail.com> Subject: Re: Ashtabula Harbor Public Meeting> > Mr. Penna:> The link should be correct but I have attached the document for you.> > We normally use the KSU Ashtabula campus for these meetings but the facility was completely booked through April with various other events. Lakeside was a last resort.> > Regan> > Sig Williams> Environmental Scientist> Ohio EPA> Div. of Emergency and Remedial Response> 2110 East Aurora Road> Twinsburg, OH 44087> 330-963-1210> 330-487-0769 (fax)> > >>> michael penna <mlrp75@hotmail.com> 4/21/2008 8:36 AM >>>> > I saw the notice for the Ashtabula Project in the Plain Dealer this morning. I am very much thankful for the project. I could not access the project data on the link that was provided in the paper. Could you please send me the correct link?> > You chose to have the meeting at Lakeside High School. Were you aware that this school is not located in the City or even close to the project area? You may want to think about this for future meetings. You may get more participation from City residents.> > Thank you> > Michael Penna> 6332 Edward Ave.> Ashtabula, Ohio 44004>



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## KARL RABENECK

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April 26, 2008

Regan Williams  
Ohio EPA Northeast District Office  
2110 East Aurora Road  
Twinsburg, OH 44087

Dear Mr. Williams

The Restoration of Natural Resources Plan for the Ashtabula River, that has been proposed does not address the lack of public access at the mouth of the Ashtabula River.

With docks and shipping facilities lining the river, any Restoration Plan should deliver more than a single canoe launch up river for the citizens of Ashtabula County.

The Natural Resources Trustees should demand that the offending companies provide funds to fix the walkway to the Ashtabula Lighthouse to give citizens access to the river.

Hundreds of people could use this walkway every day to view the river, the restored wetlands and the harbor.

The walkway could also be used for fishing and as a passage to visit the restored historic Ashtabula Lighthouse.

Please take this community need into consideration!

Karl Rabeneck

**From:** "Kathryn Rapose" <zarap@earthlink.net>  
**To:** <Regan.Williams@epa.state.oh.us>  
**Date:** 4/29/2008 1:28:23 AM  
**Subject:** Natural Resource Restoration Plan Ashtabula River and Harbor

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly urge the natural resource trustees to follow through in carrying out Alternative B, Natural Resource Based Restoration for the Ashtabula River and Harbor. This is the plan that truly addresses the long term needs of Ashtabula and the environment. I have been involved at the local level in trying to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of Walnut Beach and the Ashtabula River. At the county level, I helped to write the Greenspace chapter of the Ashtabula County Land Use Plan.

Those of us active in trying to preserve the natural beauty of our area have long hoped that funds from the Ashtabula River clean up would provide an opportunity to restore habitat and leave a better environment for future generations.

Alternative C has been pushed by the politically connected claiming to enhance the human environment. It does nothing to help the natural environment it claims to want to make accessible to humans. It is more likely to create a maintenance nightmare for future generations.

Please do not turn this opportunity into pork barrel projects. Instead stick with alternative B and restore and rehabilitate Ashtabula's natural treasures.

Thank you,

Ann Rapose  
1235 Walnut Blvd.  
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

--- Katherine Rapose  
--- zarap@earthlink.net  
--- EarthLink: The #1 provider of the Real Internet.

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APR 29 2008

OHIO EPA NEDO

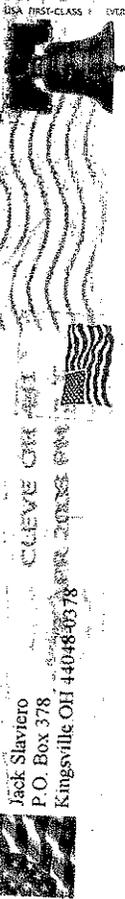
DEAR REGAN WILLIAMS,

HELLO! I'M AMAZE AND WILL BE 68 YRS OLD THIS YEAR. I'M NOT MUCH FOR WRITING BUT I READ THE ARTICLE IN THE STAR BEACON ABOUT THE POSSIBLE THREE CHOICES THAT COULD TAKE PALE FOR THE ASHTABULA RIVER AND HARBOR RESTORATION. IF I WERE A SOME BODY AND HAD A SAY SO, I WOULD BUILD A WALKWAY FROM WALNUT BEACH TO THE LIGHTHOUSE HOW WONDERFUL THAT WOULD BE. I'M BETTING UP THERE IN YEARS AND THAT WOULD BE TERRIFIC EXERCISE WALKING OUT TO THE LIGHTHOUSE, NOT ONLY THE WALK BUT TO OBSERVE THE BEAUTY OF LAKE ERIE WITH THE GULLS PLUS THE OTHER BIRDS AND TO CHAT WITH OTHERS ON THE WALKWAY WOULD BE A REAL TREAT. I ALSO LOVE TO FISH AND TO WALK OUT AWAYS AND CATCH A PERCH DINNER AND I MIGHT ADD IS MY FAVORITE MEAT, LAKE ERIE PERCH, WOULD BE GREAT. THANKS FOR LISTENING. YOU BUILD IT THEY WILL COME. GOD BLESS.

SINCERELY

Jack Slaviero

# 30

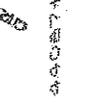


Jack Slaviero  
P.O. Box 378  
Kingsville OH 44048-0378

CLEVELAND OH 44115  
APR 29 2008 PM 4

REGAN WILLIAMS  
OHIO EPA NORTHEAST DISTRICT OFFICE  
2110 E. AURORA ROAD  
TWINSBURG, OHIO 44087

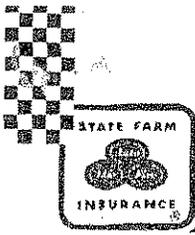
CHAMPION  
SIZE CROSS FRONT COP



Jack R. Slaviero  
PO Box 378  
Kingsville, OH 44048  
1785-211430-1035



#31

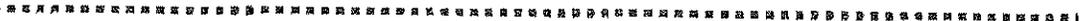


ATTN: *Mr. Williams*

RE: *WALNUT BEACH  
PROJECT*

FAXING: *330-487-0769*

FROM: TOM TIMONERE  
STATE FARM INSURANCE  
309 W PROSPECT RD  
ASHTABULA, OHIO 44004



QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL: 440-992-7400

PLEASE ASK TO SPEAK WITH:

OR FAX QUESTIONS TO: 440-992-5816

\*\*\*\*\*

**Tom Timonere**

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**To:** [www.regan.williams.epa.state.oh.us](http://www.regan.williams.epa.state.oh.us)  
**Subject:** Walnut Beach project

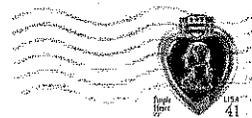
Sir: as a lifelong resident of Ashtabula, and a non-practicing attorney, I recommend you seriously consider the implications of any plan that denies the human access to the waterfront and break wall along the Walnut Beach area. Similar projects have been done elsewhere, as Mr. Catagalo advised, and the proper protection of our environment should never ignore the essential human needs of our its inhabitants. A balance can be provided, with proper planning and discipline. The beauty and desirability of our waterfront and its lighthouse has been too long ignored. Don't let legalistic thinking or misguided policymaking stand in the way of true progress enhancing the interests of all our citizens. Thank you for listening to those representatives at the recent meeting. Now let the taxpayers of Ashtabula benefit from their tax dollars and dreams of a better life. Tom Timonere

9-25-07

#32

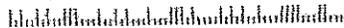
Thomas A. Tobias  
1226 Walnut Blvd.  
Ashtabula, OH 44004-3254

CLEVELAND OH 44111  
18 APR 2008 09 37



Mr. Regan Williams  
site coordinator, Ohio EPA, NEDO  
2110 East Aurora Road.  
Twinsburg,  
Ohio  
44087.

44027+1924



RECEIVED

APR 29 2008

Dear Mr. Williams: OHIO EPA NEDO

I am writing to you concerning the  
Natural Resource Restoration Plan of the  
Aoketake Junior site. I believe that  
Alternative B is the best plan of action.  
Rehabilitation of the habitat will be the  
best way, not both meadow and the  
meadow. It will enhance the  
natural beauty of the land and  
protect all of the many species of  
wildlife that inhabit the land.  
If you visit the site, you will  
find hundreds of eggs and the parent  
birds are. It really needs to be  
restored to its natural beauty for  
the young generation now as well as  
future generations to come.  
Thank you for your kind attention  
to this serious matter.

Sincerely,  
Thomas A. Tobias

#33

Earl B. Tucker  
1317 Walnut Blvd.  
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004  
(440) 964-5085  
butterfield8@roadrunner.com

RECEIVED  
APR 29 2008  
OHIO EPA NEDO

Regan Williams  
Ohio EPA NEO District Office  
2110 East Aurora Rd.  
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087  
(330) 487-0769

Mr. Williams,

After attending the OEPA meeting at Lakeside High School the other night I wanted to have my thoughts entered into the record concerning the proposed settlement and restoration work for the Ashtabula River Project.

I found the trustee's proposals most unsatisfactory and feel that not enough weight has been given to the educational and economic needs of our community in balance to the ecological concerns. In fact, I feel as though the trustees have already made up their minds on this issue and this meeting was nothing more than a pro-forma action to show that they were going through the motions.

I wholeheartedly agree that the primary portion of the proposed settlement should go to the restoration of the waterway; uplands land issues and wildlife restoration. I do however feel that more consideration should be given to compensation for the people of Ohio for the loss of use of the Ashtabula River, it's byproducts and it's ecosystem. This is especially true when you consider the limited number of things that can be done to restore the damaged portion of the Ashtabula River and/or its damaged watershed.

There are several issues and comments that were made during this meeting that I would like to address.

My first issue is the lack of direction and public input into any proposed settlement. The trustees gave me the impression that they are seeking some form of barter style settlement with the companies involved, as opposed to a financial settlement. I would venture that the average citizen is not equipped to conceptualize the reasoning behind seeking such a style of settlement, and while this may seem attractive to your group, it leaves a very bad taste in the mouths of many people. These companies essentially broke the law by polluting Field's Brook, the Ashtabula River Watershed, the Ashtabula River itself and Lake Erie. The economic, health and ecological issues that these actions may have caused are very large and deserving of a great deal of restitution. When this issue is considered you are not just talking about the City of Ashtabula, the Ashtabula River and it's watershed alone. We are also speaking of Lake Erie and the residents of the adjoining states that take their water from the lake and partake of its bounties. I know that the companies involved are going to cry, "Poor us! We cannot afford to do all of this." To that I say, "Too Bad! You created the damage, with reckless disregard to the potential consequences, knowing full well that these wastes were harmful. Now it is time to repair and compensate those who have been damaged by these actions." The words of the Trustees appear to many of us as thought the State is going to roll over and settle for just a "slap on the wrist" type of settlement. This cannot be allowed! I would suggest that additional public input should be considered into the settlement process as well as seeking additional public opinion as to what projects should be considered as the result of seeking such a settlement style.

Another issue I have involves the statement made concerning the rehabilitation and restoration of the Field's Brook area. When asked if restoring this area was going to be part of the proposed projects list, the trustees commented that this was not being considered due to the possibility of further contamination of the downstream areas. If the site has been cleaned up why is there a concern over this? If the clean up has been accomplished, it seems to me that it should already be safe for use or have we once again been misled by the state? If I understand your mandate correctly, the restoration of this area as a part of the watershed and uplands ecosystem would be essential to the proposed settlement and the eventual restoration of the river itself. I think that this area needs further consideration.

The trustees also mentioned the purchase of a portion of the property owned by Mr. Brockway, just to the south of 24<sup>th</sup> St. The idea was to restore that

land into a wetlands area and provide a nature walkway, canoe access/launch area, possible restroom facilities, additional fishing access and the re-vamping of the existing parking area. I view this as an acceptable project in that it meets the mandates of the trustees and will enhance the areas involved, ecologically and at the same time provide for expanded public use an access of the Ashtabula River. The property has been placed under the stewardship of the Ashtabula Township Parks. I would propose that this purchase should be tied into the existing Indian Trails Metro Parks system. In addition to this I would suggest that it, in turn, be connected to the Greenway Trail system which would enhance public access and usage as well as providing continuity to the existing parks infrastructure. A small educational center or kiosk might also be apropos to this project to enhance educational opportunities and assist the public in educating themselves about the restoration process. Tourism and public use would also benefit greatly from this.

Also mentioned were possible projects to enhance the fish habitat of the river along the damaged riverfront as well as fishing access. I see this as a worthy proposal but very tenuous in its ability to be completed without great complications. The predominate portion of the riverbanks along both sides of the Ashtabula River, from 24<sup>th</sup> St and on downstream are privately owned and already occupied by marinas, the railroads, and other industrial concerns. I hardly think that these entities are going to allow you to impeded the waterways with new fish habitat and allow the public to use their properties to have additional access to the river and it's resources. Yes, some things can be done to restore things, but the predominate portion of the damages to the river cannot be restored in these areas due to current usage and industrialization. Somewhere we also have to consider allowing Mother Nature to heal herself as we have with the long-term restoration of the Great Lakes fisheries and ecosystem. We can help it along but to much interference on our part will lead to another form of damage that may well be just as bad as the damage we are now trying to repair.

The same can be said for the immediate area of the Lake Erie shoreline to the East and West of the river mouth. With the exception of Lakeshore Park and Walnut Beach, private entities or industrial concerns own almost all of the shoreline that could be added to this restoration project.

I would propose that another viable project for the trustees to work on might be the acquisition of the dunes lands and wetlands in and around Walnut

Beach. As there are very few such sites left along Lake Erie, in Ohio, this area would be an ideal plot for restoration and rehabilitation. There is already a small nature trail through the marsh areas and the dunes are in desperate need of restoration. The building of a nature center, acquisition and restoration of the ecological assets and public access facilities would also enhance public use, tourism and help educate the public about the ecosystem and the restoration process. If this project were joined to the Indian Trails and Greenway Trail systems it could become the glowing terminus of a countywide nature and educational tool that would enhance tourism, public access to natural areas and educate them on restoration activities throughout the area. To my way of thinking this suggestion attempts to meet both the ecological needs of your mandate while at the same time doing something that is much needed for this community.

As a member of the Ashtabula Lighthouse Restoration and Preservation Society, the break wall walkway is a project that is dear to my heart. Unfortunately, as I understand your mandate this project does not totally fit into the guidelines that you have to consider. However, I do feel that your consideration of my proposal listed above would greatly aid in the acquisition of the additional funding that this project would need. This walkway would greatly enhance public access to the Lake, the Ashtabula River and its resources as well as grant easy access to the Ashtabula Lighthouse for all people.

Yet another subject that was introduced was the Fox River Settlement in the Green Bay, Wisconsin area. I do realize that the area involved and the settlement are not on a par with the Ashtabula River Project but this particular case does present an excellent example of how many projects can be tailored to meet the needs of the ecosystem and at the same time expand public use and access, provide for expanded tourism which will enhance the communities involved, economically and educationally. I fail to see why the Trustees of this project cannot use this as an example of what can be done when people have the vision to merge the needs of nature and the community together for the betterment of all.

Attached to this letter are several drawings and maps that I feel represent the points that I have made above.

Map #1= this map shows a general overview of the area involved. The areas in light green indicate already existing parks within the damaged areas. Dark

green indicates areas that I feel should be developed under the auspices of the trustees and the subsequent settlement now under negotiation. The purple areas indicate river and lakeside shorelines that are already in use or privately held and thereby cannot be considered for much restoration. The dark blue areas indicate the Field's Brook Uplands area, which should also receive the attention of the trustees. The light gray area represents the proposed Break wall walkway to the Ashtabula Lighthouse.

Map #2= this map indicates the already purchased property south of 24<sup>th</sup> St. In addition to the already mentioned plans of the trustees (canoe access, walkway, fishing access and picnic area) I would add restrooms and a small interpretative center or informational kiosk about the restoration and clean-up projects as well as ecological information. This should also be attached, (through hiking and/or paved trails to the Indian Trails and Greenway Trail.

Map #3= this map indicates my proposals for the development of a Walnut Beach Conservation Area which would include the previously proposed Interpretative Nature and Learning Center, a re-vamped nature trail/walkway, revitalized dunes habitat, restrooms, parking and picnic facilities and a small boat and canoe access point for that area.

Drawing #1= gives an example of the proposed Break Wall Walkway project. This could easily be accessed through the proposed conservation area.

Drawing #2= this shows a representation of the proposed Interpretative Nature and Learning Center That I would like to see included into the Walnut Beach Conservation Area.

In summation I would ask that the trustees present a more balanced set of proposed projects that more effectively blend the needs of this area's ecology, economy, and educational needs. We would also ask that the public be more included in what sort of settlement is going to be agreed upon. We are not asking you to ignore the ecological mandate that you have been working from, but the trustees need to be more aware of the needs of the community that they are trying to help. The river was not the only resource damaged through this ecological disaster. Our public use of this resource and our economy and in some cases our health, was damaged also and they deserve just compensation, as does the river itself. The Trustees need to have a greater vision for this project, rather than the narrow one which they have

presented tonight. Something that considers the, "needs of the many, and not just the fish (the few)."

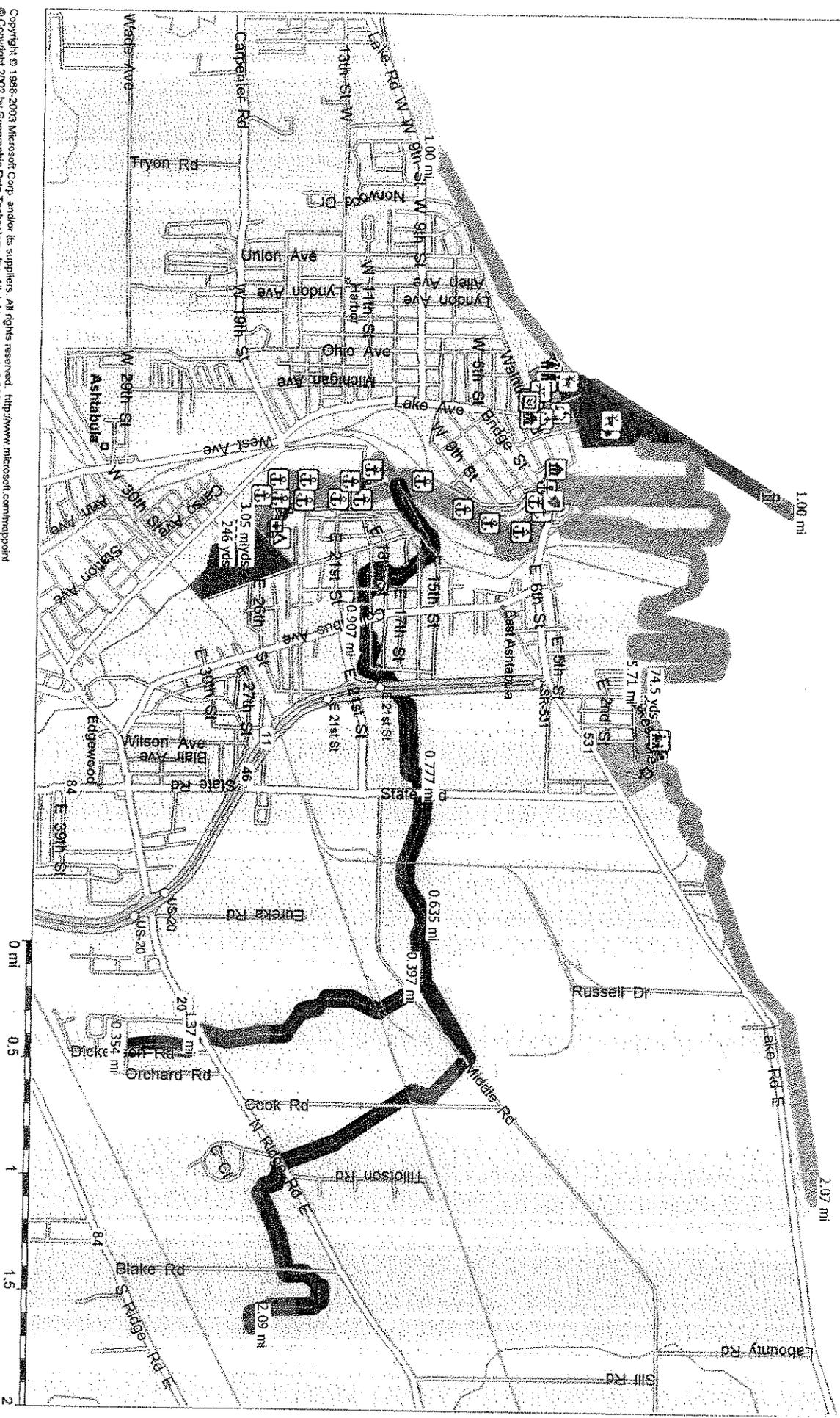
Thank You,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Earl B. Tucker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Earl B. Tucker

# East Ashtabula, Ohio, United States

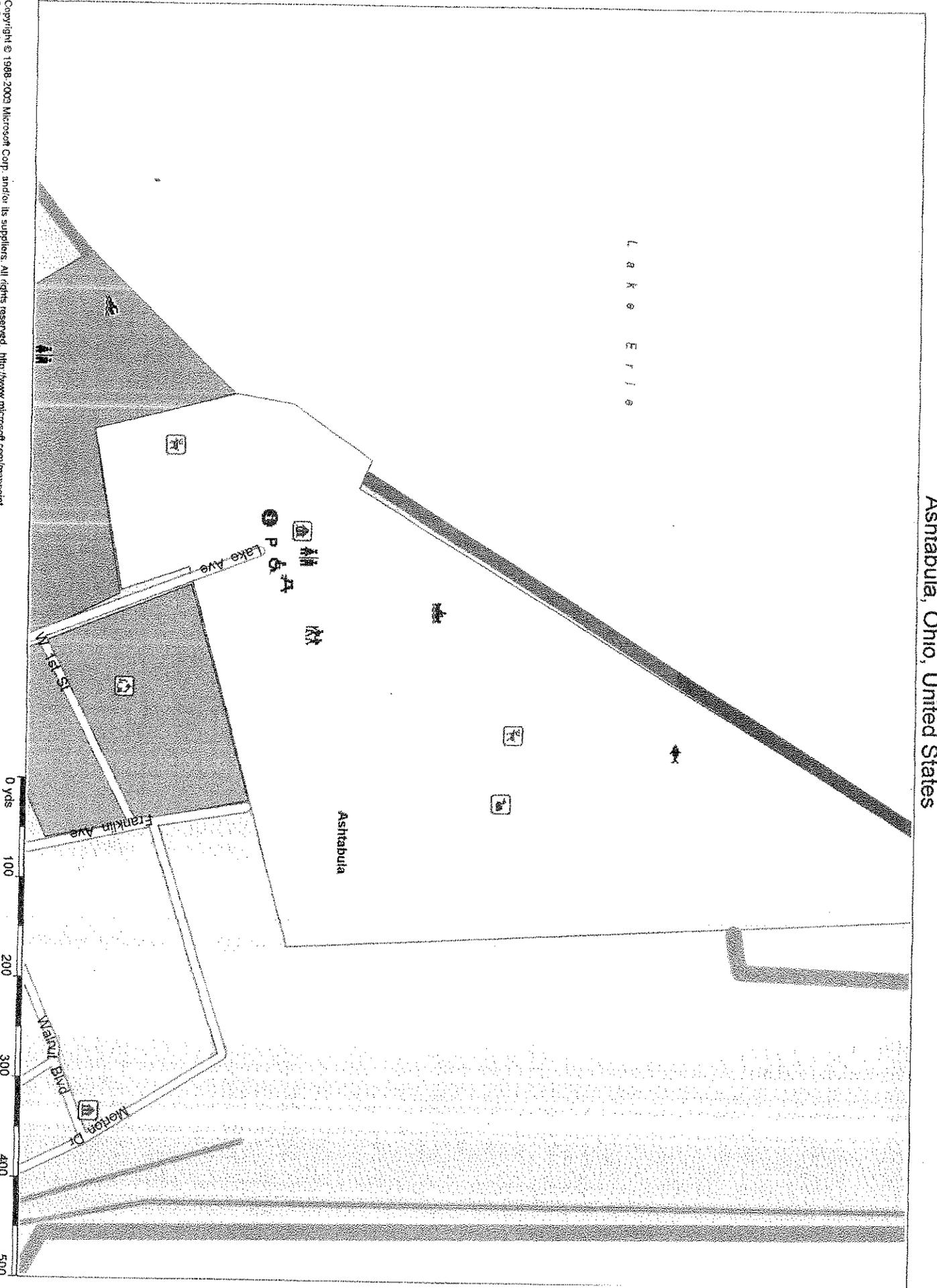
L a k e E r i e



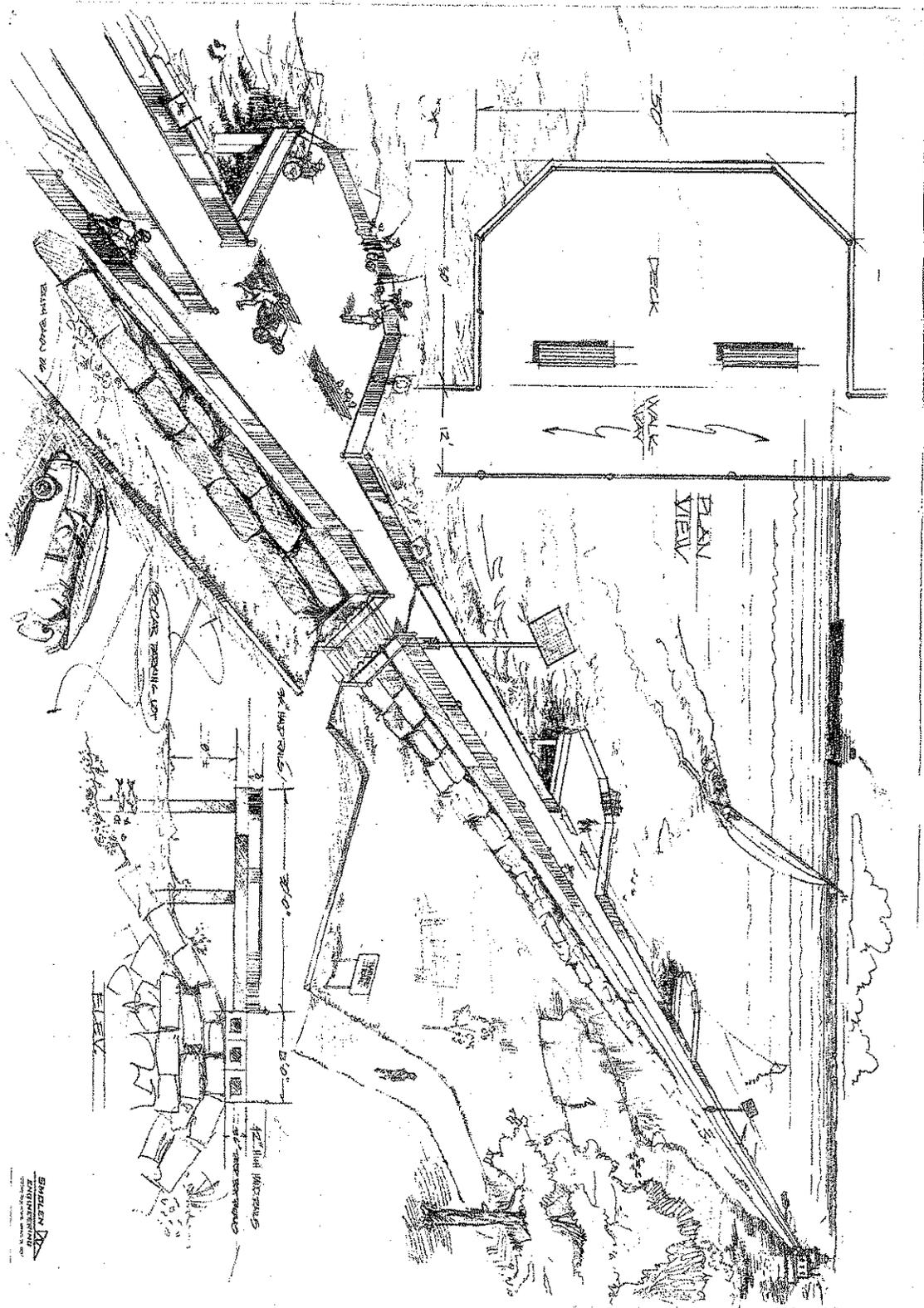
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Ashtabula, Ohio, United States

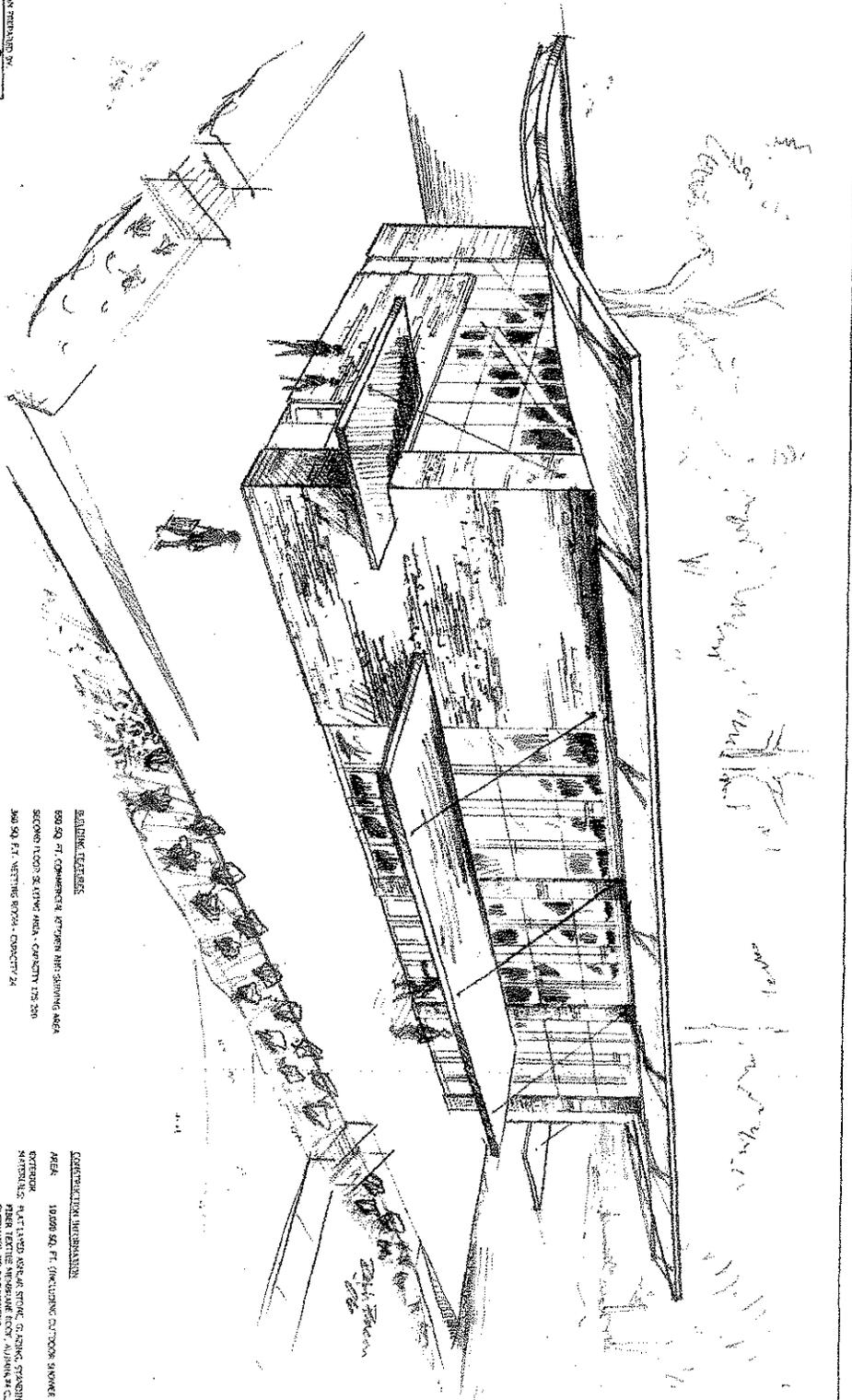


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PROPOSED  
 WALNUT BEACH INTERPRETATIVE NATURE & LEARNING CENTER  
 ASHTABULA, OHIO



DESIGNED BY  
**SMILEN ENGINEERING**  
 10000 W. 12TH AVE., SUITE 100  
 WESTMINSTER, CO 80040

**BUILDING FEATURES**

- 800 SQ. FT. COMMERCIAL KITCHEN AND SERVING AREA
- SECOND FLOOR EXHIBIT HALL - CAPACITY 125,000
- 300 SQ. FT. NETTING ROOM - CAPACITY 250
- 5,000 SQ. FT. DECK
- 8 - RESTROOM FACILITIES (5 M.C. ACCESSIBLE)
- 2 - WAREHOUSE ACCESSIBLE OUTDOOR SHOWERS

**CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION**

- AREA - 10,000 SQ. FT. (INCLUDING OUTDOOR SHOWER AREA)
- EXTERIOR MATERIALS - FLAT TILED ROOF, STONE, GLAZING, STANDING RIBBED TERRAZZO, METAL ROOF, ALUMINUM CLADDING
- OVERHEAD, NO SOFT DECKING
- LOCATION: UP TO 200 FEET NORTH OF EXISTING CONCRESSION STRUCTURE

# 'WE NEED A BREAK'

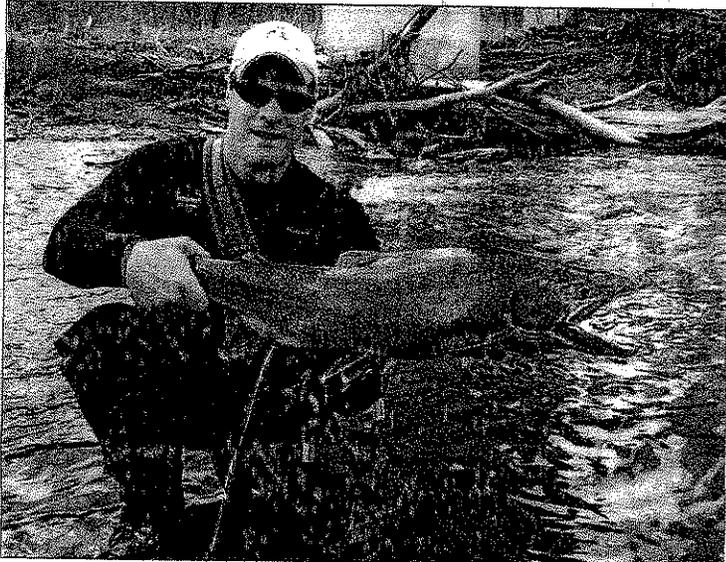


PHOTO BY FLICK FORD

**FISHING GUIDE** John Clouser poses with a 22-inch, 13-pound steelhead trout he recently caught when flyfishing in the Ashtabula River.

## *I want to see more of this in all streams in larger numbers more often for everyone.* **Proponents of walkway on the breakwater present case to trustees** *Stock, Stock & Stock, some more, on all fish.*

By **CARL E. FEATHER**  
Lifestyle Editor

Fish and habitat, not people, are emerging as the favored beneficiaries of a plan to restore natural resources on the Ashtabula River.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service unveiled three plans during a community meeting at Lakeside High Tuesday evening. One plan suggests doing nothing, a second favors habitat restoration, and a third would build a walkway on the breakwater from Walnut Beach to the lighthouse.

Restoration of the Ashtabula River and harbor is part of the effort to rid the lower river of contamination resulting from decades of industrial pollution. Remedial dredging of the river should be completed this summer. As part of the negotiated settlement with the potentially responsible

See CASE, Page A6

### **OHIO EPA SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT**

Written comments concerning the draft restoration plan for the Ashtabula River and Harbor will be accepted by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency through Wednesday. To submit a comment, write to:

Regan Williams,  
Ohio EPA Northeast District Office  
2110 E. Aurora Road  
Twinsburg, OH 44087

Fax comments to Williams' attention, to (330) 487-0769 or send e-mail to [regan.williams@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:regan.williams@epa.state.oh.us).

A copy of the draft plan is available at [www.tws.gov/midwest/AshtabulaNRDA](http://www.tws.gov/midwest/AshtabulaNRDA).

# Case

From Page A1

parties (PRPs), those parties will implement projects that restore, replace, rehabilitate and/or acquire the equivalent of the natural resources injured at the site and/or the services those resources provide.

Trustees are appointed and authorized to act on the public's behalf in assessing the injuries, negotiating with the PRPs and recovering damages. They are the OEPA, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Throughout the evening, representatives of the trustees stressed that no agreement has been reached and a "pot of money" filled by the PRPs does not exist.

"We don't know what is going to transpire in negotiations at this point. We don't have a final settlement," said Kelly Kabayza of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Trustees were straightforward in their preference for Alternative B, which emphasizes projects that restore natural resources in the river's watershed while providing enhanced ecosystems and public use. The broad range of projects could include:

■ Acquisition protection of natural areas through purchases;

■ Invasive species removal; planting of native species;

■ Restoration of Ashtabula Township Parks Commission property near the East 24th Street bridge (property acquired with Fields Brook settlement funds); and

■ Fisheries enhancement projects.

The other options are to do nothing and Alternative C, which emphasizes human-use-related services. This project calls for construction of a walkway to the lighthouse, restrooms and transient boat docks. The walkway would provide access to active recreation, including fishing. Further, construction of an interpretive educational center at Walnut Beach would enhance public education through displays on Lake Erie and other topics.

That alternative does not provide a good fit with the legal language that constrains the trustees' decision. The language specifies that the settlement may require implementation of projects to restore, replace, rehabilitate and/or acquire the equivalent of the resources injured and/or the services those resources provide.

"When it comes to projects — what we can really do — we have to evaluate it based on that language ...," said Regan "Sig" Williams with OEPA's Northeast District Office.

Williams presented a chart comparing the three plans and how they line up with the actions specified by law. The natural-resources-based restora-

tion plan lined up on all counts, while the human-use plan lined up completely on only one category.

However, proponents of the Walnut Beach plan latched onto the "lost services" language and emphasized the human impact inflicted upon city residents as a result of the polluted river and harbor. They urged the trustees to place a greater weight on that impact in devising their charts.

"We suffered a lot of serious health problems here," said Phillip Schmidt of Geneva. "We've had big losses."

The proponents suggest that building a walkway would be a way to compensate for not only past losses but also salvage an economy that has been suffering ever since industries made their exit.

"The jobs have left, and we have nothing left to do," said Joe Santiana, president of the Ashtabula Lighthouse Restoration and Preservation Society. "The only thing we can rely on is to boost our tourism."

Robert Frisbie, president of the Ashtabula Marine Museum, suggested that an educational center at Walnut Beach could help current and future generations learn about the history of habitat destruction on the river and, thereby, create a groundwork for protection through awareness.

"I still believe the human portion of it is being ignored," Frisbie said.

Ashtabula City Manager Tony Cantagallo pointed out that a restoration plan

in Green Bay, Wis., included construction of a five-mile trail and multi-purpose building. Kabayza countered by pointing out that the settlement was much larger than Ashtabula's will be and the human-use components were a small percentage of the overall plan. Alternative C would require much of the money be used for human-use projects unless the funding were used to leverage grants.

Trustees note that habitat improvements under Alternative B would help boost tourism by providing fish for anglers and increased public-access points upstream. These natural areas can be used for educational programs, as well. The West 24th Street property would receive a boardwalk, canoe launch and gravel parking area under the plan.

Trustees will continue to receive comments from the public through Wednesday. Those comments will be included in a Final Restoration Plan, which should be released after June 30. Implementation of the plan could begin by late summer or early fall of this year.

Kevin Grippi, a proponent of Alternative C, thanked the trustees for their hard work but also urged them to develop a plan that would strike a better balance.

"Go back and sharpen your pencils, find more human-use projects," he said. "Right now, we need a break."

April 2008

Regan Williams, Ohio EPA Northeast District Office

The Ashtabula Township Park Commission (ATPC) is stewards of Lakeshore Park and Indian Trails in Ashtabula, Ohio. The first lands purchased by the ATPC were along the Ashtabula River in 1908 and more lands were purchased and donated through the years. The NRD Trustees are familiar with the ATPC since working together to acquire the CDM property with funds from the Fields Brook NRD settlement fund.

The ATPC offers and welcomes the opportunity to assist in the Natural Resource Restoration Plan for the Ashtabula River. Indian Trails Park with 405 acres of public land, offers many ways in which to meet the goals set forth in the Restoration Plan along with NRDA regulations.

As Indian Trails is the largest public holding in the Ashtabula River Watershed it seems important to use some of the funds to enhance, restore and replace natural resources in the park that have been damaged. The CDM property lies within the city limits and ward 2. It is easily accessible and offers many unique opportunities described in the restoration plan (3.21.3). With its location, it makes a great place to fish the Ashtabula River. Many fish enhancement projects could be accomplished at the CDM property and other areas of Indian Trails. Fishing in Indian Trails has been and is increasing in popularity.

There may be parcels of land adjacent or near Indian Trails that could be acquired and added to the park holdings that meet the goals defined in 3.21.1. By adding these lands to the park would guarantee that they are preserved, protected and in public hands for perpetuity. The ATPC could possibly hold titles to other parcels not necessarily adjacent to Indian Trails.

Indian Trails offers many park uses including active and passive uses. Passive uses include nature photography, bird watching, botany and environmental education. The park, if funds were available could enhance this valuable resource for local residents and visitors to enjoy. Some of the goals described in the restoration plan are also listed in the ATPC's master plan.

As Indian Trails is a public park, if monies were spent in the park it would assure that the success of the projects could be monitored and evaluated with ease. Projects within Indian Trails would definitely improve outdoor recreational opportunities and enhance public awareness all year long for many who live in and visit Ashtabula. Some of the projects that are of interest would not and could not be implemented without outside funding sources such as funds from the NRD settlement.

As stated, the Park Commission is available and ready to work with the NRD Trustees to implement any projects that may be funded. For further information about the ATPC or to view the Indian Trails master plan, please visit the park website at [www.lakeshoreparkashtabula.org](http://www.lakeshoreparkashtabula.org) or contact Park Commission chairman, Mike Wayman at 440-969-3188.

#36

Regan Williams  
Ohio EPA Northeast District Office  
2110 East Aurora Road  
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

April 23, 2008

Dear Sir:

I would like to first thank you for coming to Ashlandville High School and making a presentation and answering questions Tuesday night. I am writing this letter to appeal to you and the other trustees to consider a fourth alternative. Alternative B was heavily weighted (approx. 80%) toward restoration and repair of the ecosystem defined as the area surrounding the approximate 1 mile section of the river up to Flocks Brook with a small inclusion for improvements for public use. Alternative C is a polar opposite of Alternative B where it is heavily weighted toward Human Use with a small inclusion for restoration and repair to the defined ecosystem. I would like to propose a fourth alternative where 50% would be used to restore and repair the defined ecosystem and 50% would be used for Human Use. I believe that the number one priority is to repair the damage to the ecosystem. I also believe that humans are part of the defined ecosystem that needs to be restored and repaired. I would like to see the money used to complete as much as the proposals in Alternative B while also include the walkway to the lighthouse along with any other items proposed in Alternative C that available monies would include. A compromise might be to put the Interpretive Educational Center in a section of the lighthouse. This would give more people a chance to visit the lighthouse while learning. At the same time it may also make the lighthouse accessible to school children. By not constructing a building at Walnut branch for the center this could free up money to do more ecosystem repairs. There would be more opportunities for compromise in both Alternatives that would develop the fourth alternative I wish to see considered. An alternative that is evenly weighted for the entire ecosystem (including humans) may also provide some checks and balances. The citizens of Ashlandville County will have some deliverables they can quantify and interact with that will also help them to become aware of the ecosystem and to help them realize that humans are a part of this system and to be more conscious of the part they play in it and maybe they should pay more attention to what is going on by reporting any potential damage before it gets out of hand. Thanks for taking the time to review my comments. Good luck with this project.

Sincerely,



Paul E. Wright Jr.

94 SOUTH CROWELL AVE • GENEVA, OHIO • 44041  
PHONE: 440-466-7218

