

COMMITTEE REPORT

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FINDLAY, OHIO

The **APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE** to whom was referred a request to discuss appropriating funds for sediment removal at the dam at Riverside Park.

We recommend \$12,000 toward the Project

~~A/E~~ *R. Ronald Macken*

Aye Nay

Tom Klein
Tom Klein

Aye Nay

Robert J. Nichols
Robert Nichols

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Aye Nay

Grant Russel
Grant Russel

DATE: June 9, 2015

Aye Nay

Anne Spence
Anne Spence

LEGISLATION X

Aye Nay

Randy VanDyne
Randy VanDyne



Blanchard River Watershed Partnership
P.O. Box 1237
Findlay, OH. 45839-1237
brwp1237@gmail.com

Tim Brugeman, President
419.422.5724

Phil Martin, Coordinator
419.422.6487

June 9, 2015

Dear City of Findlay Council,

The Blanchard River Watershed Partnership (BRWP) applied for a \$15,000 grant from Freshwater Futures to do the Assessment Study this past March. The BRWP didn't receive the grant. The only other source of grant money doesn't offer their grant until this September. This grant would not allow the Assessment Study to be completed during this summer and fall. This would prevent the pursuing of grant money later in 2015. The projected cost for the removal is between 1.0 - 1.2 million dollars.

There is approximately 100,000 yd³ of sediment and debris behind the dam covering nearly 12 acres of surface area. The sediment has collected to the point that the aquatic habitat has been greatly impaired. In addition, the recreational use of the area for fishing and canoeing has been greatly hindered. The back-up source for the City of Findlay drinking water is located in this area and has been compromised. The source of the sediment has been run-off over the years from mainly agricultural land located upstream. As you may be aware, a second sediment island started to appear in the summer of 2014.

The coordinator has mentioned the project to the Hancock County Commissioners. The BRWP is hoping that Commissioners will be willing to give \$5,000 towards the Assessment Study. The remaining \$10,000 would be supplied by the City of Findlay.

Sincerely yours,

Tim Brugeman,

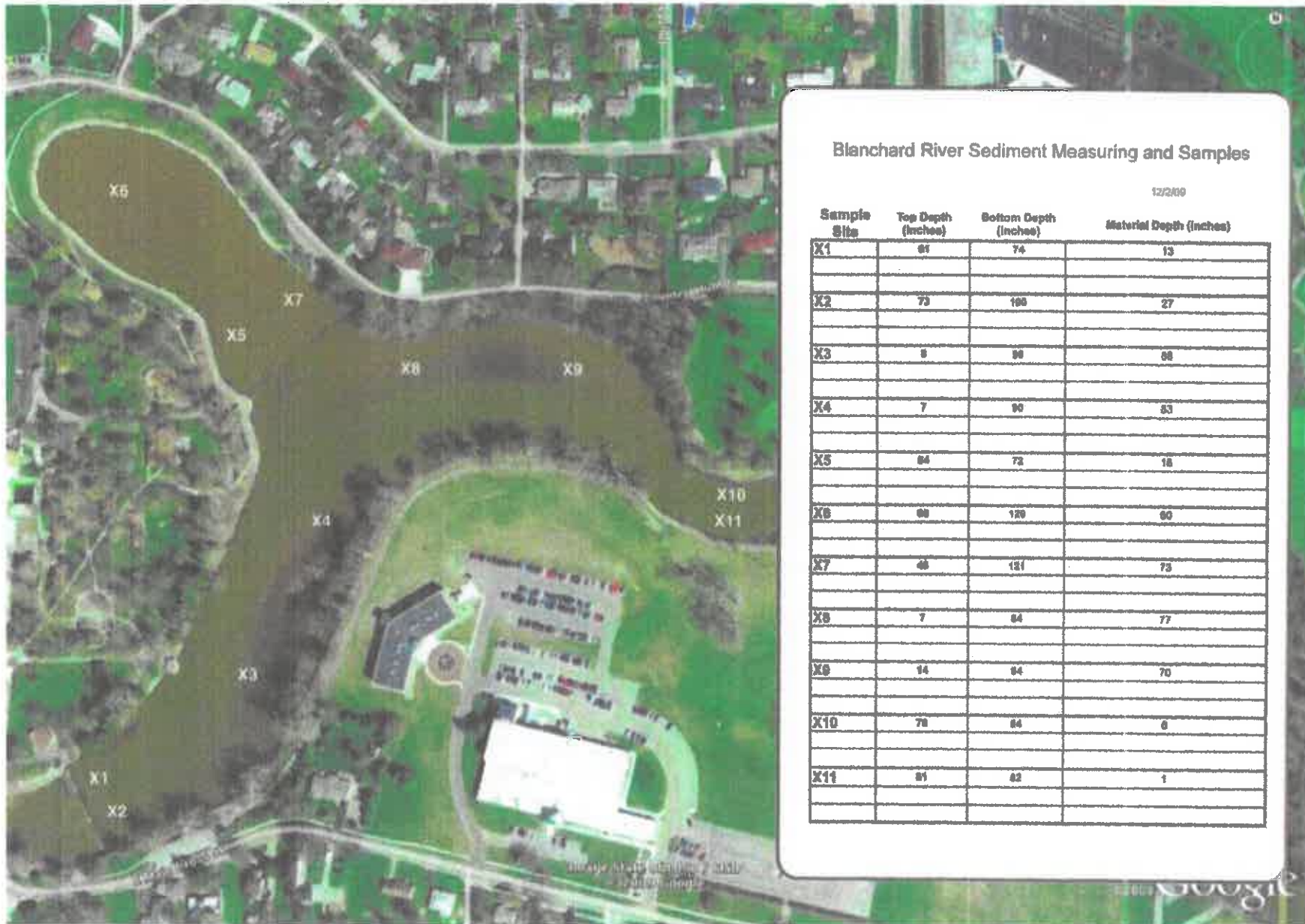
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tim Brugeman'.

President, BRWP

Phil Martin,

Watershed Coordinator

Figure 7.3 - Problem Area 3 Riverside Dam and area behind



Fact Sheet for Riverside Dam

Old Reservoir Area:

- covers 4.05 acres or 176,607 ft² (Hancock Auditor)
- average depth of organic matter (based on Streamside Systems sampling) 4-5 feet
- estimated cubic yards of organics (176,607 ft² X 4.5 ft. (depth) = 794,732 ft³ / 27 ft³/yd³ = 29,435 yd³ of organics.

Area Behind Dam (except for Old Reservoir)

- covers 11.08 acres or 482,589 ft² (Hancock Auditor)
- average depth of bedload sediment (based on Streamside Systems sampling) 4-5 feet
- estimated cubic yards of bedload (482,589 ft² X 4.5 ft. (depth) = 2,171,651 ft³ / 27 ft³/yd³ = 80,432 yd³ of bedload sediment.

Figure 7.4 Riverside Dam area



Old Reservoir Area



Main Channel behind Riverside Dam (except old reservoir)

Office of the Mayor

Lydia L. Mihalik

318 Dorney Plaza, Room 310

Findlay, OH 45840

Telephone: 419-424-7137 • Fax: 419-424-7245

www.findlayohio.com

February 27, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to support the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership (BRWP) and its coordinator, Phil Martin. Mr. Martin is working on a grant for a project on how to best remove sediment that has accumulated behind our local Riverside Dam.

The sediment has been a source of contention for some time, and I am excited about the opportunity to investigate the best way to remove it.

The City of Findlay's primary source of water is obtained by two large above ground reservoirs located 4 1/2 miles southeast of town. The secondary source for water is located at Riverside Park where a valve chamber is located behind the dam which would then allow water to enter into the Water Treatment Plant, if necessary.

It is unknown how much water this secondary source could supply to the Water Treatment Plant in its current state. Any type of sediment removal could only increase the capacity that would be required. This would be a benefit to the citizens of Findlay should there be an event that this source would be needed.

This secondary source has never been used over the past thirty years at least. However, it is vital to the City of Findlay that this secondary source of water be operational to its fullest capacity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lydia L. Mihalik
Mayor



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

RAJIV R. KASCH, GOVERNOR

JAMES ZEHRINGER, DIRECTOR

*Division of Wildlife
Scott Zody, Chief
952 Lima Avenue
Findlay, OH 45840*

Freshwater Futures
P.O. Box 2479
Petoskey, MI 49770

10 February 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to provide support for the Blanchard River Watershed Partnerships' grant application to study the sediment removal behind the Riverside Dam in Findlay Ohio. The extensive sedimentation upstream of this dam has rendered approximately 10 acres of stream habitat useless for native fish populations, and also significantly reduces the water quality in this stream section. This assessment study will be needed to determine how best to remove the approximately 110,000 yd³ of sediment to help restore the aquatic habitat in this stream reach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Wilkerson".

Michael Wilkerson
Fish Biologist Supervisor
ODNR-Division of Wildlife
952-A Lima Ave.
Findlay, OH 45840
419.429.8375

WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

110 N. BLANCHARD STREET FINDLAY, OHIO 45840-5806
TELEPHONE (419) 424-7193
FAX (419) 424-7892

JEFF NEWCOMER
SUPERINTENDENT
e-mail: jnewcomer@findlayohio.com

BRETT YOUNG
SUPERVISOR
e-mail: bdyoung@findlayohio.com

February 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in support of the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership (BRWP) and its coordinator, Phil Martin. Mr. Martin is working on the grant for an assessment on how to best remove sediment that has accumulated behind the Riverside Dam.

The City of Findlay's primary source of water is obtained by two large above ground reservoirs located 4 ½ miles Southeast of town. The secondary source for water is located at Riverside Park where a valve chamber is located behind the dam which would then allow water to enter into the Water Treatment Plant if necessary.

It is an unknown how much water this secondary source could supply to the Water Treatment Plant in its current state. Any type of sediment removal could only increase the capacity that would be required. This would be a benefit to the citizens of Findlay should there be an event that this source would be needed.

This secondary source has never been used in my thirty plus years of experience with the plant. However, it is vital to the City of Findlay that this secondary source of water be operational to its fullest capacity.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,



Jeff Newcomer
Superintendent
City of Findlay
Water Treatment Plant
110 N. Blanchard St.
Findlay, OH 45840



Hancock Park District

1424 East Main Cross Street • Findlay, OH 45840-7006
419-425-PARK (7275) • 419-423-5811 Fax

Email: hpdparks@hancockparks.com
Web Site: www.hancockparks.com

February 11, 2015

Mr. Phil Martin
Watershed Coordinator
Blanchard River Watershed Partnership, Inc.
P.O. Box 1237
Findlay, Ohio 45840

Dear Mr. Martin:

I understand that the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership is applying for a grant that would enable an assessment on how best to remove sediment from behind the Riverside Dam. I certainly support an assessment of that kind.

On November 12, 2014, the Board of Park Commissioners approved a Strategic and Comprehensive Plan for Programs, Parks, and Recreational Facilities. One of the focus areas is the Blanchard River Greenway, which has four components. One of the components is a Blanchard River Action Plan.

The Blanchard River Action Plan states: *"Promoting an increase in canoe and kayak traffic downstream from Blanchard River Nature Preserve to Blanchard Landing would boost the Blanchard River's reputation as an outdoor recreation resource and magnet for nature lovers and outdoor recreation enthusiasts, thus drawing visitation locally and from throughout the region."* Recommendations include designating a section of the Blanchard River as a State Water Trail, improving river access with more functional facilities, and expanding watercraft inventory and float trip opportunities.

It is apparent to me that sedimentation has occurred over several years. I would think that removing it would improve boating opportunities – not just in terms of the Zonta Landing Boat Rental that operates in the area, but also the many float trips that use that section of the river. After having spent time on the river in 2014 in an effort to complete an assessment for the Water Trail Application and to plan for river recreation in 2015 and beyond, the level of sedimentation does hinder the navigability of watercraft. I can only imagine that it will get worse over time.

I am interested in learning what you find out about the feasibility of such an endeavor. Good luck with the grant application.

Sincerely,

Gary E. Pruitt, CPRP
Director
Hancock Park District

