

December 10, 2001

Ms. Pamela George  
The Cleveland Foundation  
1422 Euclid Ave., Ste. 1400  
Cleveland, OH 44115-2001

RE: Addendum to OEC's Final Report for "Assisting Local Watershed Efforts in Northeast Ohio- Year 2"

Dear Ms. George,

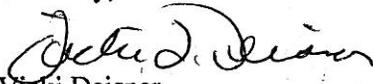
We are pleased to submit this addendum to our October 30, 2001, final report for OEC's "Assisting Local Watershed Efforts in Northeast Ohio- Year 2" project.

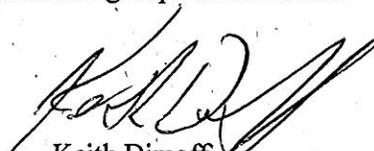
Attached to this letter you will find a copy of the final budget, the Assistance Directory for Watershed/ River Organizations and materials from the "How to Clear Legal Hurdles When Building Your Watershed Group" workshop held on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

OEC deeply appreciates the opportunity to work with the The Cleveland Foundation to strengthen and organize the Northeast Ohio watershed community.

Thank you for your past and future support of our efforts to assist local watershed groups in Northeast Ohio. We look forward to continuing to work with The Cleveland Foundation and Northeast Ohio watershed groups in the future.

Sincerely,

  
Vicki Deisner  
Executive Director

  
Keith Dimoff  
Water Program Manager

1207 GRANDVIEW AVE.  
SUITE 201  
COLUMBUS, OHIO  
43212-3449

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**RE: "Assisting Local Watershed Efforts in Northeast Ohio- Year 2" addendum:**

The final workshop, "How to Clear Legal Hurdles When Building Your Watershed Group," was originally planned for late September, 2001. However, the scheduled speaker had to cancel and the workshop was rescheduled for Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2001, between 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm at Baldwin Wallace College. This final NOW Council workshop of the year presented a legal definition of lobbying, legal organizational structures for non-profits to consider and a regional watershed council discussion session.

1) John Pomeranz of Alliance For Justice provided the 15 participants representing 7 different watershed groups a legal definition of lobbying for non-profit 501c(3) organizations. He also explained aspects of financial accounting and record keeping non-profit organizations need to consider when engaging in activities defined as lobbying. John went on to legally define non-profit organizations such as 501c(3)s, 501c(4)s and Political Action Committees (PACs). Representatives from groups participating in the workshop presented various lobbying scenarios and questions to John that directly related to their organization's experience.

2) Marc Grossman of OEC led participants through a discussion regarding the establishment of a regional watershed council. The exercise focused on goals a Northeast Ohio Watershed Council (NOW Council) could help accomplish. Three topics were discussed during the exercise: identification of physical water quality threats to Northeast Ohio watersheds; barriers that stand in the way of watershed groups accomplishing their goals; and issues a regional watershed council could address.

Also, OEC has completed the first edition of the *Northeast Ohio Assistance Directory for Watershed/River Organizations*, which includes contact information and mission statement descriptions of:

- Federal government, state government and local and regional government organizations pertinent to Northeast Ohio watershed groups,
- Northeast Ohio watershed groups,
- Statewide conservation and environmental non-profit organizations,
- Table of Contents,
- Bibliography of relevant studies and plans available to Northeast Ohio watershed groups.

OEC will continue to update the Assistance Directory to account for staff changes and the emergence of new organizations that work with watershed related issues. First drafts of the assistance directory were distributed last spring to numerous Northeast Ohio Watershed Council participants, whom submitted comments and suggestions. OEC acted on this feedback and has begun distribution of the *Northeast Ohio Assistance Directory for Watershed/River Organizations* to watershed groups that participated in OEC workshops or other NOW Council events. At the final OEC workshop of the year, "How to Clear Legal Hurdles When Building Your Watershed Group," a copy of the revised "Northeast Assistance Directory" was distributed to everyone in attendance. Groups not in attendance will receive the Assistance Directory by mail.

***Attachments:***

- Assistance Directory
- Attendance Sheet
- Evaluation Forms
- Results of NOW Council Regional Watershed Issue Identification Exercise
- “How to Clear Legal Hurdles When Building Your Watershed Group” Folder
- Alliance for Justice Folder





## "How to Clear Legal Hurdles While Growing Your Watershed Group" Evaluation Form

Please return to Marc Grossman or send by mail to Ohio Environmental Council, 1207 Grandview Ave. Ste 201, Columbus, OH 43212-3449.

Circle 1 if the above statement is undeniably the most sincere truth ever encountered and 5 if the above statement is beyond a shadow of a doubt false.

The information presented today was clear and useful.

(1) 2 3 4 5)

I will leave this workshop with a more concise understanding of lobbying laws that apply to 501c(3)s.

(1) 2 3 4 5)

I will leave this workshop with a more concise understanding of the different legal structures available for my organization to choose from.

(1 2 (3) 4 5)

I found the statewide legislative update useful.

(1 2 (3) 4 5)

I found the regional watershed issue identification group exercise beneficial.

(1 (2) 3 4 5)

Additional Comments:

Where do we go from here on HB 320, HB 231,  
and watershed council?

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Additional Comments:

Greater Discussion on regional issues would be useful.

## Results of the NOW Council Regional Watershed Issue Identification Exercise:

In Central Ohio, OEC has worked to foster the formation of a regional watershed council. The Central Ohio Watershed (COW) Council is an unincorporated forum that brings watershed groups together to discuss regional watershed issues, share experiences and perspectives, and mobilize support for local and regional watershed efforts. OEC hopes to foster the same spirit that helped the COW Council form in Northeast Ohio.

This regional watershed identification exercise is part of an OEC effort to collect visions to help foster the formation of the "Northeast Ohio Watershed (NOW) Council." OEC will record ideas presented during this exercise and make them available to everyone who attended as well as other members of the Northeast Ohio watershed community.

*What are some of the physical water quality threats to Northeast Ohio watersheds?*

- Growth-based economy
- Tax abatements for new development
- Petro-chemical/ saline run off
- Hydromodification
- Stormwater runoff
- Hardening of watershed

*What types of organizational barriers stand in the way of your group accomplishing their goals?*

- Too many separate environmental organizations
- Too little cooperation among environmental groups
- Multiple political jurisdictions legislating and regulating interconnected watershed.
- Political boundaries don't match natural boundaries

*How could a regional watershed council service the needs of community based local watershed groups?*

- Mitigation identification/ prioritization
- Technical support
- Launch new groups
- Promote model ordinances
- Promote headwater stream protection
- Public education initiatives
- Coordinate efforts of different watershed, environmental and conservation oriented groups

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*But I am still a rookie.*

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Additional Comments:

*I need to collect a lot more information to help start a watershed district.*

*Pat McCarty*

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Additional Comments:

Is there an email-based forum to get the Regional + Statewide Coordination going?

DBBerenson@earthlink.net

*What types of regional watershed issues could a regional watershed council accomplish?*

- Provide technical support to other groups
- Lobby as a group or as a group of signed on groups
- Serve as a information clearing house
- Oversee the planning and implementation process of TMDLs
- Connect citizen based watershed groups with governmental organizations and elected officials
- Guide state agencies in environmental friendly direction
- Promote comprehensive land use planning
- Push for green space and open space plans to be watershed driven
- Prioritize watershed issues to work on a regional basis
- Larger voice on public policy if organized regionally and large in number
- Promote environmental education initiatives
- Lobbying
- Promote policy that provides watersheds with an elevated legal status.
- Share resources, strategies, information, media contacts and tips
- Accrue regional information on cumulative impacts, mitigation, watershed based community planning initiatives, legislative updates, techniques for addressing specific watershed issues, etc.
- Develop a "speakers bureau" to promote story sharing

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