

Sumner, Wanda

From: Powell, Jane
Sent: Monday, November 29, 2010 9:04 AM
To: LM-Fernald; Bob Kispert; Bob Tabor; Brett Updike; Brian Hiles; CARTER, TONY; Chris Brown; Chris Dole; Chuck Heis; Doug Sarno; Edwa Yocum; Ellen Yordy; Geiser, David; Gene Willeke; Graham. Mitchell; Jacobson, Carl; Jeff Neff; Jim Bierer; Jim Niehaus; John Bradburne; Johnston, Frank; Joyce Bentle; Kathy Binns; Katie Brown; Kleinrath, Art; Legare, Joe; Lisa Crawford; LMS-Fernald; Lou Doll; Lutz, Melissa; Mercer, Denise; Nan Cahall Voinovich; Nancy Poe; Pam Dunn; Pauling, Tom; Plieness, Ray; Powell, Jane; Ray Wurzelbacher; Reising, Johnny; Ric Strobl; rosstwp@aol.com; Stegner, Gary; Steve Brinker; Sullivan, Deborah; Tim Fisher; Tom Schneider; Tom Willsey; Walpole, Sue; Warren Strunk
Subject: Informational Meeting - Natural Resources Damages Settlement
Attachments: Fernald.PDF



Fernald.PDF (26 KB)

All -

The next phase for the Natural Resources Damages Settlement is beginning. Please see the attachment and link for more information on upcoming activities to use the settlement for the benefit of aquifer protection. Please note that there will be a public meeting on Monday, December 6th, at 6:30pm at the Fernald Preserve Visitors Center. There will be a Fernald Community Alliance meeting following the informational meeting.

<http://epa.ohio.gov/SWDO/PaddysRun.aspx>

If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you for your continuing support of the Fernald Preserve -

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Public Interest Center | P.O. Box 1049 | Columbus, OH | 43216-1049

FOR RELEASE: November 23, 2010
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Local Property Owners Could Get Paid for Conservation
Money from Federal Settlement Available to Aid Stewardship

Ohio EPA and Three Valley Conservation Trust have entered a [partnership](#) to help landowners enhance their properties by preserving Paddys Run and the Great Miami Aquifer in the area of the Fernald Preserve. Funding to purchase conservation easements is provided by the \$13 million federal natural resources settlement. Area residents who would like to find out more are invited to attend an informational meeting at 6:30 p.m. on December 6, 2010, in the Fernald Visitors' Center, 7400 Willey Road, Crosby Township, Harrison.

Activities associated with uranium refining left behind contamination on soil and in the water. Billions of dollars have gone into restoring the ground and water at the Fernald Preserve. More will be used to further clean and restore the aquifer. Land conservation in the Paddys Run watershed will enhance the quality of the Great Miami Aquifer in this area.

The State of Ohio and federal government have agreed that once the aquifer has been restored, it should never again be placed at risk. To help ensure that the resource is protected, the federal government has placed \$13 million in trust to be used by the State of Ohio to purchase conservation easements and help with land-based conservation efforts at Fernald and in the nearby Paddys Run watershed. Three Valley Conservation Trust is a non-profit organization that will work to keep land in private hands and preserve traditional land uses while protecting water quality.

More information about the [partnership and conservation](#) effort is available online.

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www.epa.ohio.gov

PADDYS RUN CONSERVATION PROJECT

Partnering for Preservation

Years of effort and billions of dollars were needed to clean up environmental contamination at Fernald, a former uranium processing facility in south-western Ohio. Currently a community asset, the Fernald Preserve now provides wildlife habitat and educational opportunities.

The Fernald trustees, including Ohio EPA, the Department of Energy, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, are partnering with Three Valley Conservation Trust to enhance habitats and protect water quality in Paddys Run and the Great Miami Aquifer near the Fernald Preserve.

Three Valley Conservation Trust is a non-profit land trust organization whose mission is to conserve the natural environment and cultural heritage of southwest Ohio. Three Valley Conservation Trust brings experience working with local families to preserve their land.

The partners will work with landowners to keep land in private hands and preserve traditional land uses, such as family farms, while protecting water quality.



Environmental
Protection Agency

PADDYS RUN CONSERVATION PROJECT

Our future flows through our land

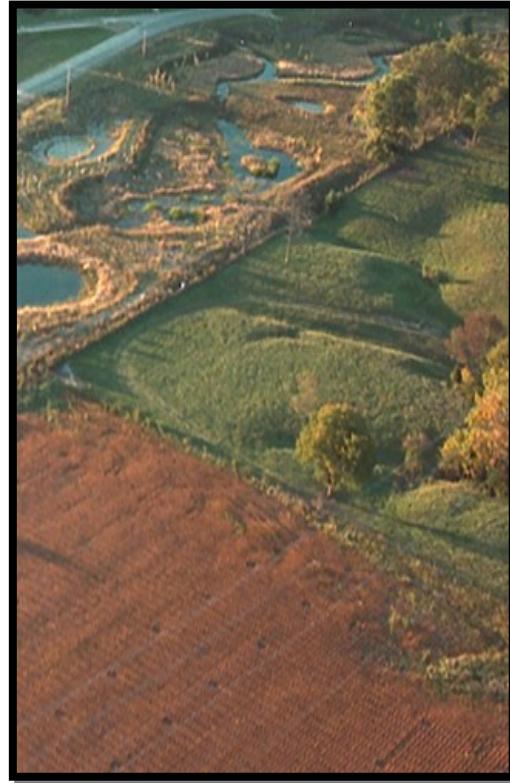


Photo courtesy U.S. DOE

*Protecting our water,
restoring habitat,
conserving our land,
preserving our heritage*

PROTECT YOUR LAND, PROTECT THE WATER



A watershed is all the land that drains to a body of water, like Paddys Run.

What happens on the land affects the water running

through and under it. Paddys Run is directly linked to the Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer, which was damaged by activities at the former Fernald uranium processing facility.

Billions of dollars were spent restoring the land and water at and near Fernald. Land conservation in the Paddys Run watershed will enhance the streams and the aquifer and compensate for some of the damage that was done.

The Paddys Run Conservation Project will protect the aquifer and preserve natural areas, wildlife habitat and working farms through conservation easements.



PRESERVE YOUR LAND AND YOUR HERITAGE

Up to \$13 million will be used to purchase conservation easements in and around the Paddys Run Watershed and within portions of the Great Miami Aquifer.

Participating landowners would receive grant funding to permanently protect their land with conservation easements.

As an easement donor, landowners still retain private ownership and use of the land, and the conservation easement is permanently protected by the Three Valley Conservation Trust.

CONSERVATION PROJECT FOCUS AREA

By using conservation easements to save land from development, the Paddys Run Conservation Project will protect water quality in our streams and ground water. We will help landowners retain control of working land, while preserving local heritage and the environment.

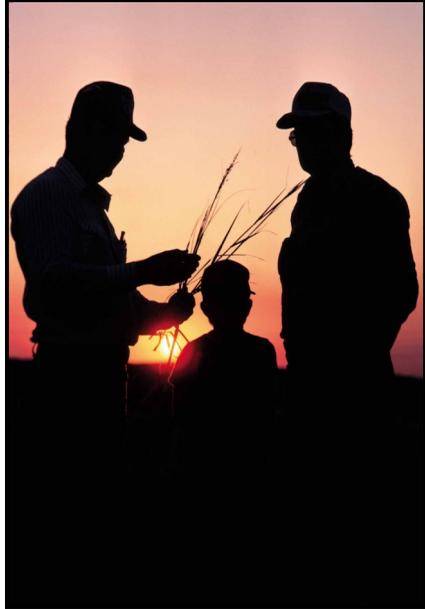


Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

Will Ohio fund easements only in the Paddys Run watershed? As part of the natural resources damages settlement, the Fernald trustees are focusing their efforts on protecting the Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer, which was damaged by the activities at Fernald.

While the project is focused on the Paddys Run watershed, the trustees are willing to consider land outside the focus area if preserving such land will protect the aquifer.

Who will hold the easement? Ohio EPA's partner, Three Valley Conservation Trust, will guide interested landowners through the process of obtaining a conservation easement and hold the easements. Three Valley Conservation Trust is a local, nonprofit organization.

Where will the money come from? As partial compensation for damages to the Great Miami Aquifer caused by the activities at the former Fernald Feed Materials facility, Ohio received \$13 million from the U.S. Department of Energy. A portion of this money will be used to purchase conservation easements in the Paddys Run watershed.

Why should landowners consider participation?

Landowners may continue farming and enjoy other land uses while protecting it for the future. Depending on the characteristics of the property, a land-owner can be paid up to 100 percent of the value of the current development rights.

Are there any tax benefits? It depends on individual circumstances. Interested landowners should consult a tax attorney.

Does the land have to be currently farmed to be eligible? No. Easement values may include agriculture, woodlands, streams, wetlands, and unique habitat.

What will and will not be allowed on easement-protected land? Conservation easements are crafted to address landowner desires. However, land uses such as development would be prohibited.

Would the entire parcel be under the conservation easement? Generally, conservation easements cover an entire parcel. There are times, however, when a small piece can be left out of the agreement.

What access will the easement holders have to the land? As required by the Internal Revenue Service, the Three Valley Conservation Trust schedules an annual visit to each easement-protected property to confirm that the conservation values are being sustained.

More questions? Please contact:

Three Valley Conservation Trust

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Ohio EPA

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www.epa.ohio.gov/swdo/divisions/FFS/Fernald.aspx

