

## Mahoning Creek Lake Master Plan Revision

### Stakeholder Meeting 1

2 May 2017 - 1400

- Provisions for rescue at Mahoning must be considered as it is very remote
- Practice by emergency groups at the site is also crucial
- The ability to communicate adequately with all EMS providers is an issue
- What is the current capacity for wilderness rescue?
- 911 centers cannot talk directly to Corps field staff
- Mahoning does have LECA with New Bethlehem
- Could go regional with ICORS?
- Need to recognize emergency response in the MP; all new recreation features should be accompanied by associated emergency response plan
- Continued communication with PADEP is important to ensure upstream, in-reservoir, and downstream water quality.
- Indiana County completed a comprehensive plan in 2012
  - This report recommended a land development ordinance that will be issued in 2018
  - A review is required for all deeded property in the county, which includes Corps land
  - Indiana County Planning would like to review the draft MP
  - Includes a parks and trails plan
  - Feedback from the community was to focus on conservation and preservation
  - Armstrong County has a similar plan
- There is a known bald eagle on Mahoning land near Milton Loop
- Little Mahoning Creek has a watershed association
- The Corps should consider the impact of removal of the upper Allegheny locks on tourism and regional recreation
- Armstrong County tourist bureau is developing a water trail plan
- The potential increase in natural gas extraction and the completion of the Shell cracker plant presents the opportunity for the Corps to work with the state and local permittees
  - The Corps can make them aware of our land use policies and any ESAs or FWS
  - Mitigation plans can be developed jointly to address impacts while providing benefits to all parties
- Better signs will help the public and EMS, i.e. body of water, river mile, etc.
  - ID areas for signs and prioritize based on EMS response needs
- Aquatic plants are the major concern for invasion in the area
  - Hydrilla has hit OH and MON rivers and most PA state parks
- What are the opportunities for the Corps to stay engaged?
  - Are there local planning meetings?
- Road repair and improvement are of interest
  - Roads to Federal land are local
  - FLAP map should be prepared

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### Public Meeting 1

2 May 2017 – 1600

- The cub scouts and boy scouts are interested in any opportunities at Mahoning
  - Currently travel to Yellow Creek State Park for camping
  - Trails and interpretive material would be frequently used
  - Willing to provide volunteer service for Mahoning
  - Interested in overnight tent camping outside of the manager's office
- ADA compliant floating dock at Milton Loop is needed
  - Currently in the works by Mahoning staff
  - Need the labor/equipment to install
- The hunting and fishing at Mahoning has been and continues to be satisfactory
  - No major issues with access, stocking, or management
  - Could use food plots on Corps land to relieve the pressure on surrounding agriculture
- The Marshall House Museum sees a lot of visitors camping at Milton Loop
  - There are opportunities for the Corps to direct visitors there and vice versa
  - There are sites on Corps land that were used by the underground railroad
    - Interpretive signs and preservation of these areas
    - Joint signage by Corps and **Museum Commission?**
- There are nesting eagles on Corps land
  - There is interest in wildlife viewing opportunities
  - Like Hays eagle-cam
- Baker Trail
  - Their top priority is to get the trail entirely off of roads in the area
  - RCTC has ideas for an extension from the Dam site area to Milton Loop
    - Requested to not release this as a proposal until they have spoken with land owners
  - They need a "home grown effort" to construct and maintain this portion
  - The Boy Scouts are interested in "adopting" this portion of the trail
  - Issues will come up with hunting
    - Need to clearly mark where hunting is prohibited from the trail
  - No interest in trail shelters, but day use-type stops along the trail were suggested
  - RCTC is willing to put up their "low key" signage wherever it is requested
- There is concern over the mitigation done for the hydropower plant construction
  - It seems inadequate or not complete
  - May not be on Corps land
- Kayaking below the dam is very popular with the community
  - Launches and parking is inadequate
  - There is no federal land suitable in that area
  - The Corps can spearhead the establishment of a water trail and facilitate grants
  - Land at the locks on the Allegheny is available for launches

- Kayak launching from the Milton Loop ramp is desired but underutilized due to issues with manure
  - Who wants to walk through that stuff barefoot?