

# Greater Cleveland Trails and Greenways Conference

June 7, 2010

## Session Descriptions and Presenter Bios (Subject to Change)

### Welcome and Opening Remarks – Public Health, Trails and Greenways - Making the Connection

Speakers: **Hon. Alan C. Budney**, City Council President, Middleburg Heights  
**Dr. Marilyn McNamara, M.D.**, Vice President of Medical Affairs, Southwest General Health Center  
**Robert Timmons**, Superintendent, Polaris Career Center

### Plenary Session #2 – State of Greater Cleveland Trails and Greenways

Speaker: **Paul Alsenas**, Director, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission

**Session Description:** This presentation will provide a snapshot of trails and greenways in the Greater Cleveland area; what has been built, what is under development, what is planned and ideas for the future of an interconnected regional network of trails and greenways.

**Paul Alsenas:** Mr. Alsenas is responsible to the Planning Commission's eleven member governing body, comprised of the Board of County Commissioners and Mayors who represent the City of Cleveland and its fifty-eight suburban municipalities. The Planning Commission has been a leading facilitator of initiatives to redirect traditional public policies which foster sprawling regional patterns of land use, and to redevelop the region's central county. These initiatives include brownfields re-use; community strategic and land use planning; participation in the metropolitan transportation planning organization and other entities which are responsible for infrastructure management, environmental quality, and economic development; recycling and solid waste management

planning; and utilization of GIS and other information technology. The Commission has also emphasized the building of local governmental capacity for strategic management, based on sustainable development principles.

Prior to serving as Director, Mr. Alsenas was a project manager for the Board of County Commissioners and was responsible for improving internal management systems and reorganizing county-wide service delivery functions, such as major emergency incident management, hazmat response and regional planning; expanding county capital facilities; administration of infrastructure funding programs; and representing the Board at regional decision-making bodies. His education background includes an undergraduate degree in civil engineering, and graduate studies in city and regional planning, law and public management.

### Plenary Session #3 – Lake to Lake Trail Presentation and Visit

Speaker: **Jim Kastelic**, Senior Planner, Cleveland Metroparks

**Session Description:** This presentation will focus on the development of the Lake to Lake Trail in the City of Middleburg Heights, Ohio, which was officially opened to the public by Cleveland Metroparks in July of 2009. The 2.3 mile long trail provides a number of opportunities for outdoor education, historic interpretation and nature viewing for trail users. The trail also provides linkages to a number of important stakeholders in the vicinity, including Southwest General Health Center, Polaris Career Center and Baldwin Wallace College.

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**James Kastelic** received a Bachelor of Arts degree in geography from the University of Kansas and a Master of Arts degree in urban geography from Kent State University. He has over 38 years of experience in city planning, land use regulation, public management, environmental resource assessment and site analysis. In his current position as Senior Park Planner for Cleveland Metroparks, his responsibilities include identifying and evaluating opportunities to conserve open space consistent with the Park District's mission and developing local and regional partnerships through outreach with public, private and non-profit stakeholders. He is a member and immediate past Chair of the Ohio Coastal Resource Advisory Council and is a board member of the Cuyahoga Valley Communities Council and the Ohio Coastal Resource Management Project. Mr. Kastelic is also an adjunct professor at the Maxine Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University, teaching courses in community and regional planning.  
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### ***Concurrent Session 1A – From Pamphlets to Playgrounds: The Built Environment's Impact on Public Health***

**Moderator:** **Suzanne Krippel**, R.S., Program Mgr. Environmental Health Services, Cuyahoga County Board of Health

**Speakers:** **Annie Stahlheber**, Public Health Dietitian, Cuyahoga County Board of Health  
**Barb Clint**, Director of Community Health and Advocacy YMCA  
**David Lash, M.D.**, Southwest General Health Center

**Session Description:** This session will focus on the need for balancing human progression using alternative land use strategies to promote healthy lifestyles.

### **Session Objectives:**

1. Clearly define the "built environment" and the different approaches toward land use.
2. Discuss strategies and ways to implement successful land use campaigns.
3. Demonstrate the connection between land use and healthy lifestyles.

**Annie Stahlheber** graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Dietetics from Gannon University in 1999. She later received her Masters of Nutrition and Health Promotion from Simmons College. Ms. Stahlheber has been working as a public health dietitian with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health for more than five years.  
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**Barb Clint** began her career at the Cleveland City Planning Commission managing the city's 5-year capital improvement program. She has worked on public policy issues such as mortgage and insurance redlining; managed low income and historic tax credit developments; and led urban park and trail planning efforts. In 2001, Barb launched Clevelanders in Motion, an active lifestyles program, which she now manages from the YMCA of Greater Cleveland.  
Phone: 216-263-6293

**Dr. David Lash, M.D.** has been a member of Southwest Family Physicians since 1987. After receiving his undergraduate degree from Kent State, he graduated from the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo and served his residency at the W. W. Knight Family Practice Center, Toledo Hospital. He is board certified by the American Board of Family Physicians and the International Society for Clinical Densitometry. Dr. Lash has been honored repeatedly as a Top Doctor Northeast Ohio, a designation of excellence made by peers in the medical profession. Areas of interest in his specialty include preventive health care, osteoporosis, and diet and exercise.

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### **Concurrent Session 1B – It's the Right Thing to Do: Building Community Support, Routing the Trail and Working with Neighbors**

**Moderator:** **George Cantor, AICP**, Chief City Planner, Cleveland City Planning Commission

**Speakers:** **Hon. Brian Cummins**, Councilman, Ward 14, City of Cleveland  
**Jeff Kerr**, Director of Sustainable Practices, Floyd Browne Group  
**Tim Donovan**, Executive Director, Ohio Canal Corridor

**Session Description:** Learn how to “sell” your trail project to an oftentimes skeptical public from a group of experts skilled in route planning, project promotion and public engagement techniques.

**Session Objectives:** Participants in this session will leave with knowledge about:

1. The who, what, when, how and whys of getting a trail/greenway vision off the ground.
2. How to identify potential trail/greenway sites, deal with nearby property owners and craft a sustainable project strategy that leads to an implementable plan.
3. The creation of momentum-building steps that can create public good will and move your project forward thru the inevitable mine-field of public opposition.

**Jeffrey Kerr**, ASLA is Director of Sustainable Practices with Floyd Browne Group, a landscape architecture and engineering firm in Northeast Ohio. He has over twenty years of professional experience working with client to help realize their sustainable development goals. Jeff has worked with communities in developing planning initiatives such as regional

watershed studies, comprehensive land use plans, green infrastructure & conservation plans, parks & trail design, and urban redevelopment strategies. Jeff and his firm are actively working major trail and greenway projects including Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, Metro Parks, Serving Summit County's Freedom Secondary Trail through Akron, Tallmadge, and Kent, West Creek Reservation, and Niles Bikeway. Mr. Kerr has studied urban planning at the Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University and Knowlton School of Architecture at The Ohio State University where received a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture  
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**Brian Cummins** is a second term Councilman serving the City of Cleveland's Ward 14. He represents approximately 25,000 people in the community of Clark Fulton and parts of Brooklyn Centre, Tremont, Ohio City and Stockyards. As Councilman, he has focused on developing stronger community representation through street, block and civic groups. He is a strong advocate for supporting a mixed-use, urban community, pursuing economic development, environmental and trail and greenspace projects to improve the quality of life in Ward 14. His interests also include urban environmental and sustainability issues, the local food movement as well as historic preservation. Councilman Cummins brings more than 25 years of private and public sector professional and community development experience to Cleveland City Council. He is a graduate of Cleveland State University's Nance College of Business Administration. Councilman Cummins began his career in banking with National City Bank and later served as an Administrative Director for U.S. Peace Corps in Russia and Moldova. He also worked as a Volunteer and Community Development Training Consultant in the Micro-Enterprise, Small Business and Agribusiness Programs in the Dominican Republic and Latvia. Councilman Cummins also held positions as Executive Director of the Old Brooklyn Community

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Development Corporation as well as Publisher and Editor of the *Old Brooklyn News* and Chief Financial Officer for the Community Shelter Board in Columbus. He also served as President of the Neighborhood and Community Press Association of Greater Cleveland.  
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**Tim Donovan** – first volunteered for Ohio Canal Corridor in 1988 when the organization consisted of three Trustees and had \$10 in their bank account. He led an early fundraising effort that brought \$10,000 into their coffers, created a communications campaign and was hired as its first and only director in April of 1990. Since that time, Donovan has played a hands-on role to land two federal designations (National Heritage Area and National Scenic Byway), and with them helped to usher in more than \$250 million in investments throughout the Canalway region. He continues to play a major role in the development of the Towpath Trail and its many connector trails. From advocacy to grant writing, from personal landowner outreach to inter-agency coordination, Donovan is active with a growing number of partners and supporters for what many believe is the most important regional initiative in NE Ohio.

### ***Concurrent Session 2A – Making the Case - Economic, Environmental and Quality of Life Importance of Greenways and Trails***

Moderator: **Rory Robinson**, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Rivers and Trails Program, National Park Service  
Speakers: **Debra Shankland**, Naturalist I, Cleveland Metroparks  
**Rory Robinson**, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Rivers and Trails Program, National Park Service

**Session Description:** This session will help participants to “make the case” for trails and greenways providing them with the reasons why development and preservation of these important resources are important to the natural health, economics and quality of life of a community.

**Session Objectives:** At the end of this session participants will gain:

1. a good understanding of the environmental and human benefits of trails and greenways
2. knowledge of how to best articulate these benefits to community leaders, trail neighbors and others.

**Debra Shankland** is a full-time naturalist with Cleveland Metroparks where she has worked at 3 different nature centers, Look About Lodge, and CanalWay Visitor Center since March 1994. Debra worked for Metro Parks, Serving Summit County and at a private, non-profit nature center in Westport, CT. She has a BS in Wildlife Management from Eastern Kentucky University (Summa Cum Laude), and is a Certified Interpretive Guide and Certified Interpretive Planner through the National Association for Interpretation. Debra recently completed the interpretive planning for and assisted in the implementation of the interpretive elements for the Lake to Lake Trail. She has also served on the Village of Peninsula Planning Commission for over 7 years, including 3 as Chairperson.

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**Rory L. Robinson** - During his thirty year career with the National Park Service, Rory has worked in five different NPS units in the fields of interpretation and cultural resources management. For the past 15 years, Rory has worked in the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program where he has provided assistance to the Ohio and Erie Canal, Maumee Valley, and Wabash River Heritage Corridors. He has been

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involved in trails planning efforts throughout Indiana and Ohio, and worked on river and watershed projects along the Little Miami, Wabash and Blue Rivers. Rory has provided leadership in the nationwide Towpaths-to-Trails Initiative with the Rails-to-Trail Conservancy, and the revitalization of the National Recreation Trails program. A native of Northeast Ohio, Rory holds a BS in Parks and Recreation Management and Environmental Interpretation from The Ohio State University. Phone: 330-657-2950  
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## Concurrent Session 2B – Trail Funding Opportunities

Moderator: **Michelle Johnson**, Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative Project Manager, NOACA  
Speakers: **Michelle Johnson**, TICI Project Manager, NOACA  
**Dameyon Shipley**, Recreation Services Administrator, Ohio Department of Natural Resources

**Session Description:** Funding your Trail Project 101: This session provides an overview of federal and state money currently available for you to plan, design and implement your trail project.

**Michelle Johnson** is a Transportation Planner III and the Transportation for Livable Communities (TICI) Project Manager at the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), the MPO of Greater Cleveland, Ohio. Ms. Johnson has a Masters Degree in Urban Planning, Design and Development from Cleveland State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Regional Planning and a Minor in Landscape Architecture from Miami University. Michelle's prior work experience includes Planner and GIS Specialist positions for Butler County, Ohio, Planner for the New York City Department of City Planning, and private Planning Consultant in Cleveland, Ohio. Ms. Johnson is active in both WTS (Women's Transportation

Seminar) and APA Cleveland (American Planning Association), serving as the Treasurer and Vice-Director in the respective organizations.

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**Dameyon Shipley** is the Recreation Services Administrator and Manager of the Ohio Office of Trails at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. He has been in the position for two years and with the Recreation Services group for the 11 years. Dameyon's group is responsible for the administration of the NatureWorks, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Clean Ohio Trails Fund, and Recreational Trails grant programs. In the last round of funding over 130 projects were awarded for over \$10 million. In addition, the office is responsible for developing the state's trail plan and Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Previous to his tenure he has been a grants administrator in the university and non-profit settings. Phone: 614-265-6646  
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## Concurrent Session 2C – Trail Design and Construction Challenges

Moderator: **James Kastelic**, Senior Park Planner, Cleveland Metroparks  
Speakers: **Richard Kerber P.E.**, Director of Planning, Design and Natural Resources, Cleveland Metroparks  
**Robert Bobel P.E.**, Park Engineer, Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
**Michael Kubek, P.E.**, Production Administrator, Ohio Department of Transportation

**Session Description:** This session will focus on the challenges of design and construction of all purpose trails, including how to work with railroads, utilities, communities and other stakeholders. Specific topics will include bridge and tunnel

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construction, boardwalks through Category 3 wetlands, installing pavement on highly organic subgrade material and interaction with adjacent property owners.

**Richard Kerber** P.E., is a Civil Engineer and for the past twenty years has served as Director of Planning, Design and Natural Resources for Cleveland Metroparks. In that capacity Mr. Kerber has overseen the design and construction of over 35 miles of all purpose trails throughout the park system. These all purpose trail projects have included the Hawthorn Parkway trail, the Lake-to-Lake trail, Bradley Woods trail, Valley Parkway trail, Big Creek Bikeway through the Zoo and Brookside Reservation, Garfield Park trail, and the Towpath Trail from Rockside Road to Harvard including the two cable-stayed bridges in Valley View. The total cost of these projects was over \$30M. Cleveland Metroparks began developing paved all purpose trails in 1973 and currently has approximately 85 miles of paved trails. Also dating from the earliest days of the park system are approximately 70 miles of bridle trails and 60 miles of hiking trails. Evaluating and maintaining a sustainable system of trails and greenways is currently a high priority of the ongoing master plan *Cleveland Metroparks 2020: The Emerald Necklace Centennial Plan*.

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**Rob Bobel** is the Park Engineer for the National Park Service at Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Prior to joining the National Park Service, he was in private practice in Cleveland and managed a 20-person structural engineering firm that specialized in innovative designs for commercial, institutional and residential structures. At Cuyahoga Valley, he was responsible for much of the engineering design of 20-miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail within the park and now serves as the park's representative to park partners working to extend the Towpath Trail into downtown Cleveland and south to New Philadelphia. He was instrumental in the development

of the park's riverbank stabilization program which uses innovative bioengineering techniques to protect the park's cultural resources while enhancing and improving aquatic habitat and water quality. He has principal oversight responsible for up-grading 25-miles of historic railroad in the park used by an excursion railroad carrying over 120,000 riders annually. He and his wife Peg have authored a number of books and guides on area trails, including the *Trail Guide*, *Cuyahoga Valley National Park*, the *Towpath Companion* and *The Nature of the Towpath*. Mr. Bobel holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Case Western Reserve University and is a registered professional engineer in the state of Ohio.

**Michael Kubek** is currently the Administrator of the Production Department of the Ohio Department of Transportation - District 12 Office, which is responsible for the Engineering and Plan Preparation of construction projects for Cuyahoga, Geauga, and Lake Counties. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Cleveland State University and is a registered professional engineer in the State of Ohio and an Ohio Certified Public Manager. He has 8 years of experience working for private consultants in roadway, hydraulics, municipal, and site design, and over 8 years with ODOT. Previously, he worked as a project manager and design engineer, including serving as the District Bicycle Coordinator

### ***Closing Discussion – Building the World Class Trails and Greenways Network in Greater Cleveland***

Moderator: **Rory Robinson**, Outdoor Recreation Planner, National Park Service, Rivers and Trails Program  
**Andrea Irland**, Outdoor Recreation Planner, National Park Service, Rivers and Trails Program

**Session Description:** Facilitated brainstorming session

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*Free Evening Public Session – **Happy Trails & Healthy People***

**Session Description:** Guided trail walks / free health screenings (glucose, BMI and blood pressure / trails safety tips for seniors / variety of informational booths / celebration of American Hiking Society's National Trails Day® / live music