

## **Devola Multi-Use Trail (DMUT) Quarterly Report – April, 2015**

During the winter months progress on the Devola Multi-Use Trail has been limited. A specially fashioned customized sign was constructed and erected by several volunteer DMUT Committee members in late fall, 2014.



The site of prospective trail was snow-covered and flooded for much of January, February and March. Work will begin when the weather consistently moderates in April, and preparation of the trail land will begin at the point where an existing bridge (over Second Creek) enters a pasture area on the George W. Broughton property in Devola.



The trail preparation will then move westerly across an existing pasture which will be elevated by the placement of a substantial amount of fill material that has already been delivered to the site. This site is in a low-lying area that usually floods during heavy rains and high water in the nearby Muskingum River.



A new bridge will be constructed at the end of this pasture to re-cross Second Creek and continue along a path adjacent to a current service road. Peers for the bridge and ramps to the bridge will first be put in place then the bridge itself.



Doug Lowe Construction has made arrangements to begin construction of the trail in the third week of April. First steps will be to clear the land of brush and sod then to lay fiber on which crushed stone will be placed.

No invoices to request reimbursement for construction costs have yet been submitted so there is no budget activity to report. All labor and materials provided to date have been donated and volunteer.

The leadership of the DMUT Committee has recently established contact with the Wood/Wirt/Washington County Interstate Planning Commission in order to coordinate and gain support for expansion of the trail beyond the (private) Broughton property. Ms. Carolyn Dempsey, Muskingum Township Trustee (in which Devola is located), was contacted and briefed on the DMUT long-range plans and agreed to represent DMUT at the meetings of the Interstate Planning Commission (the DMUT Committee cannot participate in the meetings of this group itself but must be represented by a municipal

or county official). Ms. Dempsey represented DMUT at the March 19, 2015 meeting of the Commission. DMUT will also be represented by Ms. Dempsey at the meeting of the Transportation Improvement Projects (TIP) Committee, a sub-group of the Commission which plans and supports multi-use trails in the entire region of Washington County (OH) and Wood and Wirt Counties (WV). The DMUT Committee has been asked to come up with plans for expansion of the trail westward from the Broughton property on to State Route 60 in Devola to River Road (along the northern bank of the Muskingum River) and ultimately to Devol's Dam, which is located in state land of the Muskingum River State Park. These plans will be prepared in the next two months in preparation for the TIP meeting later in the summer.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Banziger  
DMUT Committee Member