

Code	517030
Subject	Steve Tuckerman
Date	4/24/2008
Interviewer	Steve Testa
Special Notes	Ohio EPA in charge of water quality of the Cuyahoga River

minutes:

- complete interview: 58 minutes
- 0 Steve Tuckerman works for the Ohio EPA, born in Ravenna, 1953, Brady Lake Elementary, Kent Roosevelt High School, Kent State University
 - 1 lived in suburbia, learned love of nature, principal encouraged love of outdoors
 - 2 disciplined for ruining school grounds lead to career with environment
 - 3 US postal service to factory to EPA
 - 4 job with EPA has always been about monitoring water quality
 - 5 worked with City of Kent water treatment, helped start hazardous waste collecting in Northeastern Ohio
 - 6 worked in emergency clean-up of hazardous materials, Kredgy site in CVNP, Love Canal was in the news, gratifying work
 - 7 Fields Brook pesticide fire in Alliance
 - 8 responsibilities now cover entire Cuyahoga River watershed, improvements are tremendous, dams in Kent and Munroe Falls removed
 - 9 gratifying to see people come back to the river
 - 10 dams created bad habitat for animal life, stinky, low dissolved oxygen
 - 11 kept the historic bridge over dam, got decent fish populations fast with dam down
 - 12 city was progressive creating River Edge Park, kyaks, kids, get people to the water, downtown redevelopment district
 - 13 state route 82 dam under a feasibility study
 - 14 continue to water the canal while getting rid of the dam, 2 dams in Cuyahoga Falls need removed
 - 15 federal agency licensing project about Ohio Edison dam in the Gorge, would be off EPA hands for 50 years
 - 16 Kent was progressive with community driven advisory council
 - 17 EPA wanted: 1. habitat for fish 2. enough dissolved oxygen 3. ability for fish to move up and down stream
 - 18 in mid 1990s started teaching community about the water and how we affect it
 - 19 Kent and Akron in court around 2000, ruled Akron had to release enough water downstream
 - 20 people are better educated about issues, need to make people aware of subtleties
 - 21 hard to convince people they are the problem, Clean Water Act has been a phenomenal success
 - 22 river is not just the water but everything connected to it, how we manage the land is important

23 more of a challenge now, little things added together make big
difference, stop fertilizing lawns

24 *recycle, reduce, reuse, buy locally, focus on sustainability*

25 when in tune with local buying we pay more attention to land
use, comprehensive land use plans are important

26 tighten the quick giving variance, storm water removal,
nonpoint pollution

27 a lot of effort to try to correct past poor practices,
pessimistic about local water quality

28 good quality now but people not seeing how they cause problems

29 energy is not free, environmental consequences with all
attempts to produce energy

30 not a lot of electricity Gorge dam can produce, Akron pulls a
lot of drinking water

31 dispute over amount of power, against the will of the people

32 applicant says will reduce CO2 but algae in reservoir currently
causing a lot

33 monitoring and waste water treatment has great effect

34 change in river is gratifying, Akron expansion of secondary
processing

35 less chlorine in the water, combined sewers overflow in times
of heavy rain

36 treatment is good but not all water makes it to the treatment
plant, now we have to correct the old system

37 legal limbo for EPA, OHEPA, and cities, future is a deep
tunnel where overflow is stored until low rain

38 very costly project, consult on technology for city

39 Cuyahoga River had no fish between Akron and Lake Erie in the
1960s and 70s, whole river contained enough ammonia to have
taken a polluter to court

40 in 1984 caught 4 fish in an hour, 3 were bad, 2000 had
reproducing trout

41 small mouth bass, walleye, lake trout in river, red horse and
darters indicate comeback because they need macroinvertebrates
to survive

42 banks by flats are 5.6 mile, 30 foot deep bath tub

43 sacrifice environment for economy

44 economy in the region has no choice

45 human health concerns - consumption advisory (PCV, mercury),
bacterial contamination

46 after heavy rain river should not be used

47 river is just like all northeastern Ohio rivers, after 3 days
water is OK

48 Steve likes to fish, kayak, hike, bike and do outdoor
photography

49 wife does too, have eaten fish from river

50 need to improve accessibility to data, National Data Base

51 Ohio fish data best in the world, bug pickers sought internationally

52 Credable Data Bill mandates putting info online but no money made available

- 53 Credable Data program levels - 1. boyscout data 2. high school/collegiate 3. able to stand up in a court of law
- 54 country side initiative appears to be a good project, Global River Environment Network is a good program for kids and schools
- 55 most vivid memories were to travel to ClevelandMunicipal Stadium along Canal Road
- 56 1. stadium grass so green 2. Garfiled Heights landscape completely orange 3. mill at Pleasant Road would have soap suds 10-20 feet high and across the road
- 57 remebered canoing down river and collecting flotsum to throw at the other canoes, getting sick every time swimming in Break Neck Creek
- 58 small part of Return of the Cuyahoga
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