



## ***Black River Area of Concern Advisory Committee***

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# **BLACK RIVER AREA OF CONCERN Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, July 13, 2016 12:00 PM**

Black River Landing Transportation Center, Lorain, Ohio

**In Attendance:** Beaver Creek Watershed - Citizen (Matt Nahorn); City of Amherst-Citizen (Jennifer Scott-Wasilk); City of Lorain (Derek Feuerstein, Kate Hoffmann); Coldwater Consulting (Kristen Risch, Chip Wendt); LoCo 'Yaks (Robb Koscho; Stephanie Moore-Koscho); Lorain County Community Development (Christin Brandon; Don Romancak); Lorain County General Health District (Duane Cribley, Christina Kander, Stephanie Lesco, Jill Lis, John Sabo, Emily Volz); Lorain County Metro Parks (Bryan Goldthorpe); Ohio Department of Natural Resources (Steve Holland); Ohio EPA (Ted Conlin, Russ Gibson, Rick Wilson); Western Reserve Land Conservancy (Kate Pilacky)

Meeting called to order by Don Romancak at 12:02PM

## **Agenda Items**

### **Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes from May 25, 2016**

- Motion to approve by Derek Feuerstein; second by Bryan Goldthorpe
- All in favor; minutes approved as submitted

### **Fiscal Report Update**

- No fiscal report because no facilitating agency at this time

### **BUI Removal Status**

- There were no formal comments from the public on the removal documents
- Drafts of the removal recommendation documents for Restriction on Fish and Wildlife Consumption and Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae were tentatively approved by US EPA and the final drafts are currently awaiting the Ohio EPA Director's signature
- They will be formally sent to GLNPO; after approval, GLNPO will announce to the International Joint Commission that there has been a change in the BUIs for the Black River
- Ted Conlin was thanked for his efforts on the BUI removal documents and process

### **Grant Project Updates, City of Lorain**

- \$15 million grant project in City of Lorain
  - Based on assessments completed for project, cost estimate for completion was substantially more than originally planned; closer to \$50 million needed to complete projects

- Meetings have been held with federal and state EPA to discuss potential alternatives
- Installation of treatment system and oil removal will be as planned; notice of award was signed for project; expect construction in August/September with restoration to follow
- Other parts of the project are awaiting discussion and decisions after the feasibility study
- Following feasibility study, the project will move forward with containment or look at installation of additional habitat projects along the river
- Kayak-A-Thon
  - Event was a success and saw the biggest turnout to date
  - Thanks to LoCo 'Yaks for their participation

### **AOC Facilitating Organization**

- Discussion about LoCo 'Yaks becoming the facilitating organization; questions asked of the group
- LoCo 'Yaks distributed a "resume" with their involvement in the Black River, awards and recognition, experience, and how they plan to fulfill the facilitating organization roles and responsibilities
- Received guidance from Ohio EPA on the roles of the Ohio EPA, Black River AOC Advisory Committee, and facilitating organization as they pertain to work in the Black River AOC
- General idea was having LoCo 'Yaks as the facilitating organization would help bridge a link to citizens and the private community.
- Vote to approve LoCo 'Yaks as the facilitating organization for the Black River AOC
  - Motion to approve by Jennifer Scott-Wasilk; second by Derek Feuerstein
  - All voted in favor; motion carries
  - Next steps: primary point of contact with LoCo 'Yaks will be Ted Conlin; will coordinate a meeting with Ohio EPA and LoCo 'Yaks to discuss what needs to be done

### **Old Business**

#### **AOC Advisory Committee Membership**

- Continue to formalize structure of who should be on the committee, who are voting members, etc.
- Add members to the organization based on needs of the group and bylaws
- Once voting members are identified, have each vote recorded in the minutes for each organization

#### **County Projects**

- Great Lakes Restoration Initiatives
  - Phase 2 and 3 underway
  - 12 workers were originally hired to work with Lyn Ickes; have lost some throughout the process
  - Looking to add additional acreage to treat; issue with areas located under powerlines and getting permission to treat
- Willow Creek
  - Ready to bid out the restoration work
  - Will deal with expansion of flood plain and restoration
- 319 Grant
  - Land has been acquired
  - Preliminary design work in underway

### **New Business**

#### **Lorain County Metro Parks**

- Lakeview Beach quality tests are at 44%, down approximately 20% from last year
- Need to identify what is causing the problem with bacteria levels

- No clear correlation between water quality at the outfall and water quality at the beach
- Discussion on water quality and testing; decided to test the water to the west of the outfall

### **319 Grant Request for Proposals for FY2017**

- RFP will be out in 2-3 weeks
- Changes have been made to the grant at the federal level

## **Announcements**

### **Upcoming Grants**

- **Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) Grants**
  - NOAA expects to release the RFP for CELCP grants in late July/early August
  - Land acquisition grants through the Coastal Management program
  - After NOAA releases their RFP, the coastal program will issue their RFP and accept applications from interested parties in Ohio
  - For more information, visit <http://coastal.ohiodnr.gov/celcpgrants>
- **ODNR Coastal Management Assistance Grants (CMAG)**
  - Annual grant available for a variety of projects
  - RFP issued in late August/early September
  - For more information, visit <http://coastal.ohiodnr.gov/cmagrants>

### **Lorain County Waterfront Project**

- Working with lakefront communities to take better advantage of the waterfront
- Working in a regional and collaborative manner based on the health of our water
- County has been awarded a transportation initiative community grant to make waterfront more accessible; also provides additional modes of transportation (bike and hike trails, public transport)

### **Western Reserve Land Conservancy**

- 10 year anniversary of the creation of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy
- 10,000 acres of land have been preserved by the Oberlin office

## **Public Comments**

None

**Meeting adjourned at 1:21PM**

**Next Meeting** - Date and time to be determined by Don Romancak

Minutes submitted by Stephanie Lesco on July 15, 2016; revised on October 27, 2016