



Black River Advisory Committee

Facilitating Organization:

LoCo 'Yaks

138 Alabama Avenue
 (Mailing Address: 331 Missouri Ave.)
 Lorain, OH 44052
 (419) 239-3779

Minutes

QUARTERLY MEETING

Monday, July 16, 2018, 12:00 PM

Lorain Sailing & Yacht Club
 108 Alabama Ave., Lorain, OH

Don Romancak* Chair	Lorain County
Tom Brown* Vice Chair	Lorain Port Authority
Kate Golden* City Liason	City of Lorain
Bryan Goldthorpe*	LCMP
Jennifer Scott-Wasilk*	Sandstone EHS Services, LLC
Stephanie Lesco*	Lorain County Public Health
Max Schaefer*	The Ohio Environmental Council
Chip Wendt	Coldwater Consulting
Kristen Risch	Coldwater Consulting
Lyn Ickes	Lorain County
Chad Ferguson	Ohio EPA
Kristen Isom	US EPA
Rick Payerchin	The Morning Journal
Tiffani Kavalac	Ohio EPA
Kurt Prinic	Ohio EPA
John Sabo	Lorain County Public Health
Randal Doane	Cadence Editorial
Christin Brandon	LCCDD
Kate Pilacky	Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Ricki Herdendorf	Ecosphere Associates
Charles E. Herdendorf	Ohio State - Geology
Ashley Binion-Zuccaro	US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
Gerlyn Hinds	USACE
Mike Voorhees	USACE
Paul Cocca	USACE
Wayne Awald	USACE
Stephanee Moore Koscho	LoCo 'Yaks/ Facilitating Org.
Robb Koscho	LoCo 'Yaks/ Facilitating Org.
*Voting Member/ Proxy	

- ❖ Welcome / Call to Order – Our annual potluck lunch began around noon. The meeting was called to order by Don at 12:35, reminding everyone to continue with lunch and dessert. Because of several special guests in attendance, introductions were necessary.
- ❖ Approval of Meeting Minutes 4/23/18. Motion to accept as is by Bryan G.; 2nd by Tom B. All in favor. Motion passes.



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❖ Fiscal Report

- FY2018 support grant – \$30,736.32 remains through May 31. A few other expenses have been spent, but nothing major yet. Don asked if we are on track for this spending cycle; Stephanie reported that yes, even with more funds than last year, we seem to be moving along as scheduled. Don also asked about money for 2019 Black River Summit funds – we have money in the grant for keynote travel and summit venue, as well as miscellaneous funds for printing, displays, etc.
- 2017 Annual Report – Stephanie passed out the 2017 annual report. More copies are available if needed. No questions.

❖ Lower Black River Restoration Grant Project Updates

- Lyn – BRCCC has been at the bluff behind the mill spraying phragmites; this is one of the areas where it's a real problem; have not had many days in the field this year due to weather; Jennifer asked about long-term deterrents/ plants that will choke out phrag.; Lyn said it depends on location, willows are most effective at shading out, but "most effective" cannot necessarily be planted in locations where it is needed most; need to find a good mix – plants ideal for locations' soil, water, etc.; a good example where this has happened naturally – Mercy ditches have auto-regrown natives.
- What are we seeing today?
 - Kate – Reclamation site - will be discussed in more detail on the bus.
 - Kristen explains the new LSYC fish shelves as I scrolled through pictures. She did a great job explaining what each piece was for, how it would be inserted into the river, what it would be filled with, and how the fish are expected to respond.
 - Robb explained the VR headset and what footage we have so far, and that we'll be using this to show images and video of various projects along the river. If anyone wants to check it out, there will probably be a few minutes before the bus leaves.

❖ Old Business

- Regional AOC Conference summary
 - John – talked a bit about the resort being on an old brownfield site; city owned property very much like those currently available in Lorain; it was a very beautiful area; thought the breakout sessions were interesting
 - Robb – agreed with John's description of the area and how it is similar to what Lorain should be; told a story about how the Sheboygan residents complained about the pile driving noise during a bulkhead installation project and was surprised we didn't have that problem in Lorain (but it was winter here during LSYC project).
 - Chad F. also mentioned how awesome the site was.
 - Don – conference was not as much fun as he wanted it to be. GLNPO changes are causing AOCs (us) to make early decisions regarding removing BUIs; tasks will eventually lead to removing BUIs & delisting; we are slightly ahead of the curve, but we may be forced to make hard decisions quickly & uncomfortably; we will do the best with what we have available; some projects may not happen because of feasibility; let's try to focus on follow through and using local resources when/where available; Don visited Sheboygan 10 years ago –



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waterfront progress is unbelievable; downtown still needs some work considering their unemployment rate is less than 2%; they prove that it's not just about easy access (via highways), people just need a good reason travel off the easy path.

- Change October meeting date, scheduling conflict: moved to October 22nd, 1:00-3:00 at Carlisle if we do not incorporate a site visit.
- Paddle & Pedal Fest: Max volunteered to demonstrate the watershed model; he was inside at Lakeview Park, it was not good weather, but the people who came through were very engaged; he said "it was great fun"; 1st time volunteering for an AOC event.
- US EPA/ GLRI Toledo meeting – One of several regional meetings around the great lakes to get public comments & input on GLRI's 3rd action plan.
 - Lyn – There was some serious contentiousness in the room; seemed to be some unhappy constituents who wanted to push their own agenda but facilitators quickly shut it down; received good info about changes and what things should be pushed forward, what GLRI is looking for; talked with University of Toledo & Bowling Green State University, BG people; it was a great set up with a few key speakers and then one-on-one opportunities with specialized areas of interest.
 - Don – Purpose was to discuss 5-year plan with public; share thoughts, education, invasives updates, economic development, etc.. Anyone can review proposals & provide input on GLRI website for the health of our Great Lakes. Please take time to voice concerns, get info, educate yourself, and provide input. <https://www.glri.us/node/122>

❖ New Business

- Ohio Great Lakes Commission
 - Chad Ferguson officially introduced himself to the committee. He is taking over for Ted, covering Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, & Black AOCs; the useful overlap will help get him acclimated; he's working with Beneficial Use of Dredged Material; no more dredging & dumping as of 2020; it is imperative find new ways to recycle dredging materials; there will be a time for public comment coming.
- US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is here today to see our sites, but also tomorrow [7/17/2018] they will be meeting to determine possible ecological restoration projects that may benefit from using dredge material.
 - Chad introduced the USACE guests (arrived late & missed the introductions):
 - Ashley – Toledo Area Project Manager, Buffalo District
 - Gerlyn – Civil Engineer, Buffalo District
 - Mike – Biologist, Buffalo District
 - Paul – Hydraulic Engineer, Buffalo District
 - Wayne – Planner, Buffalo District
 - Chad also introduced Tiffany Kavalac, Ohio EPA. She had a list of things to tell us about --



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1. Russ is gone and very happy. Management of AOCs has been restructured, is now out of Columbus. Chad Ferguson & Cherie Blair will report to a new position in Sandusky, who then reports to Columbus. With new supervisor in Sandusky, we may see more visits to our meetings & projects.
2. Black River's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is about to come for review; public notice goes out in September; we should get on TMDL listserve now so we don't miss anything. Dept. of Surface Water will review the public comments, and make some adjustments. Final TMDL has another 60 days for comment. We are looking at 5-6 months before it can be finalized.
3. GLNPO discussions are preparing for the 2019 Regional AOCs Conference in Cleveland ****anniversary of the fire****. Very early planning stages as they are looking at September dates because the National Forum will be in Milwaukee in June or July.
 - ◆ Side discussion: BRAC members want to make sure we are a noticeable part of 2019 conference – site visit, poster sessions, breakout groups – *TO BE DISCUSSED AT OCTOBER MEETING*

❖ Announcements

- Kayak-A-Thon rescheduled for August 25
 - (Follow up) Lyn – Kayak-A-Thon banners are done and correct size, maybe we can do new BRCU banners, Kate is looking into this further.
 - July 26 Vita Nuova EOI event: Black River Landing Transportation Building – highlighting 6 waterfront sites; financing opportunities for development; this is sort of the economic side of our BR Summit; registration fee (\$35) but open to the public; it's all a part of the Brownfield Area-Wide Plan.
 - NEORSO Open House exhibitor Saturday, Sept. 15: LoCo 'Yaks/ BRAC will be exhibiting, showing watershed model, handing out activity books, etc.
 - North East Ohio Litter Summit: LoCo 'Yaks will be facilitating the breakout session "Community Engagement: Creating and Managing Litter Events" Friday, Sept. 7
 - Clean Water For All 2018, Washington DC, July 24-25: Thanks to grant funds through The Ohio Environmental Council and the National Wildlife Federation, Robb is going to DC for 2 days to have clean water conversations with congress-people staffers. Max referred LoCo 'Yaks for this trip, and explained that OEC sends small business owners to have these discussions and put faces to the everyday people who know clean water matters.
 - Bus is arriving at 1:30PM, but was a little early.
- ❖ Motion to adjourn by Max at 1:43; 2nd by Bryan. All in favor. Motion passes. Everyone adjourns to view the fish shelves and board the bus.