



## Black River Advisory Committee

LoCo 'Yaks | Facilitating Organization

138 Alabama Avenue

Lorain, OH 44052

(440) 249-0590

QUARTERLY MEETING | Monday, July 22, 2019 | 12:00 PM

Lorain Harbor Boat Club | 108 Alabama Ave., Lorain OH 44052

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### Minutes

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- ❖ **12:00PM** Don R. called the meeting to order and welcomed guests. Everyone introduced themselves.
  - In attendance: Don Romancak (Lorain County), Stephanie Koscho (LoCo 'Yaks), Robb Koscho (LoCo 'Yaks), Erika Fabbro (Backpackers Shop), Kate Golden (City of Lorain), Kristen Risch (Coldwater Consulting), Chip Wendt (Coldwater Consulting), AJ Gutz (Coldwater Consulting), Jack Caruso (Coldwater Consulting), Max Schaefer (Ohio Environmental Council), Christen Brandon (Lorain County), Steve Holland (ODNR), Tiffany McClelland (Lorain Port Authority), Lyn Ickes (Lorain County), Duane Cribley (Lorain County Public Health), Bryan Goldthorpe (LCMP), John Sabo (Lorain County Public Health), Jennifer Reeves (City of Oberlin), Melanie Barbis (Ohio EPA), Stephanie Lesco (Lorain County Public Health), Jennifer Wasilk (Sandstone EHS Services), Lynn Garrity (Ohio Lake Erie Commission), and Kristen Isom (US EPA) with 3 guests.
- ❖ Fiscal Report
  - FY2018 support grant
    - Stephanie K. reviewed a summary of the finally approved AOC Support Grant.
      - Changed to 18-month grant cycle (instead of 12-mo.)
      - Total award of \$55,640. Very similar to what we've been doing with community outreach and engaging local students.
  - Travel funding for AOC Conference
    - BRAC will receive up to \$1330 in registration reimbursements from the Great Lakes Commission for the GLAOC Conference in CLE this fall.
- ❖ Approval of Meeting Minutes 4/23/2019 - Kate G. makes motion to accept the minutes as presented. Bryan G. seconds motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion Carries.
- ❖ Old Business
  - BRCU – R. Koscho – “It rained and was crappy.” Removed one camper + one boat. Two trucks left behind because of too much rain/ muddy conditions. Deputy Strohsak has cameras up that have already assisted in the apprehension of illegal dumpers since the cleanup.
    - Kate – there are few areas not paved but clear allowing access by trucks & ATVs – City plans to put up barriers with LCMP.
    - Good turnout despite cold Saturday. Beat the 100-ton mark early. Volunteers found names on garbage. Need to follow up with Deputy Strohsak. Event is finally inspiring others to clean up.
  - KAT – K. Risch – The weather was good. Sixty participants. Mother daughter with inflatable tandem won the kayak raffle, which was perfect because the daughter hated their kayak.
    - One participant took a picture of a river otter.
      - Next year is the 10<sup>th</sup> /final KAT.
      - Shocking demo maybe without tank?

- Maybe have summer meeting that day and meeting attendees can do the float.

#### ❖ Black River Restoration Project Updates

##### ○ County

- Lyn I. – At the start of the season, they cut phrag at King’s Woods, but had to stop due to flooding.
- Lyn I. – Have been combating the Mare’s Tail at Margaret Peak Nature Preserve while waiting for phrag to bloom.
- Don – completed construction at Fortune Ditch.
- Don – Oaks Savannah tree planting at Peak Preserve Oct 12. Volunteers needed.
  - KAB volunteers, local HS, JVS horticulture students, Eaton Twp residents.
  - Kristen volunteered Coldwater’s Mule.

##### ○ City

- Kate – Lorain Harbor Boat Club (LSYC) is officially-officially done with fuel dock, signage, etc.
- Kate & Chip – Storm Water Conference – Chip & Kate presented on this shelf project as well as the type further upstream – emphasized hybrid design. Reported that the species richness has had an 84% increase. Macroinvertebrates species richness was not as big. But they don’t normally respond as quickly. Aug. & Oct. sampling will tell a better story. Great species response. [Chip explained how the shelves work for those who didn’t know what we’re talking about.] Baskets 600’x12’ to pull species. Originally thought it could be too shallow, but now the water it’s not a problem.
- Kate – Seep Project – Phase 1 – The material changed consistency so the machine didn’t function right. Modifications are being scoped to allow for a greater variety of oils to be collected. Hoping to have it installed within the next year.
- Kate – Rec Site – Moving forward – contracting Phase right now. Start dates may still be Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. Construction completion possible by end of April, with final completion slated for November.
- Lakeview – Wrapped up study on Beach Closings BUI. Prepared report for EPA, LCMP, and City of Lorain. Investigation of E. coli bacteria with the circulation model has determined the two largest culprits are birds & storm water outfalls. Report going to LCMP and EPA, then to AOC and other stakeholders. (This particular beach more samplings than other local beaches so the numbers appear skewed comparatively.) Complexity issue seems to be the combination of storm water AND birds.

#### ❖ Ohio-AOC Program Updates – L. Garrity

- “New” NEDO AOC Coordinator – Melanie Barbis (is back). She will be the primary contact for Black, Cuyahoga, & Ashtabula AOC projects, BUI removal recommendations, etc. (all things not directly related to the support grant).
- GLAOC Conference – Sept 10, 11, 12 – Please register now. Kate & Chip on Habitat Effectiveness panel; Don on Revitalization panel; BBTBR in video montage; outreach work (VR) will also be part of a breakout session.
- Moving forward – Lake Erie Commission has four meetings per year. Next one 9/18 at 10am in Lorain. Highlighting Black River progress with commissioners and showcasing all of Lorain’s revitalization.

#### ❖ BUI and MAP Updates – L. Garrity/ K. Isom

- Attachment (2 tables below) – These are the two key things that OH & US EPA are working on to de-list.

### Black River AOC Management Action List- Completion Status

Project Title	Status
River Miles 4.7 to 5.0 Remediation and Restoration of Seep Site	Completed
River Mile 0.3 Fish Shelf Site	Completed
River Miles 2.8 to 4.7 Remediation and Restoration of Reclamation Site	Planned for Completion, 2020
Fortune Ditch Restoration at Margaret Peak Nature Preserve	Completed
Willow Creek Restoration at Eaton Township Park and Wetland Enhancement at Margaret Peak Nature Preserve	Completed
French Creek Fish Toxicity Study	Completed

### Black River AOC BUI Status

Beneficial Use Impairment		Status	2019-20
BUI 1:	Restrictions on Fish Consumption	Removed 2016	
	Restrictions on Wildlife Consumption	Not Impaired	
BUI 2:	Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavor	Not Impaired	
BUI 3:	Degradation of Fish Populations	Impaired	Completion of Management Actions
	Degradation of Wildlife Populations	Not Impaired	
BUI 4:	Fish Tumors or Other Deformities	In Recovery	Evaluation
BUI 5:	Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems	Not Impaired	
BUI 6:	Degradation of Benthos	Impaired	Completion of Management Actions
BUI 7:	Restrictions on Dredging Activities	Impaired	Evaluation
BUI 8:	Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae	Removed 2016	
BUI 9:	Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste & Odor Problems	Not Impaired	
BUI 10:	Beach Closings (Recreational Contact)	Impaired	Evaluation
BUI 11:	Degradation of Aesthetics	Impaired	BUI Removal Process to begin
BUI 12:	Added Costs to Agriculture or Industry	Not Impaired	
BUI 13:	Degradation of Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Populations	N/A	
BUI 14:	Loss of Fish Habitat	Impaired	Completion of Management Actions
	Loss of Wildlife Habitat	Not Impaired	

- Send measurements to Congress (newest thing) = AOCs with MAPs complete/ submitted. Working with us once MAPs complete to have this recognized.
- Seven BUIs remain with evaluations underway. Behind the scenes work happening. Three with state focus – aesthetics, dredging, fish tumors
- Tetra Tech report on Aesthetics (#11) is out for committee review.
- Dredging Restrictions – Gathering data, beginning evaluations, taking stakeholder input.
- Fish tumors – Evaluations next several months – 2020 will decide if we can move forward.
- Beach closings will be 4<sup>th</sup> BUI removal request – considering next steps.
- Isom – 2019 MAPs Complete bucket not happening. But that’s ok. Will have a great, big party when it’s done.
- French Creek toxicity report is done. Available from Kristen Isom.

- Price increase cap project – initial cost report was in 2015. Changes in scope, etc. added additional work. Moved money from construction to engineering. Money left over after rec. site completion is to be Phase 2. No new money request – they just moved it.

❖ New Business

- New members – Stephanie explained voting members/ categories & openings.
  - After discussion, it is determined that Steve Holland & John Sabo can become “Citizen” members without conflict to their current professional status.
  - Kate makes motion to accept Steve as Citizen member. Max seconds motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries. Welcome aboard.
  - Steve makes motion to accept John as Citizen member. Kate seconds motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries. Welcome aboard.
- Vice-Chair – Tom’s term is up. We are now accepting nominations for new Vice-Chair. Via email, Tom said that he is highly recommending Max Schaefer. Max says he will gladly accept the nomination. Tiffany (on behalf of Tom) motions for Max to be the new Vice-Chair. Bryan seconds motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.

❖ Announcements

- LCMP – Sunset Beach Fest – Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> 3:00-9:00PM. Daytime for families. Wine & beer tastings in the evening (8:00ish). Waiting for liquor license. Kayak try-its, adaptive equipment, sandcastles, music, educational displays, etc. Kayak/ SUP race with Nalu.
- Volleyball tournament this weekend at Lakeview Park.
- Steve – Lake Erie water level is high – “highest averages of averages ever – really high”. Almost a foot above the highest since 1918. Currently no new construction on waterfront. Some renovations & repairs due to high water. This should be towards the end of the high-water cycle as it usually (in the past) has begun to recede after 3 years.
- Steve – Project Manager job opening at ODNR Sandusky office – primarily to deal with excess budget. Listed on the state website. Lynn Garrity did it and “left the first chance she had” (according to Steve).
- Steve – brought gifts -- flash drives of the Coastal Atlas.
- Max – will take extra lunch food for Liz’s volunteer-kids at her work.

- ❖ **2:00PM** – Adjourn Max motions to adjourn at 1:10pm; John seconds motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.