



Black River Area of Concern Advisory Committee

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BLACK RIVER AREA OF CONCERN Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

2:00 PM

Carlisle Visitor Center, LaGrange, OH 44050

In Attendance: Beaver Creek Watershed (Matt Nahorn); City of Amherst (Jennifer Scott-Wasilk); City of Lorain (Kate Hoffmann); Coldwater Consulting, Inc. (Kristen Risch, Chip Wendt); LoCo 'Yaks (Robb Koscho); Lorain County Community Development (Christin Brandon, Lyn Ickes, Don Romancak); Lorain County General Health District (Stephanie Lesco, Jill Lis); Lorain County Metro Parks (Bryan Goldthorpe); Ohio Department of Natural Resources (Steve Holland); Ohio EPA (Ted Conlin)

Agenda Items

Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes from 11/18/2015

- Motion to approve by Ted Conlin; second by Lyn Ickes
- All in favor; minutes approved as submitted

Fiscal Report Update and Current AOC Deliverables

- Required to provide fiscal report at all meetings
- Shared document with group; no questions or comments
- This was the final financial report given by the Lorain County General Health District

Updates on Grant Funded Projects

- City of Lorain Projects
 - Heron rookery restoration almost completed; will have monitoring and reporting on the way
 - \$15 million EPA project is underway; most of assessment on remediation sites is completed
 - Getting ready to bid the seep, soil acquisition, and construction of bottom of onsite disposal cell
 - Next spring there will be a bid for material movement and cell construction
 - Drum disposal is wrapped with this project
 - Bid announcements will be on the City's website

- Lakeview Beach infrastructure grant does not have an update at this time
- GLRI Phase 1
 - Received email from NOAA; officially closed out
 - Treated over 60 acres of Phragmites
 - NOAA interested in doing a short video with interviews of Lyn Ickes and her crew
- Willow Creek
 - Quality assurance project plan (QAPP) was approved
 - Next step: Coldwater Consulting is working with purchasing on design build; will put out for bid in June
- GLRI Phase 2 and 3
 - These are ongoing; focus on outreach now
 - Phase 2 outreach geared toward grades K-3; Phase 3 is geared toward grades 6-12 and adults
 - Requesting extensions for these phases; finishing the grant on September 2019
- 319 Grant for Clinton Avenue Ditch
 - Received a letter from Russ Gibson of EPA; should show up in 2016
 - Pushing to 2017 but would like to complete this by the end of the year
- Toxicity Study in French Creek
 - Money was earmarked and given to NOAA; hoping to begin project this summer

Letter to Congress Supporting GLRI Funding

- Received a request to issue a letter of support for GLRI funding; letter was sent the week of March 7-13
- Another letter was sent to Marcy Kaptur because of her continued support and involvement in projects

Updates from Great Lakes AOC Conference

- 3-4 minute Black River video was shown at the conference; full length copies were available for people to take
- Delisting of an AOC
 - There was a flowchart for the process but there were some questions with its clarity
 - Currently, there is no formal recognition or letter for an AOC that has been delisted
- BUI Removal
 - This is a long process
 - Concern over how long the process takes and whether we will be ready for our 2018 target delist date
 - Question over who gives the approval for removal of a BUI after it has met the targets
- Economic Development and River
 - Black River is being used for economic development
 - Lorain Port Authority runs boat trips every day starting in June
 - There will be an article in Pulse magazine about the river and upcoming activities

Updates on BUI Removals

- Fish and Wildlife Consumption
 - Received approval on the document to remove BUI
- Eutrophication/Undesirable Algae
 - Had prior approval on the document to remove BUI
- Next Steps
 - Public outreach component/comment period needed; discussion with committee on how best to conduct this piece
 - Committee decided there should be a public meeting to gather feedback from community
 - After meeting, Ted will create a packet for GLNPO to review and make the decision on whether or not to remove BUIs
 - If approved, IJC will be notified that BUIs have been removed for the Black River

AOC Facilitating Organization, Next Steps

- Lorain County General Health District (LCGHD) will no longer be the facilitating organization
- Discussion on potential replacements for this position
- Need to review Guidance Document on guidelines for facilitating organizations
- LCGHD is still able to maintain the website
- Qualities needed for the facilitating organization
 - Mechanism to receive funds and effectively and efficiently manage them; grant management/facilitation experience
 - Available funds upfront since the grant is reimbursing the facilitating organization
 - Local organization
 - Good organization and leadership
 - Understanding of what the Black River AOC does and how we accomplish things
 - Able to conduct education and outreach
- Potential organizations to take on facilitation role
 - LoCo 'Yaks
 - Lorain County Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Lorain County Community College
 - Lorain Port Authority

Old Business

NONE

New Business

Grant Opportunity

- Information shared by Steve Holland
- Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program Grant to create public access/outdoor recreation space within designated urban areas; grant due April 18, 2016
- For more information, visit <http://www.blackriveraoc.com/announcements?f=13313>

Announcements

Black River Clean-Up

- Clean-up is May 7 and 8; for more information, visit <http://blackrivercleanup.webs.com/>

Black River Kayak-A-Thon

- Event is June 25; more information will follow so keep checking <https://www.facebook.com/lorainblackriver> and <http://www.cityoflorain.org/engineering/kayak-athon>

Rock For Water 2016: Recycled Fashion Show

- Fundraiser for Black River Clean-Up; held on April 9, 2016 at Lorain Palace
- For more information, visit <http://lorainpalace.org/rock-for-water/> and <https://www.facebook.com/events/459305237588807/>

Public Comments

None

Motion to adjourn by Kate Hoffmann, second by Robb Koscho. All in favor and meeting adjourned.

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

Minutes submitted by Stephanie Lesco on April 4, 2016