



## Black River Advisory Committee

Facilitating Organization:

**LoCo 'Yaks**

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

### BLACK RIVER AREA OF CONCERN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, October 16, 2017

1:00 PM

Sunset Terrace @ Lorain County Metro Parks  
 1800 West Erie Avenue  
 Lorain, OH 44052

### *Minutes*

Attendance: \*Voting Member

Don Romancak*	Lorain County
Chip Wendt	Coldwater Consulting
AJ Gutz	Coldwater Consulting
Kristen Risch	Coldwater Consulting
Jill Lis*	LCGHD
John Sabo	LCGHD
Julie Mackey*	Private Citizen/ OSU Extension
Kate Golden*	City of Lorain
Lyn Ickes	Lorain County
Max Schaefer*	Private Citizen/ Ohio Environmental Council
Marijoy Halitzka*	Private Citizen/ Farmer
Matt Nahorn*	Private Citizen/ Beaver Creek Watershed
Jennifer Wasilk*	Private Citizen
Ted Conlin	OEPA
Tom Brown*	Lorain Port Authority
Melanie Barbis	OEPA
Bryan Goldthorpe*	LCMP
Stephanie Lesco	LCGHD
Stephanee Moore Koscho	LoCo 'Yaks
Robb Koscho	LoCo 'Yaks

- ❖ Welcome / Call to Order (Don) **1:10pm**
- ❖ Approval of Meeting Minutes 7/18/17 (Don) **Motion to accept by Max Schaefer; second by Bryan Goldthorpe. All in favor. Motion carries.**
- ❖ Fiscal Report (Stephanee)
  - \$17,503.77 expenditures through most recent reporting period.



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- Current grant extension – APPROVED!! Raises total grant to \$34,250. Extension includes storm drain stenciling, more MDPEPs, public river tours via boat & kayak, informational AOC/ Black River brochures. Extension will take us through March, next cycle begins April 1.
- Mini grant – Dominion & Western Reserve Land Conservancy – APPROVED!! \$1500 for marketing and promotions of MDPEPs, restoration work, etc. Will include additional brochure printings, TV &/or radio advertising, 360 degree camera to showcase river projects on social media & our website.
- ❖ Lower Black River Restoration Grant Project Updates
  - \$550,000 grant amendment
    - **Lyn – This is a grant amendment to Willow Creek project at Fortune Ditch; + 1.5 acres of wetlands; finishing Willow Creek at Margaret Peak – will allow completion of 25 acres where they're having a problem with mare's tail.**
    - **Don – This amendment is in correlation to the most recent change to the Management Actions List (see July minutes or see final confirmation below).**
    - **Next step to combat mare's tail? Maybe spray again.**
  - **Lakeview \$300,000 – (in addition to Management Actions List and in response to beach impairment BUI)**
    - **Kate G. – New intensive study to identify hydrology concerns. Past studies (not much data) have never been able to identify cause of high bacteria levels. Indicators do not point towards the nearest outfall. Will study water circulation within breakwalls. City of Lorain is partnering with LCMP & LCGHD.**
    - **Jill – Suggested recent study about seagulls and contamination, possible cross contamination from seagulls traveling to landfill and back to beach. Something to consider.**
    - **Money is being used for professional services (100%) – Coldwater and other firms for more studies.**
    - **No on the ground restoration yet. This is all learning and assessing.**
  - **Kate G. – AOC Remediation – \$15.095m allocated to current project. SEEP is installed & operating. Although there were a few startup issues – it operated a little sluggish at first with lack of rain, but overall, pleased with functioning. There is one thing left to do that does not affect functionality.**
  - **Kate G. – Fish Shelf & Bulkheads @ LSYC – bids coming in now (due 10/20). 4-5 pre-bids came in early. Hoping to inform selected contractor by Nov. 9. Project must be completed by the end of April due to spawning and river traffic.**



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- **Kate G. – Reclamation site – moving forward with the remaining sampling. Dealing with some PH concerns, but no extreme toxicity issues.**
- **Lyn – Spraying season has come to an end – 2 days left to go. Great job this year. Past areas are doing well.**
- **Don – Prairie grasses at Willow Creek are looking better than before -- more birds & pollinators. Monitoring will continue. Encouraging everyone to go check it out (off state route 82). Maintenance plan will be to keep it with no invasives, etc. Water quality is not a requirement in this area, but the new native growth should impact all BUIs.**
- **Don – Lake Avenue (OEPA 319 grant) plans are complete. Permits are now with Army Corps and the Notice of Intent will be filed tomorrow (10/17). Anticipating a complete stream restoration with creation of 10 acres of flood plain, wetlands, and other water features. This will be a year-long project spending \$295,000. Total on the Clinton Avenue ditch will be \$900,000+. Clinton Ave./ Lake Ave. runoff directly effects Black River's main stem. The project will go out to bid in November (after permits, etc.). This is another project outside of Management Actions List, but will benefit overall health of main stem.**

### ❖ Old Business

- **Change to Management Actions List regarding Fortune Ditch project approved. Official letter attached.**
- **Eddie Herdendorf – Sheffield Village Voting Member? Stephanie – after the July meeting, Eddie asked about the Voting Member List as he thought we was a government rep. for Sheffield Village (appointed by Mayor hunter). Discussion:**
  - **No gov't. or citizen room right now with five of each. If he begins attending regularly again, may be brought to a vote, but not right now. Can be on "next" list. [After meeting note: also add Sabo to "next" list.]**
- **Other Voting Members**
  - **Stephanee suggested electing John Gargas to replace David Schmidt as US Steel representative. John is on US Steel's Environmental Committee and very involved in revitalization of Lorain & Black River, and will attend meetings. Motion was made to accept, but then rescinded in order to get approval from US Steel first. Discussion with possible motion & vote at next meeting.**
  - **Steph & Robb will discuss Business representation with Backpackers Shop, Speak Of The Devil, Craig Lewis, & John Muzik. Stephanie questioned conflict of interest with LoCo 'Yaks Board Members. Kate & Ted clarified – they can participate but cannot vote on LoCo 'Yaks/ Facilitating Org. money stuff.**
  - **Travel industry was also suggested as potential representation – hotels, b&b, etc. Don also suggested looking for another industrial rep as well.**



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- **Other mentioned: LSYC, Spitzer, Westlake Yacht Club.**

### ❖ New Business

- Next meeting with grant extension **February 26. 1:00pm**
- Next year's meetings (subject to change pending 2018 grant) **Spring meeting – suggestion made to have meeting near restoration site with tour afterwards, possibly Eaton Township Hall. Summer meeting – suggested bus tour of sites instead of boat, so we can see more and different sites. Maybe for fall meeting we can add mill trip to meeting to see reclamation site.**
  - **1<sup>st</sup> 2018 FY meeting will be April 23 – Stephanie will look into Eaton Twp. Townhall for meeting (approx. ½ mile from restoration site). Please plan to stay after for a walking tour. Details to come at Feb. meeting.**

### ❖ Announcements

- **Lake Erie Starts Here stenciling flyer will go out in the next City Of Lorain water bill.**
- **Jill – Maybe we could take volunteers for planting live stakes – put it out there in future emails when planting time comes.**
- **Don – Brownfield: Rt 57 corridor – this development will enhance what we do and could impact City of Lorain development. Planning efforts continue with an attempt to keep the public involved via web page, email, etc.**
- **WVIZ – Stephanie & Don were interviewed for 'All Things Considered' on Ideastream which aired Friday, Oct. 13. [Here is a link to the clip.](#)**
- **Live On Lakeside – August 7<sup>th</sup> Steph & Robb were on Live On Lakeside on Cleveland's channel 3 WKYC talking about the MDPEPs and demonstrating the watershed model. Click here to watch.**
- **Website – LoCo 'Yaks will be moving the site from Emerge to Web Hosting Hub.**
- **Ted & Melanie – Do we have a water testing schedule for next year? No, OEPA isn't really doing much other than Cuyahoga, and they currently have no plans to sample the Black.**
  - **Kristen Isom suggested the 9 element plan. Russ had suggested that we request data from Ted. He has plenty and Lyn has tons of info too.**

- ❖ **Adjourn Motion to adjourn by Tom Brown; second by Julie Mackey. All in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 2:24pm.**