



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, October 22, 2018, 12:00 PM

Lorain County Metro Parks | Sandy Ridge Reservation

Perry F. Johnson Wetland Center

6195 Otten Road North Ridgeville, OH 44039

Don Romancak* Chair	Lorain County
Kate Golden* City Liason	City of Lorain
Bryan Goldthorpe*	LCMP
Jennifer Scott-Wasilk*	Sandstone EHS Services, LLC
Stephanie Lesco	Lorain County Public Health
Marijoy Halitzka*	Halitzka Family Farm & Happy Honey Bees
Jill Lis*	Lorain County Public Health
Kristen Risch	Coldwater Consulting
Lyn Ickes	Lorain County
Lynn Garrity	Ohio Lake Erie Commission
Kristen Isom	US EPA
Matt Nahorn*	Beaver Creek Watershed/ New Indian Ridge Museum
Steve Holland	ODNR
JoAnn Banda	US Fish & Wildlife Service
John Sabo	Lorain County Public Health
John Schwartz	
Christin Brandon	LCCDD
Noel Vargas	US EPA
Stephanee Moore Koscho	LoCo 'Yaks/ Facilitating Org.
Robb Koscho	LoCo 'Yaks/ Facilitating Org.
*Voting Member/ Proxy	

- ❖ Welcome / Call to Order @ 1:07PM
- ❖ Fiscal Report
 - FY2018 support grant – \$17,929.54 with \$19,511.95 remaining
 - That is right on schedule.
- ❖ Motion to accept 7/16/18 meeting minutes by Bryan G.; 2nd by Jill; all in favor; motion passes.
- ❖ Old Business
 - Kayak-A-Thon rescheduled for August 25 – Chip: 40+ participants; event ran smoothly; no races; no SUPs; should try to engage SUPs more next year.
 - Don: July 26 Vita Nuova EOI event – Event was sold out (120); Port & US EPA highlighted 6 available sites; 3 submissions afterwards; interested parties are leaning towards recreational, housing, retail, mixed use.



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- Stephane: NEORS Open House & Clean Water Fest exhibitor Saturday, Sept. 15 – 1000+ in attendance; used VR headsets to engage visitors; busy & successful day.
- Stephane: Northeast Ohio Litter Summit – breakout session “Community Engagement: Creating and Managing Litter Events” Friday, Sept. 7 – presented on engaging & retaining volunteers; another guy made us sing a song; keynote speaker said the Pacific Garbage Patch is not a real thing.
- Robb: Clean Water For All 2018, Washington DC, July 24-25 – Robb went representing Lorain/ Lake Erie coastline; with person from Cincinnati/ Ohio River-area; visited DC’s Ohio offices sharing personal clean water stories; farm bill was biggest concern right now.
- Don: Dredge Summit – Coordinated effort between LCCC, Ohio EPA (OEPA), Lake Erie Commission; deadline for no more dumping in Lake Erie is July 1, 2020.
 - Kate: OEPA + port cities have been working toward next steps; rivers need to be navigable with renewed interest in shipping farther south than in recent years; if pig iron is coming, river near Republic will need dredged because freighters are the easiest for shipping necessary materials; currently under environmental review; Lorain wants to address this locally, possibly building dredge facility – there is money “sort of” available to use the rec site at the landfill that didn’t happen with last remediation grant; currently scoping project with Coldwater Consulting; plan to start construction in 2019 in order to accept material in 2021 keeping Black River navigable with Ohio dredging laws; new regulations indicate Black River sediment will be classified ‘residential’ with no contamination; City will hire facility operator to help design; RFQ before end of year; looking for someone to help build a facility that is easy to manage; final details TBD; compost facility-adjacent will help; sediment is super fine like clay – results also TBD.
- Kate: BRCU Banners from City? – Has not been discussed at all, but will happen; stormwater will ensure it does.
- ❖ Lower Black River Restoration Grant Project Updates
 - Kate, Kristen, Lyn – any updates since July?
 - Invasives - completed all assigned tasks; county bought a boat within budget – 24’, 30 yo.; completing work on river side just south of Parker Marina; couldn’t get to floodplain due to fish shelves; Monkey Island is done on main side, some done on inside side, then the boat died; everything they could reach has been sprayed from Monkey Island to Grumpy’s; some places can’t get to (kayak may work better); waiting to see results, turning brown where it is on land, water logged plants take longer; New Russia Twp. - new city sign has baby phrag. in water they want addressed, but it probably won’t die, and they want the park sprayed; good crew of college students this year; next year? – depends on how it looks in spring; side-by-side pics show: cut within a year of spray, new stuff grows; no cut after spray, no growth, no seed bank; great progress in HOAs; lots of success; crew has noticed lots



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of phrag. along highways where road work has been completed indicating the trucks are spreading seeds; mare's tail spraying was a success.

- Margaret Peak Fortune ditch bidding is out – awarding will be in month or so; not too active right now; getting ready to submit reports.
- Seep site is undergoing internal remediation project – mechanisms needed fixed, no big deal; had to change some parts; working with Brown & Caldwell.
- Fish Shelves – LS&YC is COMPLETE!! Building is up, all city work is finished, water line functioning; fish sampling guys were out – won't have numbers until winter; Midwest Biodiversity – macros not analyzed yet; cost reports separated to see if retrofitting would be cheaper – see Chad Ferguson for numbers.
- Bidding for rec. site is almost done; permit discussions and site visits are happening; managed under construction permit; changing hydrology but cannot be regulated; headed in a positive direction.
- Lakeview Beach bacteria – another set of samples to complete, then a meeting to discuss circulation model; DNA samples sourcing says – human contribution at both East & West outfalls – samples came back unknown, bc we didn't test for it, large numbers of TBD results – not human, not goose; small area so it shouldn't be from farms or far away;
- Kristen Isom: MAP Complete & Next Steps – a year left of 2019 MAP complete; results of all projects should be removing BUIs; after 2019, we monitor at the state & local levels to see if this is all been effective; monitoring will continue for at least 2 years; go to Isom with questions, etc.
- Kristen Isom: National Geographic Photographer – Peter Essick – is doing stories all over the Great Lakes/ AOCs for their online publications; took drone pics; site tours with Kate; boat spraying trip with Lyn.
- Kristen Isom: View the comprehensive report “*Assessing the Investment: The Economic Impact of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative*” here <https://www.glc.org/work/blue-economy/GLRI-economic-impact?fbclid=IwAR3psInUV7ZfyZQVDY6xykjARpF1adJDHOXS7EcAsRz1XuOujxavqlhWPA8>
- Lyn: Foreign Watershed Project – some super smart PHDs visited from overseas to study watershed management; Lyn took them on some site tours.
- Cormorants - Are they becoming a problem? – They've moved down river, switched sides and are taking over outskirts of the heron rookery. In order to discuss or figure out the process for a “cormorant season” we need data – how many pairs, how they are affecting the rookery, etc.; It's also a federal issue because they migrate – Steve H. will follow up with DNR. Committee will need to follow up with JoAnn Banda as well.
- ❖ New Business
 - Cuyahoga Symposium October 26 (This Friday)
 - Who is attending? Robb, Kristen Risch, JoAnn Banda
 - AOC Conference 2019 (September?)



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- How will we participate? Poster session? Tour? Breakout session? – Committee preference is to do a river boat tour. ... but ...
- Lynn Garrity: GLC is having a hard time finding a venue and lodging that are conveniently located with matching dates available; BRAC will definitely be highlighted/ involved, but a tour is extremely unlikely. GLRI's Action Plan III + BRAC's MAP Complete = perfect timing to be a big deal at AOC 2019.
- Lynn Garrity: Tetra Tech is working on a comprehensive report/ evaluation for removal of Aesthetics BUI #11; currently collecting data, but "aesthetics" is hardest quality to document as there is no true definition or evaluation criteria for "aesthetics".
 - Kristen Risch: Suggested BRAC look into some kind of litter maintenance vessel to continue clean-up efforts and assist with maintaining aesthetics.
- BR Summit (March?) – will finalize plans at January meeting; sub-committee will iron out details in the meantime – John Sabo, Kate Golden, Max Schaefer, John Muzik, Lyn Ickes
 - Key note
 - Location – Palace – to be confirmed
 - Format – include breakfast or lunch?
 - Media – Tiffany Tarpley Building Better Neighborhoods – she needs date ASAP
- ❖ Announcements
 - Steph & Robb: BRCU Spaghetti Dinner is tomorrow!
 - Don: Vita Nuova PREPARED Workshop October 24 (This Wednesday) – it's a focus on downtown and the county port grant, how to move Broadway forward, permits, communication, etc.
 - Streetscape – need to check on start date as to not interfere with Summit.
- ❖ Motion to adjourn by Jill Lis at 3:25PM; 2nd by Kate G.; All in favor; Motion passes. Meeting adjourned.