



Black River Advisory Committee

LoCo 'Yaks | Facilitating Organization

138 Alabama Avenue

Lorain, OH 44052

(440) 249-0590

QUARTERLY MEETING | Tuesday, April 13, 2021 @ 1:30 PM

Minutes

- ❖ Welcome / Call to Order – 1:32pm with quorum. In attendance: Kate Golden, City of Lorain; Steve Holland, ODNR; Jannah Wilson, LCMP; Katie Carroll, BRAC; Don Romancak, LCCD; Lyn Ickes, LCCD; Pamela Davis, NOACA; John Sabo, Lorain County Retiree; Jennifer Wasilk, Sandstone EHS Services; Richard Payerchin, The Morning Journal; Kristen Risch, Coldwater Consulting; Melanie Barbis, Ohio EPA; Kristen Isom, GLNPO; Matt Nahorn, Beaver Creek Watershed; Julie MacKey, OSU Lorain County Extension; Stephanie Koscho, BRAC Facilitator.
- ❖ Fiscal Report
 - Still at \$47,874.40 – money has been spent, but reimbursements are pending because I'm slow.
- ❖ Old Business
 - Approval of Meeting Minutes 02/09/2021 – Kate makes motion to accept as is; Sabo seconds it; no discussion; all in favor; motion carries.
 - Doodly video – almost done. Just waiting for everyone to officially approve. – Kate motions to approve video; Steve seconds; no discussion; all in favor; motion carries. We have a Doodly video!
 - Steph – will we just share it, or do a Live Premiere and then share? Kate – maybe go online and promote what time we have a thing happening later? General discussion – choose date/time while waiting for EPA approval. Work hours or evening viewing? Let's do both – afternoon and evening. Which day? Wednesday (after approval). [Ended up premiering on Earth Day.]
 - Isom – While double checking the numbers, realized that soon enough this info will be outdated. Any thoughts on it? Steph – maybe include “accurate as of ...”. Don – “production” or “release” date. General discussion – easy to edit video when new info becomes available.
 - Don – Summary: We will edit disclaimer to include accuracy date; will release the premiere on Earth Day pending approval; if not approved in time, then the next Thursday following approval.
 - App – Waiting for approval from County Administration. – Don – It is going in front of the Board of Commissioners tomorrow, hoping for approval to cover the last \$4200. Lyn cannot provide update as she has no microphone or camera access today. (How did she log on? Through her tv?)
- ❖ Black River Restoration Project Updates
 - County – Don (for Lyn) – not a lot is going on except semi-annual reports. Lyn is prepping for start of the season – trucks are ready, supplies are stocked. Phase 3 grant, will be checking on Margaret, Willow, Eaton Township Park. Phrag can't be treated until it blooms, so not a lot of field work can happen for another couple of months.
 - City – Kate – Finalizing last couple projects under the Reclamation project. Publicly bid SEEP modification project. Approx \$550,000 + contingency. Also, working toward aquatic habitat project, which is the completion of bank restoration & in-stream work for area adjacent to SEEP. Final piece of that puzzle on the rec site. Anticipates it to be completed this fall. Waiting to see how vegetation at big rec site from last year is doing. Once into the growing season, we can evaluate the need for any

warranty work, then that should be wrapped up. Very near the finish line. All work on the ground should be done by the end of 2021.

- ❖ Ohio AOC Program Updates – Melanie – BUI Updates – still planning to sample for fish tumors with USFWS early May. Had an initial call with the Dredge Team, USACE is wrapping up work on last dredge sampling from 2020. Should have new data to Melanie in the next week, will continue with monthly calls, while evaluating data toward the recommendation toward the removal of BUI #7 Restrictions on Dredge Activities. Would like updates to blckriveraoc.com on MAPs Completion. Stephane will schedule meeting for Melanie, Katie, Robb, and Don.
 - Risch – When was data for TMDL collected? Melanie – not recent. Takes years to get those reports out. Looks like 2015. Don – TMDL will most likely effect MS4 communities, and if something is addressed by an MS4, it is not for the AOC committee, instead goes through a National Pollution Discharge Elimination Permit. Permits are impacted by this report and will effect stormwater management on multiple levels outside of the realm of the BRAOC. Coordinates with other programs that also affects the AOC in other ways.
- ❖ New Business
 - Summit
 - FireFish is definitely doing this project. We need to decide on format & budget – maybe have a subcommittee to meet with FF artist to brainstorm ideas? Steph – We will shift budget if necessary to cover expenses through the grant. Don – Subcommittee for FireFish. Kate & Sabo volunteered.
 - Lyn is working on a grant for a play that she is writing to tell the story of the history of the Black River.
 - Date – Confirm availability of Ariel indoor & outdoor – Don – need to speak with Ariel. Kate suggested September. General discussion – probably earlier as to not be too close to the GLAOC Conf. Don would like us to avoid Sept. 16. Try for week of Aug. 31 maybe.
 - What are the Covid guidelines? – Don – looks like things are easing up so hopefully we can fill to the allowable capacity.
 - Catering – Kate – we had Spectrum. No reason to change it.
 - Boat tour capacity, availability?
 - Possible Speakers
 - GLNPO – Isom will ask her management to speak, and she wants to attend.
 - Melanie will also ask management who wants to speak.
 - Mayor, Tom Brown (will have Tiffany do it), Project Team, Commissioner
 - Theme – Don – should we have a keynote? Be sure to include how ecology encourages economic improvements. Steve – Maybe have Radika open or welcome. And Max.
 - Kate – We had discussed having Broadway businesses have a table at summit.
 - Online presence – live stream -or- pre-recorded event
 - Digital presentation will be available on website & YouTube afterwards (combination of event video + PowerPoints) – Katie – probably FaceBook will be the easiest. Maybe YouTube as well. Melanie – can ask Public Interest Center, they've done a lot of virtual public meetings. Don – Would the state have an interest in helping to make it a live event? Melanie – Yes, I will reach out and see what we can do?
 - ~~Do we hire someone to do the videography? Who knows about connecting everyone – online + in-person speakers in a digital format so that the whole world can log on to watch? See above.~~
 - Other New Business

- Don – hopefully for next meeting, the County will have a new and impactful project to announce, outside of the AOC but still within the interest of this group.

❖ Announcements

- Steph – Max is out of town, but he has taken the position of Executive Director for Main Street Lorain and is currently transitioning to his new office at the Ariel.
 - GLAOC Conference in MI is end of September.
 - Virtual BRCU with Zoom meeting and Facebook LiveStream. Will also introduce BRCU all-the-time rewards program.
 - ADA Kayak Launch is being installed TOMORROW!!
 - LC Pride Day is May 15. Solid Waste Management District. County offers support with tools and contest. Info on website.
 - Dumpster Days in many LC communities.
 - Steve's office moved. Website is mostly fixed.
 - Erosion Emergency Assistance funding for lakefront property erosion construction projects.
 - LCMP Black River Celebration. MJ special section with lots of Black River info. June – September. Each month highlights a different park. New art installations, new Black River Map table at FCNC. Outdoors as classroom space and small groups will help us make this summer happen.
- ❖ Adjourn – Steve makes a motion to adjourn; Julie seconds; all in favor; motion carries and meeting adjourns at 2:45pm.