



Black River Advisory Committee

LoCo 'Yaks | Facilitating Organization

138 Alabama Avenue

Lorain, OH 44052

(440) 249-0590

QUARTERLY MEETING | Tuesday, August 17, 2021 @ 1:00PM via Zoom

Minutes

- ❖ Welcome / Call to Order – (Steve did roll call because computers are stupid, and Don wasn't on yet.)
Stephane (facilitator, LoCo 'Yaks), Steve Holland (ODNR), John Sabo (Retiredville), Jill Lis (LCPH), Chip Wendt (Coldwater), Matt Nahorn (Beaver Creek Watershed), Rick Payerchin (Morning Journal), Pamela Davis (NOACA), Kristen Isom (US EPA), Melanie Barbis (OH EPA), Max Scheafer (Main Street Lorain), Don Romancak (LCCD), and Jennifer Wasilk (Sandstone EHS Services) logged on later.
- ❖ Fiscal Report (detailed report attached)
 - \$68,384 spent/ \$44,826 remaining through end of July, not including:
 - \$2,000+ for Summit
 - \$3,000 for historical/ educational (traveling) art installation
 - \$9,440 (of \$15,000) for the app
 - Don asked if we are concerned with any extra funds or not enough. Stephane confirmed funds are in line with the overall budget.
 - Steve questioned if the \$44,000+ includes salaries and is it enough. Stephane confirmed this is on schedule with her monthly budget for work hours. (Nicest question about the budget ever 😊)
- ❖ Old Business
 - Approval of Meeting Minutes 04/13/2021 and 07/06/2021 –
 - Max moves to accept April minutes. Jill seconds. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carries.
 - Max moves to accept July minutes. Don seconds. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carries.
 - App – They are working on it. – Stephane said that financially, nothing new has happened since last meeting.
 - Don – Site visit (mid-July) @ Fortune Ditch & Margaret Peak Preserve to test run QR Codes with map & information. Still coordinating points with photos & descriptions. No issues reported during development. Seems like good progress.
 - Would like to present final product at the Summit. Asked for it to be ready a week prior. Don will check on progress.
 - Steve suggested a QR Code for Summit attendees to download the app. Don sent an email inquiry about this while discussing.
- ❖ Black River Restoration Project Updates
 - County – Don – weather has been difficult. Lyn & crew are 50%+ through polishing restoration site. Working to reach the last little bit of coverage. Needed extra hose to reach farther. Looking for approval from Coldwater for assistance – both manpower and (Argo) chemicals (Chip is both of these and plans to help in the field on Friday.) Lyn plans to finish up and move to smaller sites next week.
 - City – Chip – Not much since April. SEEP – contractor selected and getting approvals and concrete vault built. Aquatic Habitat – expecting permits to be finalized and ready to bid in September.
 - Chip missed a few minutes and asked about Lake Avenue project. Don, Lyn, & Matt had site visit last Friday. Saw native cattails, hybrid, & narrowleaf cattails all together. Lyn is formulating a plan to combat the invasives, including purple loosestrife. Chip asked/reminded him to watch the live-stakes when they are on-site. Don talked about State monitoring of benthos and fish and mentioned that the live-stakes are doing quite well. Twenty-six fish of one species were documented. Chip has never seen one = huge accomplishment. Anticipating the monitoring report from the State.
- ❖ Ohio AOC Program Updates – Melanie –
 - BUI Status – working on the Dredge removal document draft. Still waiting for some mapping & imaging from USACE. Planning to submit first draft early September. Process will probably take until the end of October for final removal, including review/comments by the BRAC.

- Further fish tumor sampling & data collection was recently completed by USFW. Expecting to get data for review before the end of the calendar year. Results will dictate what's next for Fish Tumor BUI removal.
- GLAOC Conference – Sept 29 – 30, Muskegon, MI. Registration is open for in-person event. Travel support request was recently released.

❖ New Business

- Summit -- *Ecological Restoration and Economic Development on the Black River, Lorain County*
 - September 16, 2021
 - Ariel on Broadway, 301 Broadway Ave., Lorain
 - 10:00am – 11:30am Regular BRAC Meeting
 - 11:30am – 1:00pm Check-in, Lunch, Networking
 - 1:00pm – 4:00pm Black River Summit 2021
 - Concluding with cupcakes & bubbly juice to celebrate the official completion of Management Actions.
 - 4:15pm – 5:30 VIP Happy Hour with heavy appetizers at Black River Landing
 - 5:30pm – 7:30pm Black River Restoration Tour aboard LP&FA's River Boats
 - Possible Speakers – Has anyone secured anyone other than those listed below?
 - ✓Max, Main Street Lorain & BRAC VC – will host & provide introductions (Master of Ceremonies).
 - ✓Tom, Lorain Port & Finance Authority
 - Mayor Bradley + Sanford Washington (Safety Service Director) definitely attending & possibly Rick (Kate, do you know if he will be speaking?) – Stephanie will follow-up with Kate.
 - ✓GLNPO, Director Chris Korleski + Kristen Isom? Travel is very limited, Chris will get approval to attend first, and hopefully Kristen too. 20-30 minute window available for speaking/presentation. Will update us as updates become available.
 - ✓Project Team – Kate & Chip and Lyn.
 - Don – have we confirmed Commissioner(s)? Yes, but not sure which one yet.
 - Melanie – Anyone from OH EPA yet? Kurt Princic will speak. Confirmed last week. Just need to plan the presentation to conform to the Summit theme.
 - Invitation List – attached link is just a starter/don't-forget list. Official e-vite will go out soon.
 - Live Streaming – Melanie, did you ever talk to your Public Interest Center to see if they could offer any assistance? – Stephanie – Can probably make this happen with a decent HD webcam and Zoom. Zoom can live stream to Facebook and YouTube, I just need to watch the tutorial.
 - Kristen Isom – Q: Do we need Speaker confirmation before invitations can go out? A: No. We will keep it vague, but if Chris cannot make it, we will need to fill that time, so please let us know ASAP. Q: US EPA has requested Kristen to draft a press release announcing this event, who should I work with on this? A: Don volunteers Stephanie but makes himself “available” as needed. Kristen will follow up with Stephanie.
 - Don plans to invite everyone who has ever helped with restoration projects, past & present. (This might be our last big deal before *delisting*, so we need to act accordingly.)
- FireFish project – Proposal attached – Stephanie will put together the full timeline with pictures, submit to the committee (via email) for review and editing, then final draft will go to OH EPA (Cherie and Melanie) for approval before being sent to the artist to print and build.
- Schedule next meetings – Summit sub-committee and regular AOC – Stephanie requests sub-committee soon to prepare literature and “downtime video” for the Summit (including discussion following this meeting). We also need a Summit follow-up meeting within 2 weeks to discuss the event while it's still fresh. Stephanie will find a time or send out a Doodle Poll.

❖ Announcements

- Steve – ODNR Coastal Management Assistance Grant RFPs are being released within the next couple of weeks. \$300,000 - \$500,000 total + match. Open to anyone not a regular for-profit business.
- Steve – ODNR two job openings. Please look at our website. Links in chat box.
- Don – thankful for great MJ positive media coverage of AOC projects and partnerships.

- County is waiting for a survey to acquire 60 acres as part of Willow Creek. Once upon a time, early in Management Actions, the Health Dept. received a grant to study and compile a report on Willow Creek, which resulted in GLRI funding in that area. We are still using that report to identify other watershed improvement projects.
- ❖ Adjourn (Can Summit Sub-committee members please stay on for a minute?) Motion to adjourn by Jill. John seconds. All in favor. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned.