



## Black River Advisory Committee

LoCo 'Yaks | Facilitating Organization  
138 Alabama Avenue  
Lorain, OH 44052  
(440) 249-0590

BI-MONTHLY (COVID) MEETING | Tues., February 9, 2021 | 1:00 PM

Via Zoom.

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### MINUTES

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- ❖ Welcome / Call to Order – Don called to order at 1:04pm.
  - In attendance: Don Romancak, Lorain County; Jannah Wilson, Lorain Co. Metro Parks; Jennifer Wasilk, City of Amherst / Sandstone EHS Services; Steve Holland, ODNR; Pamela Davis, NOACA; Stephanie Koscho, LoCo 'Yaks; Lyn Ickes, Watershed; Matt Nahorn, Beaver Creek Watershed; Rick Payerchin, Morning Journal; Julie Mackey, OSU Extension; Melanie Barbis, Ohio EPA; Kristen Risch, Coldwater; Kristen Isom, US EPA; Max Schaefer, OEC; Christen Brandon, Lorain County; Katie Carroll, BRAC Media Specialist; Stephanie Lesco, LCPH
- ❖ Fiscal Report
  - [Don] Compliments to Stephanie for the fiscal report being easy to follow and understand. [Stephanee] More details can be provided on what exactly was spent in any of the categories if anyone has questions. Everything has been approved thus far - just waiting on a few deposits for reimbursements. [Don] Should we reallocate any money or is everything going to plan? [Stephanee] The travel department may get crossed out if we do not end up doing anything. Following financial report, the deliverables report can be found in the agenda.
  - Approval of Fiscal Report; motion to accept by Max; second by Steve; no discussion; all in favor; none opposed; motion carries unanimously.
- ❖ Old Business
  - Approval of Meeting Minutes 12/08/2020; motion to accept as is by Julie; second by Max; no discussion; all in favor; none opposed; motion carries unanimously.
  - Doodly video – Those who have access to preview of video - please do not share it yet - needs approval from chain of command before being published.
    - Questions/Comments/Suggestions –
      - [Max] Suggests changing clipart of man with money bags and delete sound clip.
      - [Don] Questions how the video will be distributed once it is approved.
        - [Stephanee] Video will be shared on YouTube and social media pages. We could schedule a Facebook Video Live Premiere.
        - [Steve] Questions the “river of fish tumors” nickname ever existing – not catchy.
        - [Melanie] US EPA’s website includes the “river of fish tumors” nickname in the Black River AOC introduction.
        - [Don] Let’s put together a couple of different possibilities that could replace this phrase.
- ❖ App
  - Subcontractor letter was submitted and approved. Just need to get signatures. The money is allocated.

❖ Black River Restoration Project Updates

- County – [Lyn] Not much has happened since December.
  - Questions? None.  
[Don] Lyn has been doing a lot of research and webinars, learning about new invasives.
- City – [Kristen] Last meeting we discussed the geopool. The Rec Site capping project is finished. The seep treatment system project is ready to bid in a couple weeks. That work will probably be completed in the summer due to the equipment needing to be ordered and built before delivered to the site. We have also worked on the design of the aquatic habitat project. It is located just downstream of the seep area. It's another fish shelf right in the restoration project. We did get Martins Run funded through H2Ohio.

❖ Ohio AOC Program Updates – [Don]

- BUI #11 Removal – Great timing, it was the 100<sup>th</sup> BUI Removal.  
[Melanie] Exciting for GLNPO for being the 100<sup>th</sup> with a lot of positive press on it. The next BUI to work on getting removed is the Restrictions on Dredging BUI. The first kickoff meeting with the state dredge team, Army Corps of Engineers, and others. The Ashtabula AOC removed the dredging BUI last fall so we will be following a similar pathway. Hoping to have a draft timeline and update at the next meeting.  
[Kristen] Congratulations to the group. Lots of enthusiasm from GLNPO.

❖ 2021 Great Lakes AOC Conference – Information will be coming from Michigan when made available.

❖ New Business

- The next two meetings are Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 1:30pm and Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 1:00pm.
- Black River Annual Summit –  
[Don] Choose a date around Labor Day. Prefer to do indoor and outdoor working with the hotel. Celebrate the BUI Removal and Management Actions complete.  
[Lyn] If we do early September, would we have a better chance to garner the attention of the schools. Instead of it just being us, we could bring kids in to give them an idea of what we do.  
[Don] We can reach out to the school districts within the AOC.  
[Stephane] Schools may not be taking large field trips just yet. Take into consideration that we may not get to have the event anyway. Try to find a happy medium - bring in a few kids but also have online participation option or we could have a temporary walk-through display so people could come see it at their leisure.  
[Lyn] Could we involve FireFish folks with the walk-through display?  
[Stephane] Will ask FireFish tomorrow if they would like to get involved with the potential display.  
[Jannah] Idea to create a Black River Classroom Kit – send materials for a classroom to learn from.

❖ Announcements/ Other Business

- No announcements.

❖ Adjourn

- Max makes a motion to adjourn; second by Jannah; no discussion; all in favor; none opposed; meeting adjourned at 2:06 pm.