



Black River Advisory Committee
Lorain County Conservation District | Facilitating Organization
conservation@loraincounty.us
(440) 326-5800

BRAC QUARTERLY MEETING | Thursday, July 18, 2024, 10:00 AM
Location: Lorain Reclamation Site, 2601 E. 28th St., Lorain, OH 44055

MINUTES

- ❖ Welcome / Call to Order: 12:08 PM by BRAC Chair Don Romancak
 - Attendees: **Kate Golden** (City of Lorain); **Don Romancak** (LC Development & Stormwater); **Scott Pozna** (LCPH); Mike Jindra (LCPH); **Chip Wendt** (Coldwater Consulting); **Jennifer Wasilk** (Amherst City Council/Sandstone Environmental Health Services); **Hannah Boesinger** (Ohio Lake Erie Commission); **Kris Patterson** (Ohio Lake Erie Commission); **John Timmons** (ODA); **Sarah Stanzi** (NOACA); **Matt Nahorn** (Beaver Creek Watershed); **Julie Kastanis** (Ohio Sea Grant); **Duane Cribley** (LC Public Health); **John Sabo** (LC resident); **Jessica Nowjack** (City of Lorain); **Heather Elmer** (Chagrin River Watershed Partners); **Jessie Herchler** (Lorain County Stormwater District); **Patti Donnellan** (LC Conservation District)
 - Not enough voting members for a quorum – no voting.
- ❖ Fiscal Report – Q1 report included in agenda
 - \$6636.39 submitted for reimbursement for salary, website, merchandise, and Zoom.
Balance remaining: \$64,600 - \$6636.39 = \$57,963.61
- ❖ Old Business
 - Approval of Meeting Minutes from 5/14/2024 – no quorum
 - Will approve May’s minutes at November meeting.
 - Lorain County Beautiful/Pride Day on Saturday, May 18th. Over 100 pounds of trash pulled from Black River at Cascade Park. Thanks to Duane Cribley for participating.
- ❖ New Business
 - More AOC themed items have arrived – please take & share.
 - BUI for Beach Closings – need statement from AOC Committee/Chair sent to OLEC/Hannah B. as soon as possible so official press release can be distributed.
 - Sunset Beach Fest at Lakeview Park on Saturday, August 10th from 4-8pm. Call for volunteers to assist for any length of time.
- ❖ Black River Watershed Project Updates
 - **County:**
 - Fortune Ditch in Eaton Township project on hold – appeal filed in the Ohio Ninth District Court of Appeals.
 - \$1 million H2Ohio award & \$1 million Save Our Great Lakes award for 60-acre Gerber wetland project.

- \$1 million from a private company for the Willow Creek watershed.
 - H2Ohio grant awarded for Foster Ditch (Foster Ditch -> Kelner Ditch -> Elk Creek -> East Branch of Black River)
 - 2 stage ditch – 2 segments. Keep wooded riparian areas intact; construction in ag sections
- City: Kate: Led tour of Rec Site, including geopools (which should be ready to begin receiving materials within a month) & riparian area along river.
 - Waterfront redevelopment plans still ongoing
 - Sunset Pier: awarded \$1.7 million to complete campaign
 - Hot Waters Boat Launch: GLNPO awarded \$1 million for mixed use development on Pellet Site, which includes a 7 acre park.
- ❖ Ohio AOC Program Updates & Announcements: Hannah Boesinger
 - Lake Erie Coastal Resilience grants range from \$50,000-\$75,000 for the 8 coastal counties. Only 12-15 grants will be awarded.
 - USEPA is earmarking \$5.5 million for 5 years for Environmental Justice grants. Kris will forward more info as it becomes available.
- ❖ Federal AOC Program Updates & Announcements
 - None at this time
- ❖ Announcements | Other Business
 - Heather Elmer (CRWP) mentioned the award letter is coming from US EPA ([Feb 2024 BRAC minutes](#))
 - Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc., is writing NPS-IS plans and providing technical assistance for project development for the Black River Watershed HUC-12, Lower West Branch Black River HUC-12, and Jackson Ditch-East Branch Black River HUC-12. They plan to include these 3 Black River HUC-12s in their 319 application for NPS-IS writing and technical assistance.
- ❖ Adjournment
 - Motion to adjourn by Kate, second by Jen at 12:41pm, July 18, 2024
 - Next meeting: Tuesday, November 12th, 2024 at Lorain County Public Health building

