



## ***Black River Remedial Action Plan Coordinating Committee***

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# **BLACK RIVER REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, November 6, 2013**

**2:00 PM**

Carlisle Visitor Center – Carlisle Room

12882 Diagonal Road

LaGrange, OH 44050

## ***Meeting Minutes***

**Attendance:** Citizen members (Andy Vidra); City of Amherst (Jennifer Scott-Wasilk); City of Elyria Wastewater (Tony Nigro); City of Lorain Engineering (Kate Hoffman); City of Lorain Utilities (Elva Martes); Coldwater Consulting (Chad Kettlewell, Kristen Risch); Cuyahoga County Board of Health (Megan Symanski, Laura Travers); LoCo Yaks (Stephanee Moore); Lorain County Community Development (Christin Brandon, Lyn Ickes); Lorain County General Health District (Dave Covell, Stephanie Lesco, Jill Lis, Mark Smith); Ohio EPA (Ted Conlin); US Steel Lorain Tubular (Karen Bezoski)

### **Invasive Species Removal Project Update**

- Approximately 60 acres of purple loosestrife were removed
- Approximately 40 acres of phragmites were treated; approximately 12 acres that were sprayed have been cut
- Will be bringing back 6 of the workers for continuation of the project in 2014

### **Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) Update**

- Federal AOC workgroup would like to continue the work that began last year with each of the state AOC programs - to provide support to ensure competitive project proposals address the critical criteria for Sustain our Great Lakes (SOGL) and NOAA habitat programs
- RFPs will be advertised early next year; GLNPO is looking for projects for competition either through SOGL or NOAA habitat

### **Willow Creek Project/Proposal**

- Willow Creek is a 23-mile drainage area in the East Branch sub-basin that has low summer flow and is impacted by household sewage treatment systems, agriculture, erosion, and “sludgy” stream sediments
- Current conditions in Willow Creek could impede the delisting of BUIs in the East Branch
- Watershed Action Plan suggests non-specific remedial actions but does not state where they could be placed or have the greatest impact

- Would like to put out an RFP for environmental consulting projects for Willow Creek to identify the best areas of action for remedial efforts

### **Black River Video Project Update**

- All interviews and footage have been transcribed by our scriptwriter, Gay Eyerman
- Should have a first draft of the script to share with EPA and Lorain County Community College shortly
- Still planning to debut the video at the Palace Theater in Lorain in early 2014

### **Annual Report for 2012**

- Still working on the report; timeline pushed back due to change in personnel
- Topics that will be included are the Wellington gas leak, summer sampling, Lower Black River restoration projects, and Kayak-A-Thon

### **Guest Speakers: Laura Travers and Megan Symanski - Cuyahoga County Board of Health**

- *"Black River Watershed Muck Study and QHEI Project"*

### **RAP Coordinating Committee Meetings**

- To make scheduling easier for RAP members, a schedule for 2014 will be set at the beginning of the year
- General consensus is meeting in the afternoon are preferred
- Look to get more groups involved in 2014 (suggestions: Lorain County townships, farmers, community members)

### **Old Business**

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Black River Kayak-A-Thon

- Event was held on September 28, 2013
- Approximately 80 people participated, with about 20-30 repeat participants
- After-party was held at Jackalope

#### New Business

#### Soil and Water Conservation District

- New district conservationist - Tom Jones
- Engage him in future RAP meetings and events

#### Delisting Targets

- Ohio RAP Coordinators will continue to work on re-write the AOC delisting guidance document
- Once it is completed, an Ohio RAP summit or webinar may be held to explain changes

### **Announcements**

#### EPA Email Address

- Update your contacts with Ted Conlin's new email address - [Edward.Conlin@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:Edward.Conlin@epa.ohio.gov)

#### Ashtabula River RAP

- Their advisory committee voted to proceed with the steps to remove 3 out of 6 BUIs - Fish Consumption, Fish Populations, and Fish Habitat
- A removal recommendation has been drafted and is in the final stage of approval at Ohio EPA and preliminary review state at US EPA
- Ashtabula River was designated a Priority AOC; a letter was signed that states if all management actions are done, they could potentially be delisted as an AOC

#### 2014 Meetings

- The RAP meeting schedule will change to 3 meetings a year instead of 4. Below are the meeting dates and locations for 2014. Please add them to your calendar. Also, if you have topics or speakers you would like to feature at any of the meetings, send your ideas to Jill Lis, RAP Coordinator, at [jlis@loraincountyhealth.com](mailto:jlis@loraincountyhealth.com).
  - **Thursday, March 13, 2014** at 2:00 p.m. at Sandy Ridge Reservation (6195 Otten Road, North Ridgeville 44039)
  - **Thursday, July 10, 2014** Time and Location TBA (Summer picnic and meeting)
  - **Thursday, November 13, 2014** at 2:00 p.m. in the Carlisle Room at Carlisle Visitor Center (12882 Diagonal Road, LaGrange 44050)

Minutes completed by Stephanie Lesco    December 5, 2013