



Black River Area of Concern Advisory Committee

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BLACK RIVER AREA OF CONCERN Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 8, 2015

12:00 PM

Black River Landing Transportation Center
421 Black River Lane, Lorain, OH 44052

In Attendance:

Beaver Creek Watershed (Matt Nahorn); Citizen Representative (Melody Wallace, Cheryl Wolfe-Cragin); City of Amherst (Jennifer Scott-Wasilk); City of Lorain (Derek Feuerstein, Scott Golightly, Kate Hoffmann); City of Lorain - Water (William Gollnitz); Coldwater Consulting (Chad Kettlewell, Kristen Risch); Lorain County Community Development (Christin Brandon, Lyn Ickes, Don Romancak); Lorain County General Health District (Duane Cribley, Stephanie Lesco, Jill Lis, John Sabo, Patrick Tomko); Lorain County Metro Parks (Bryan Goldthorpe); Lorain County Soil and Water Conservation District (Chip Wendt); NOACA (Pam Davis); Ohio Department of Natural Resources Coastal Management (Steve Holland); Ohio EPA (Russ Gibson, Amy Jo Klei, Ted Conlin); The Nature Conservancy (Amy Brennan); US Steel (Dave Schmidt); Western Reserve Land Conservancy (Kate Pilacky)

Agenda Items

Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes from April 23, 2105

- Motion to approve with proposed change by Ted Conlin; second by Lyn Ickes
- All in favor; minutes approved as submitted

Nominations for Chair

- Nominations
 - Don Romancak
- Motion to appoint Don Romancak as Chair of the Black River AOC Advisory Committee by Kate Hoffmann; second by John Sabo
- All in favor; Don is the new chair effective 7/8/2015

Nominations for Vice Chair

- Nominations
 - Derek Feuerstein
 - Kate Hoffmann - declined nomination

- Motion to appoint Derek Feuerstein as Vice Chair of the Black River AOC Advisory Committee by Bryan Goldthorpe; second by Matt Nahorn
- All in favor; Derek is the new vice chair effective 7/8/2015

Nominations for Liaison

- Nominations
 - Kate Hoffmann
 - Lyn Ickes - declined nomination
- Motion to appoint Kate Hoffmann as liaison of the Black River AOC Advisory Committee by Bryan Goldthorpe; second by Cheryl Wolfe-Cragin
- All in favor; Kate is the new liaison effective 7/8/2015

Draft Delisting Guidance and Restoration Targets for Ohio Areas of Concern

- Document was emailed to Advisory Committee prior to the meeting; summary document was distributed at the meeting
- Amy Jo Klei (Ohio EPA) went over changes to the document; if Advisory Committee members have questions or comments, send them to Ted Conlin
- Update on AOC Resizing
 - US EPA approved the resizing of the Black River AOC and the list of management actions

GLRI Funding Status for Lorain

- 4 city projects and 3 EPA projects will be funded through a non-competitive grant opportunity
- Application completed and submitted to EPA at the beginning of June for comments; official application with revisions submitted July

Degradation of Aesthetics BUI (added agenda item)

- City of Lorain hired an intern who worked on a matrix to score the Black River aesthetics
- Draft matrix shared with Advisory Committee; no scoring created yet
- Will share document with Advisory Committee and ask for comments
- See what is being done in the Cuyahoga and Maumee AOCs to address aesthetics and potentially include them in our work

Guest Topic - Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative (Amy Brennan, The Nature Conservancy)

- Created as a better way to collaborate and share collective services
- Stemmed from a grant submitted by the Chagrin Watershed Partners to the Gund Foundation
- Facilitate discussions between numerous watershed organizations in the Central Lake Erie Basin to determine interest in and mechanisms for collaboration and sharing services
- Provide technical assistance to partner watershed organizations
- Outcome: Recommendations and next steps for the structure of a coalition or shared services model for interested Central Lake Erie Basin watershed organizations

Old Business

BUI Removal Recommendations

- Application is in the works with EPA and GLNPO
- Once we get approval, the next steps include a submittal letter, public notice, public meeting, and a public comment period

New Business

Black River Kayak-A-Thon

- Due to weather, the Kayak-A-Thon is rescheduled for Saturday, August 8
- Everything is the same; a female-only category may be added

Section 319 Grant Request for Proposals

- Money will be available for projects that address nonpoint source efforts; approximately \$2.1 million per year
- Between 6-8 grants awarded per year
- Lake Erie projects are a priority
- Stormwater projects are not eligible
- Contact Russ Gibson (russ.gibson@epa.ohio.gov) for more information

Willow Creek Projects

- Draft application and finalizations for 2 projects in Willow Creek will be submitted to GLNPO
- Submit by the end of July; should hear about status in September
- Lorain County Community Development is the applicant

BARK Program

- Program at Lakeview Beach to control gulls on the beach with the use of roving border collies
- Have seen a reduction in the number of gulls present

Announcements

Black River Kayak Trip

- Lo Co 'Yaks would like to host a kayak trip for up to 12 interested Black River AOC Advisory Committee members
- Thursday would work best, either morning or evening
- If interested, contact Stephanie Lesco (slesco@loraincountyhealth.com)

Open Lake Dumping for Sediments

- Open lake dumping of sediments will not be allowed
- Looking for other options for sediment removal
- Discuss at future meeting due to lack to time

Next Meeting - Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 2:00 PM at the Carlisle Visitor Center (12882 Diagonal Road, LaGrange, OH 44050)

Minutes submitted by Stephanie Lesco on July 15, 2015

Delisting Guidance and Restoration Targets for Ohio AOCs

Summary of Version 2 Revisions

May 2015

In April 2014, Ohio EPA released the “Delisting Guidance and Restoration Targets for Ohio Areas of Concern.” Since that time we have been working with Ohio’s local AOC advisory committees to evaluate the current status of the remaining Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) and identified several areas that require clarification and revisions. In October 2014, Ohio EPA also finalized “A Framework for reorganizing and implementing Ohio’s Remedial Action Program: In Support of Ohio’s Areas of Concern.” The proposed revisions in Version 2 of the Delisting Guidance and Restoration Targets adds clarification, adjusts several targets, and aligns the guidance with the new framework.

Document-wide changes

1. After the previous version of this document was published, Ohio EPA finalized a new framework for the Ohio AOC program. To be consistent with the framework’s nomenclature, all references to “RAP” groups were updated to local AOC Advisory Committee and Facilitating Organizations as applicable.
2. This week Ohio EPA is submitting a request to USEPA to alter the boundary of the Black River AOC. The Final Draft, Version 2.0 reflects the proposed boundary. Upon US EPA approval of the revision we will finalize the Delisting Guidance and Restoration Targets for Ohio Areas of Concern, Version 2.
3. When developing the Restoration Targets using Ohio’s biological metrics a “non-significant departure” deviation was incorrectly used for the Modified Warmwater and Limited Resource Water targets. The targets have been corrected for the following BUIs:
 - a. BUI 3: Index of biotic Integrity – IBI and Modified Index of Well-Being MIwb;
 - b. BUI 6: Invertebrate Community Index-ICI

Key revisions by BUI

BUI 1: No change.

BUI 2: No change.

BUI 3: (1) Targets were revised based on Comment #3 above. Specifically, the Riverine Fish Population Restoration Target table was revised to adjust the Indices for Modified Warmwater Habitat (MWH) and Limited Resource Waters (LRW) waters.

(2) Clarification was added to the Rationale section explaining how the MIwb metric is not applicable to sample locations with drainage areas of 20 square miles or less.

(3) Clarification was added to the Rationale section describing Ohio EPA’s Low-End Scoring Adjustment for IBI evaluations. Many of these adjustments are based on a low number of fish

collected in a sample; however even with sufficient sample numbers in some cases this metric score will may still be manually adjusted.

(4) New references added.

BUI 4: No change.

BUI 5: No change.

BUI 6: (1) Targets were revised based on comment #3 above.

(2) Clarification added regarding the evaluation of qualitative (narrative) data, including a conversion from narrative to equivalent ICI values.

BUI 7: No change.

BUI 8: (1) The Dissolved Oxygen target for lacustrine waters was revised to remove the Outside Mixing Zone Minimum (OMZM) condition as it is not appropriate for the AOC program. The OMZM is calculated from a single point in time (acute) rather than the long term (chronic) problems.

(2) The previous version contained a target for the riverine waters based on Ohio's draft Trophic Index Criterion. The original intent for including the draft metric was to serve as a placeholder until the criteria were fully developed and codified in Ohio WQS. Due to the complexities with this index and ongoing development and adoption delays, it was removed from the current restoration target.

(3) Clarification was added stating that the DO seasonal average condition only applies to the lacustrine waters of the Maumee River, Black River, Cuyahoga River, and Ashtabula River mainstems and of Maumee Bay. The smaller lacustraries within the AOCs will still be evaluated by the narrative "no persistent nuisance growths of algae" of condition.

BUI 9: No change.

BUI 10: Clarification added to the rationale explaining how the algal toxin advisories at beaches should be evaluated if the sampling season ends with an advisory in place. Specified that the "advisories" referenced in the Public Bathing Beaches target was for "contact advisories."

BUI 11: No change.

BUI 12: No change.

BUI 13: No change.

BUI 14: No change.

Appendices

Appendix A: Addressed several typos.

Appendix B: No change.

Appendix C: The Hydrologic Units for the Black River AOC were revised to reflect the new boundary.

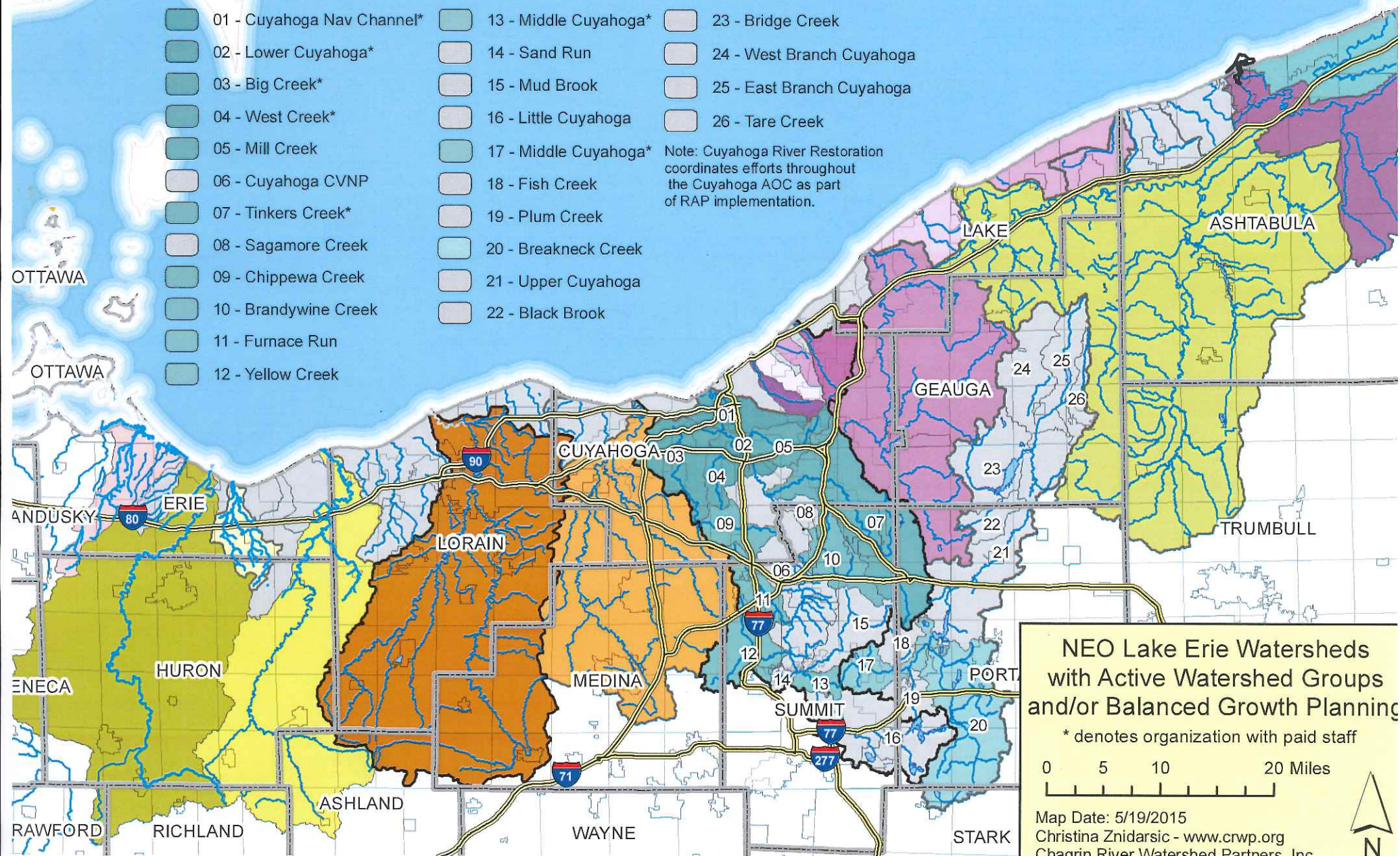
Appendix D: The tables for Public Bathing Beaches and Class A Stream Segments in Ohio AOCs and were revised to reflect the new boundary.

- Black River*
- Rocky River*
- Doan Brook*
- Huron River
- Euclid Creek*
- Chagrin River*
- Grand River
- Pipe Creek*
- Mentor Marsh*
- Dugway Brook
- Vermilion River
- Arcola & McKinley Creek*
- Conneaut Creek
- Ashtabula River
- Old Woman Creek*
- Watersheds without active groups/planning
- Great Lakes Area of Concern (AOC)

Cuyahoga River Subwatersheds

- 01 - Cuyahoga Nav Channel*
- 02 - Lower Cuyahoga*
- 03 - Big Creek*
- 04 - West Creek*
- 05 - Mill Creek
- 06 - Cuyahoga CVNP
- 07 - Tinkers Creek*
- 08 - Sagamore Creek
- 09 - Chippewa Creek
- 10 - Brandywine Creek
- 11 - Furnace Run
- 12 - Yellow Creek
- 13 - Middle Cuyahoga*
- 14 - Sand Run
- 15 - Mud Brook
- 16 - Little Cuyahoga
- 17 - Middle Cuyahoga*
- 18 - Fish Creek
- 20 - Breakneck Creek
- 21 - Upper Cuyahoga
- 22 - Black Brook
- 23 - Bridge Creek
- 24 - West Branch Cuyahoga
- 25 - East Branch Cuyahoga
- 26 - Tare Creek

Note: Cuyahoga River Restoration coordinates efforts throughout the Cuyahoga AOC as part of RAP implementation.



NEO Lake Erie Watersheds with Active Watershed Groups and/or Balanced Growth Planning

* denotes organization with paid staff

0 5 10 20 Miles

Map Date: 5/19/2015
 Christina Znidarsic - www.crw.org
 Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc