



Black River Advisory Committee

LoCo 'Yaks | Facilitating Organization

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BRAC QUARTERLY MEETING | Tuesday, November 15, 2022 @ 1:00 PM

Location: Cascade Park Nature Center 387 Furnace Street, Elyria

Minutes

❖ Welcome / Call to Order / Introductions

- Don called the meeting to order at 1:02PM.
 - In attendance: Steve Holland, ODNR Coastal Management*; Max Schaefer, Main Street Lorain*; Lyn Ickes, LCCD; Kelley LCCD; John Sabo, Public Support*; Matt Nahorn, Beaver Creek Watershed*; Diane Nahorn, Beaver Creek Watershed; Chip Wendt, Coldwater Consulting; Kate Golden, City of Lorain*; Duane Cribley, City of Elyria; Jill Lis, LCPH*; Michael Hennessey, US EPA; Hannah Boesinger, Ohio Lake Erie Commission; Don Romancak, LCCD*; Stephanie Koscho, Facilitator; Pamela Davis, NOACA; Amber Bellamy, USF&W. (*voting members)

❖ Fiscal Report

- Stephanie provided the current fiscal report: as of the end of October, we have \$27,337.79 remaining for advertising and travel, but not expecting to spend the travel dollars. Agreement expires March 31st.

❖ Old Business

- Approval of Meeting Minutes 8/03/2022 – Motion to accept by Jill; second by John; all in favor; none opposed; motion carries.

❖ New Business

- Advertising options for LoCoBROh.com
 - LorainCounty.com offered a “helpful” discounted proposal as a Site Sponsor, that is not actually helpful with all this money. We have \$2500 in the category that includes advertising and printing. Don suggested paid Facebook ads – using specifics like geofencing and tracking impressions. Kate recommended WOBL & WEOL. Stephanie wants to plan advertising to be released at different stages through the spring and summer.

- Duane asked about QR codes. Lyn said she has been delayed by Eaton Township Road Crew.
- Stephanee asked Lyn about QR codes at other locations. Kate said “Yes. Anywhere you want.” Parker Marine and LCMP trails were suggested as sites for additional QR locations, also Lakeview, overlook at screening building across the street from City Hall, and French Creek kayak launch area. Maybe also generic ones at marinas and ramps along the river. Kate will reach out to Parkers. Mapping meeting is needed with Lyn and Kate (Stephanee will facilitate).
- QR codes are part of a 4”x4” post. Kate suggested making larger QR signs for river locations that boats may be able to access. Lyn offered several reasons why that may not work but we can discuss it more while mapping.
 - Will follow-up with Lyn – she has a specific advertising plan that needs to be discussed with the Margaret Peak Board, and for scheduling a mapping meeting.

❖ Black River Watershed Project Updates

- County – Don: we’ve basically already discussed it all. (See above.)
- City
 - Kate: \$15 mil GLRI project ceased this year, after seven years. They are currently working on all reports. On GLRI project is still working but that was just awarded about 6 months ago to complete the cap & cover at Rec Site (previously reviewed at the last AOC meeting). The grant is \$750,000 + \$300,000 match from City of Lorain – using Martin’s Run excess soil as the capping material.
 - Chip: Sunset Pier Park – not an AOC project but maybe the committee would be agreeable to helping with conceptualization and public outreach as we go through the process. Kate: City is interested in using Hot Waters and the 2 finger piers to development a park and multi-use area. There is currently a \$5 million brownfield cleanup project at the Pellet Terminal site from the bridge north to but not including the piers. Part of that cleanup involves the installation of utility services for future mixed-use development. City is requesting Coastal Management to fund the design and assessment of park facilities that would sit on those piers. Also looking at boating infrastructure grants to repair and improve the free boat ramps. Will also look in the future for larger federal grants to pay for the park itself, but assistance on outreach and public support from BRAC would be appreciated. Funding has not been secured at this point; we are working on the application for design & assessment = \$150,000 +

\$150,000 City funds. [Don then asks if this is an “environmental assessment”.] A Phase 1 & 2 have been completed and no brownfield work is required. Assessment is more about public-use feasibility and structural integrity for what is planned. The brownfield project also includes additional roadway to be added as an extension of Broadway as well as additional parking for boaters just east of the water treatment plant at Hot Waters. Mayor Bradley envisions a safe, open, publicly-accessible greenspace, park, and mixed-use facilities to create a better connection between the city, lake, and river.

- Michael asked about any other community projects that may be looking for funding in the future should he become aware of an opportunity that may be appropriate. – Kate: Obviously Sunset Pier Park; Lakeview Beach’s poor water quality. Michael is interested in exploring ideas to expand public access along the river.
- Michael next asked if there are any other plans being made to bring people to the river and newly restored areas (like the app will do). – Kate: Meijer retail store has a beach rover drone program. LCPH/Jill met with Meijer Council of the Great Lakes Region and LCMP via Zoom to get one in Lorain. Council buys the rover, however they also want community partnerships and a show of commitment to the program. Program also provides a grant for an employee to complete waste collection & characterization. – Don: North Ridgeville is creating a new park along French Creek. The project is not an AOC project but is within the AOC. They are already moving along but there are still a few components that have not been funded yet.

❖ Ohio AOC Program Updates & Announcements

- BUI #4

- Hannah’s presentation (PowerPoint attached to minutes)
- The committee will review the presented data and reconvene via Zoom in about 3 weeks to discuss the DELT hotspot at river mile 6.1 and whether or not more data needs to be collected before requesting removal.

❖ Federal AOC Program Updates & Announcements

- Michael: Thinks it is good to have some shovel-ready ideas that may potentially benefit the AOC as and after we delist.
- Michael is working on environmental justice avenues where the US EPA could help. The committee strongly suggested the railroad and invasives and abandoned properties used for illegal dumping sites.

- Michael is also looking for AOC success stories, case studies, etc. of all types but especially in the public outreach, training, education areas to highlight in an EJ Resource Library that is currently in development.

❖ Announcements

- Next meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023. Jill will inquire about hosting at LCPH.
 - Max sent a video of probably 500+ fish at the Shipyards along the docks in front of Monkey Island Coffee.
 - The Nahorns have secured another 5.27 acres to their conserved land with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy along Beaver Creek. They now have more than 20 acres of wetlands, brush, and floodplain.
 - Diane discussed the rampant phragmites in conserved areas such as their land and the metro parks. Michael took note to discuss with his office.
 - Pam discussed her participation with Lake Erie Volunteer Science Network (sampling by volunteer scientists who input data into the Waterkeeper app.) and the Cleveland Water Alliance will be using that data to compile an annual report and standards to complete a Save the Lake Report. In case the BRAC continues after this grant and after delisting, CWA would be interested in discussing committee participation.
 - Stephanie notified the committee that LY will not continue as facilitator when this grant cycle is complete. LY is willing to be a committee member.
- ❖ Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Jill; second by Kate; all in favor; none opposed; motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 2:54PM.

UPDATES:

1. After Stephanie's call with Cherie about resigning as facilitator, it was decided that instead we will extend the grant by 6 months in order to spend the funds wisely and appropriately on advertising the app. With this extension, Stephanie will take on fewer hours per month, which was the intention with the resignation, and will have the opportunity to complete all deliverables during spring and summer as originally intended but delayed by app and QR code development.
2. After discussing at length on Dec. 13th, the committee decided to give approval on the presented data and continue moving forward with the removal process for BUI #4. (Thanks for all your hard work, Hannah. The BRAC appreciates you.)