



Black River Advisory Committee

LoCo 'Yaks | Facilitating Organization

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(440) 249-0590

BRAC QUARTERLY MEETING | Tuesday, April 25th, 2023 @ 1:00 PM

Location: Lorain County Public Health 9880 Murray Ridge Rd, Elyria, OH 44035

MINUTES

❖ Welcome / Call to Order / Introductions

- 1:04PM Don called to order.
- In attendance: Stephanie Koscho, facilitator; Scott Pozna, LCPH; Kate Golden, City of Lorain; Don Romancak, LCCD; Chip Wendt, Coldwater Consulting; Duane Cribley, LCPH; Patti Donnellan, LCS&W; Steve Holland, ODNR; Lexi Rohrbach, LCMP; Jennifer Scott-Wasilk, City of Amherst; Julie Mackey, OSU Ext.; Hannah Boesinger, Ohio Lake Erie Commission; ONLINE: Pamela Davis, NOACA; Matt Nahorn, Beaver Creek Watershed; Michael Hennessey, US EPA, GLNPO; Tom Brown, LP&FA.

❖ Fiscal Report

- Attached to agenda. Jennifer motions to accept the fiscal report as presented. Kate seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.

❖ Old Business

- Approval of Meeting Minutes 1/31/2023. Kate motions to accept the minutes from January as presented. Julie seconds. All in favor. Minutes accepted.
- LoCoBROh.com event planning – Margaret Peak page is up. 6-8 QR locations within Lorain (including Martin's Run) + county locations. Parks Dept. will install posts, hopefully by end of May. Waiting for posts to go in at Margaret Peak then we can plan the event. City and Township employees needed and they are busy.

❖ New Business

- New Voting Member – Scott Pozna, LCPH. No discussion. Julie motions to accept Scott as the new voting member for LCPH replacing Jill Lis. Kate seconds. All in favor. Motion carries unanimously.
- Advertising options for LoCoBROh.com – After discussion, Committee decided to split the advertising budget (roughly \$5000) into approximate thirds between Media (social & news), Radio, & LorainCounty.com. Kate made a motion to allocate the funds as discussed. Second by Steve. All in favor. Advertising budget allotments are established.

❖ Black River Watershed Project Updates

- County

- QR post placements – discussed previously.
 - Lyn is finalizing a grant from the county to acquire and develop the Gerber Property for a riverside stream restoration & wetland creation project.
 - City
 - \$15,000,000 grant is officially officially complete & closed.
 - Black River Dredge Facility is in the final bid process.
 - Pellett Terminal area & Finger Piers are being cleaned up and reinforced in preparation to accept future development plans (AKA Sunset Pier). GLNPO and Brownfield funding is also being used to prepare the site.
- ❖ Ohio AOC Program Updates & Announcements
 - From Lynn Garrity: Welcomed the new facilitator Lorain Soil & Water Conservation – Patti Donnellan. Also, GLAOC Conference will be mid-September.
 - BUI 10/Beach Closings Evaluation Results
 - Hannah presented a PowerPoint draft of her evaluation report (following the Minutes). Committee discussion concluded that the Black River falls in line with other similar non-AOC rivers. TMDL is important but still in draft phase. Final recommendation is to proceed with Removal Request for BUI 10: Beach Closings. Kate prefers to Not vote today so that LCPH, LCMP, City of Lorain, & LCCD need to meet and discuss further (next steps).
 - Hannah will have documents ready for the Public Comment Period regarding removal of BUI 4: Fish Tumors & Deformities by late next week.
- ❖ Federal AOC Program Updates & Announcements
 - GLAOC Conference is September 12-14, 2023. Registration & reimbursement information coming soon.
 - Director Korleski will be retiring at the end of the year.
- ❖ Announcements | Other Business
 - Patti Donnellan: Has extensive background in nature and water and watersheds and green infrastructure. Soil & Water Conservation District has committed 2 (of 3) employees to the AOC Support Grant.
 - LOS for Gerber project was approved and forwarded to Lyn Ickes.
 - Next meeting: July 11 @ 12:30. Will include a site visit of some sort.
- ❖ Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Kate at 2:48PM. Second by Scott. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Evaluation of BUI 10: Beach Closings (Recreation Use) in the Black River AOC





Public Bathing Beaches

State of Ohio Restoration Targets – Beaches

Posted contact advisory days due to bacterial contamination or algal toxins do not exceed 10% (or 19 days) of the recreation season

- This target must be met in 3 out of the most recent 5 years; OR

In cases where public bathing beaches within the AOC have posted contact advisory days for either bacterial contamination or algal toxins that exceed 10 percent of the recreation season and Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) are the primary cause, the BUI will be considered restored when the bacterial impacts from CSOs are being addressed under an approved long-term control plan or other legally-binding document.

Black River AOC Beaches

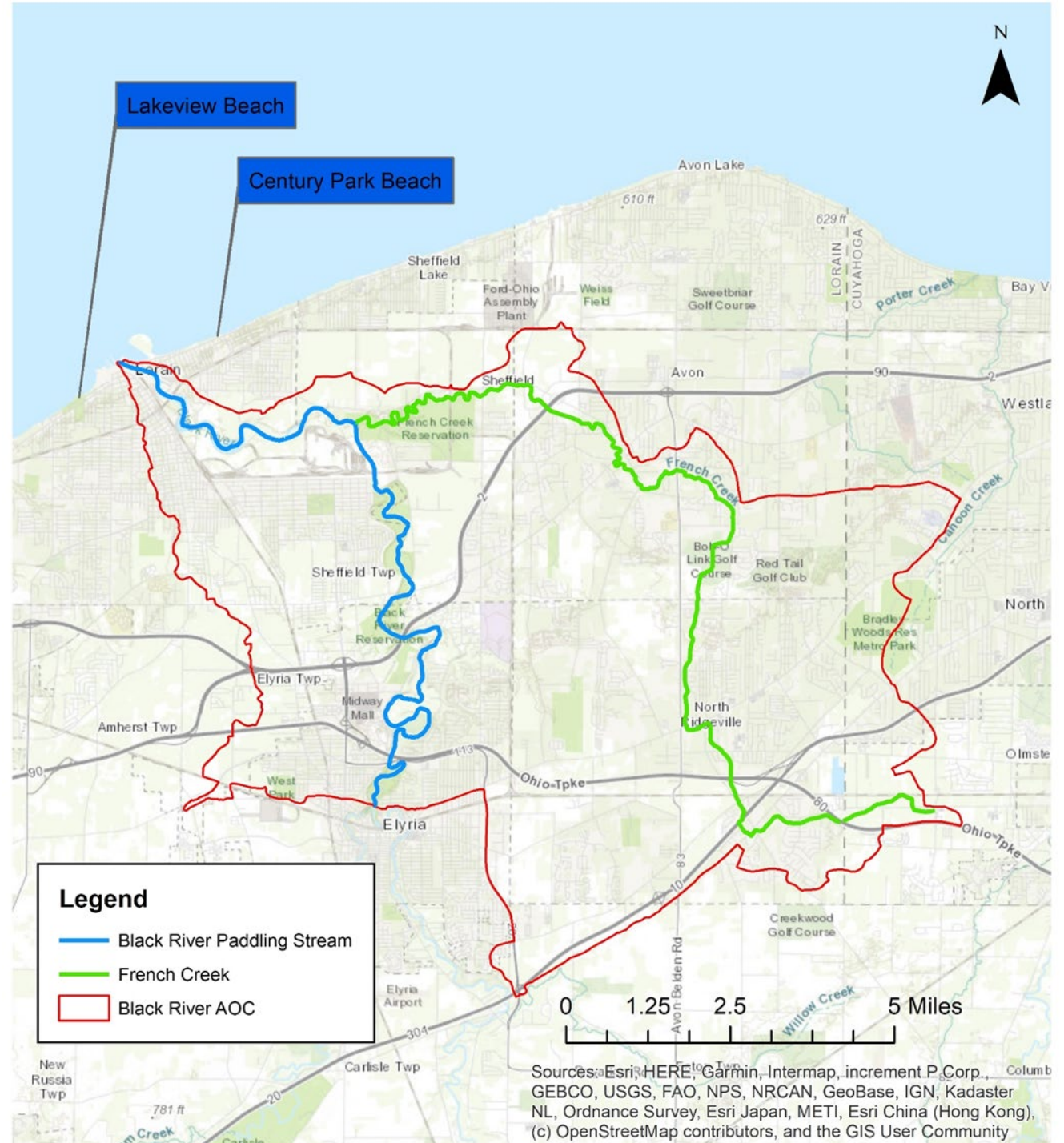
Lakeview Beach

- ~ 1 mile west of mouth of Black River

Century Park Beach

- ~ 1 mile east of mouth of Black River

Operated by Lorain
County Metroparks



Beach Monitoring and Advisories

Lakeview and Century Park Beach Monitoring

- Lorain County Health Department
- Memorial Day – Labor Day (swim season)
- 4 days per week

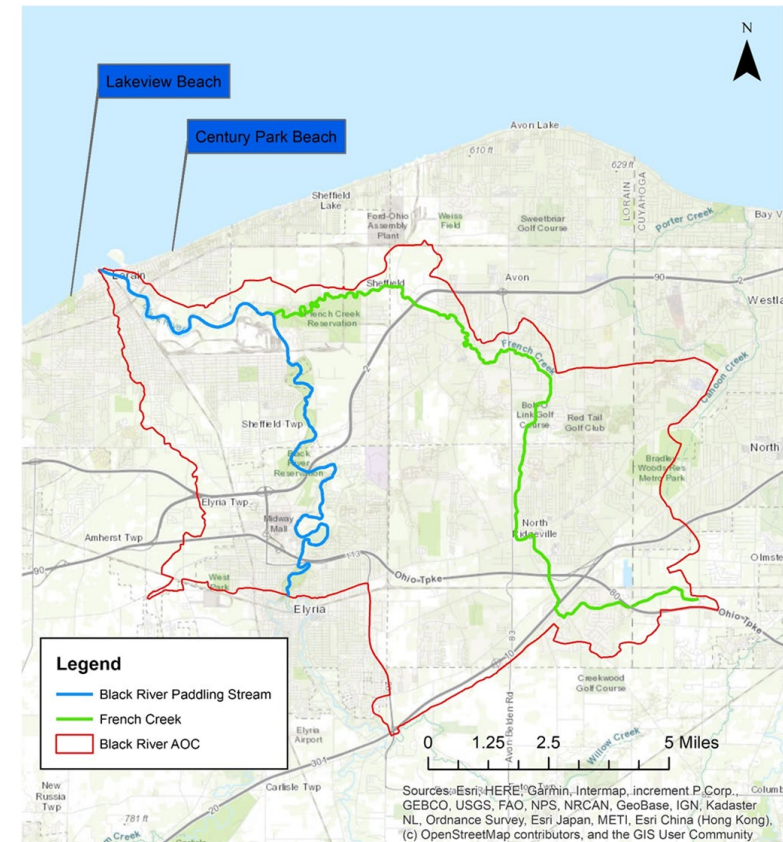
Advisory determination and posting

- Advisories determined using previous day's *E. coli* result
 - Result > 235 CFU = Advisory
- Physical signage at beaches
- BeachGuard website



BUI 10 Public Bathing Beaches – Evaluation Objectives

1. Compile beach advisory data for Black River AOC beaches
 - o Lakeview and Century Park Beaches
 - o Most recent 5 years of advisories (2018-2022)
2. Determine if meeting removal targets
3. Evaluate additional studies/data
 - o Lakeview Beach Study
 - o Non-AOC beaches advisories
4. Make Recommendation



Public Bathing Beaches Evaluation

Beach	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	# of Advisories	% Advisory Days	# of Advisories	% Advisory Days	# of Advisories	% Advisory Days	# of Advisories	% Advisory Days	# of Advisories	% Advisory Days
Lakeview	50	27%	33	18%	17	9%	67	36%	59	32%
Century	28	15%	43	23%	19	10%	30	16%	30	16%

1 of the 5 most recent sampling seasons meet the 10% or 19 day criteria at Lakeview and Century Park beaches

Lakeview Beach Study

Dry Weather

- Gulls and non-specific bacteria are primary fecal sources
- Non-specific: Source other than gull, human, ruminant or goose

Wet weather

- Highest *E. coli* densities
 - Human and non-specific from east and west outfalls
- Possible sewage contamination to west outfall

Other findings

- Poor circulation at beach may cause *E. coli* to linger
- Black River and WWTP do not contribute to beach *E. coli*

Alternatives

- Green infrastructure, rerouting/extensions of outfall for stormwater management
- Bird population management
- Circulation improvements



Century Park Beach

Historically met BUI target (2016-2020)

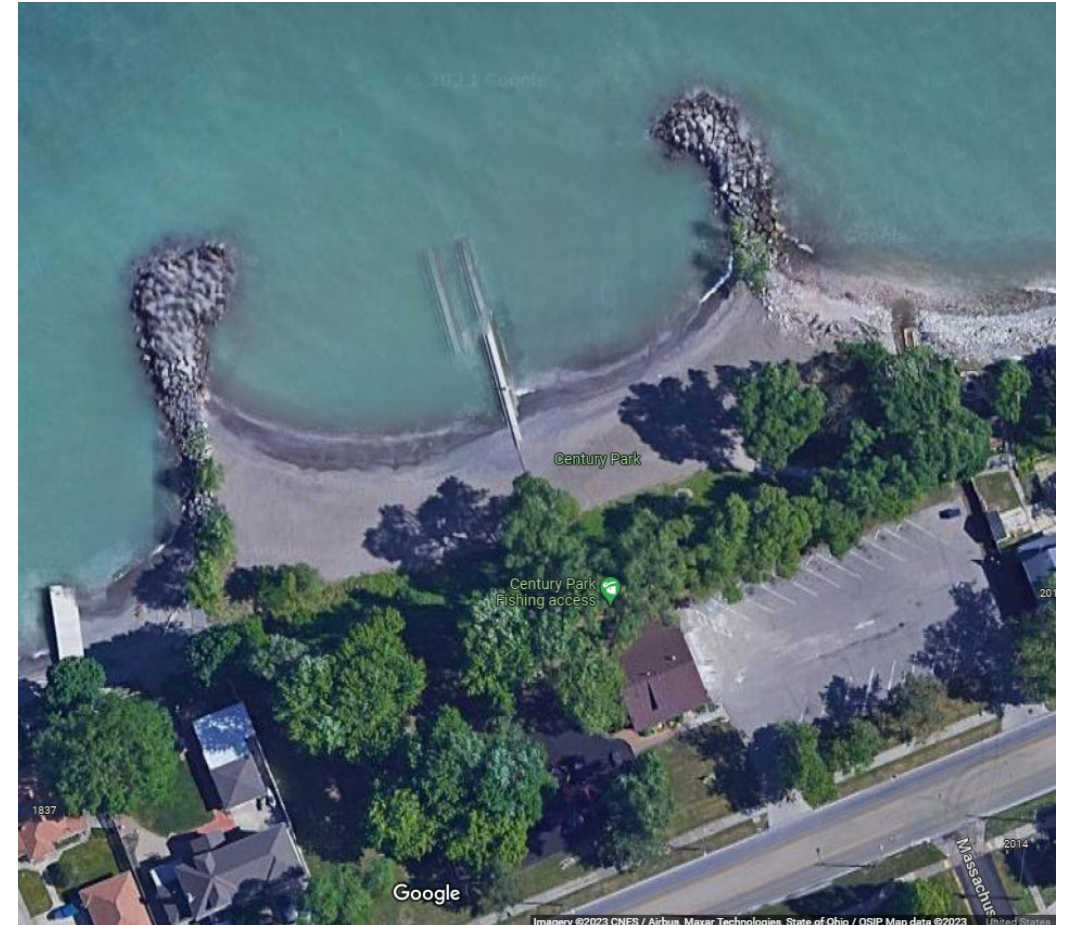
Mixing with Black River is uncertain

No NPDES permit holders in drainage area

- Avon WPCP unlikely to contribute *E. coli*

Potential *E. coli* sources

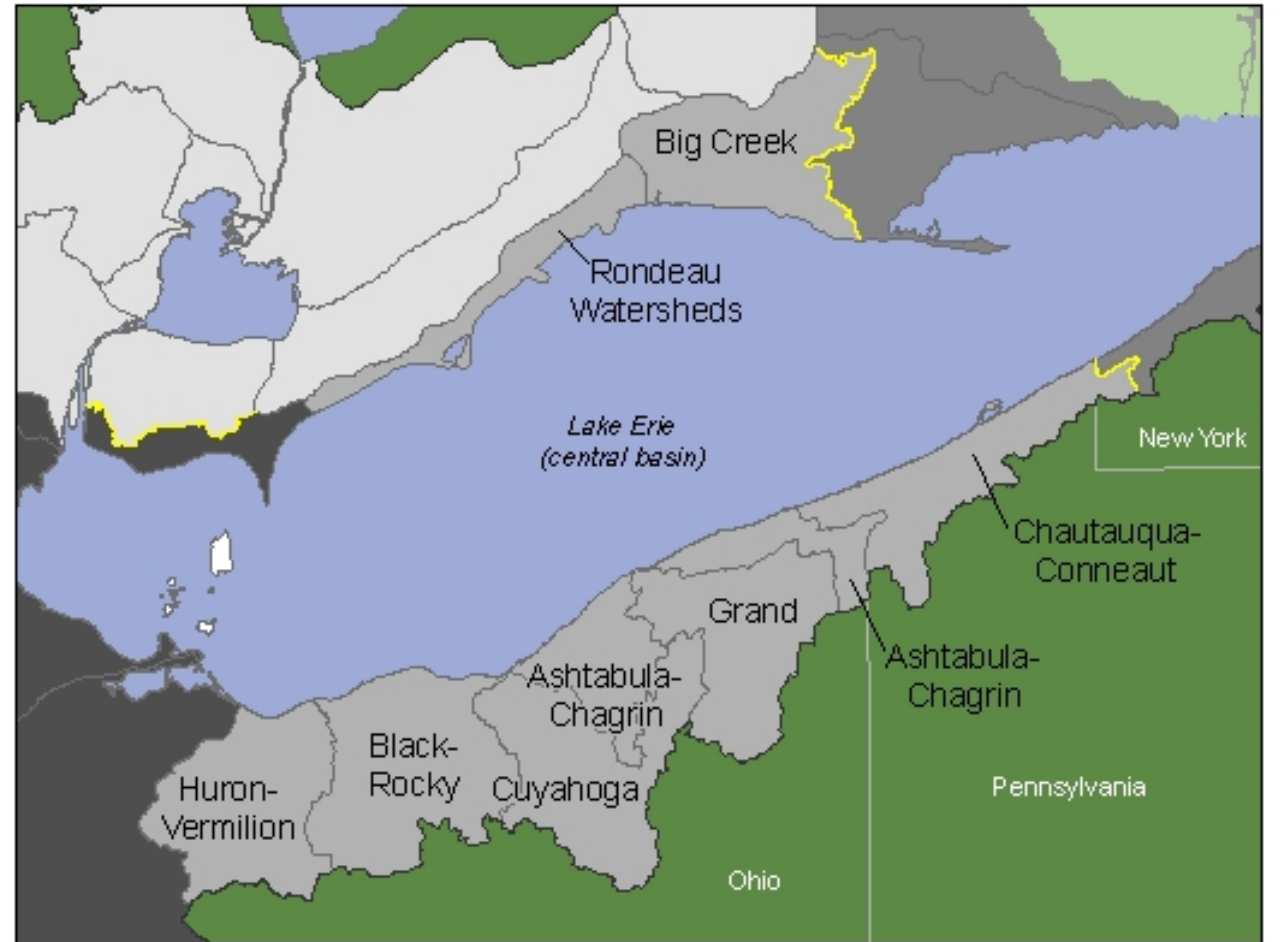
- Presence of gulls
 - *E. coli* in sand can be resuspended and migrate to shoreline waters
- Storm sewer outfall east of beach



Central Basin Public Beaches

Beaches with advisories exceeding 10% of the recreation season are not exclusive to the Black River AOC

- Of 38 non-AOC Central Basin public beaches, 16 (42%) are not meeting BUI targets
- Indicates a region-wide issue



Algal Blooms

Advisory Days due to Algal Bloom/Algal Toxin					
Beach	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lakeview	0	0	0	0	0
Century Park	0	0	0	0	0

5 of the 5 most recent sampling seasons meet the 10% or 19 day advisory criteria for algal blooms/toxins at Lakeview and Century Park beaches



Paddling Streams

State of Ohio Restoration Targets – Paddling Streams

If an Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources designated Paddling Stream within the AOC is on the list of non-attaining waters because of bacterial contamination and the presence of **Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)** are the **primary** cause, this BUI will be considered restored when the bacterial impacts from CSOs are being addressed under an **approved long-term control plan** or other legally-binding document; AND

If an Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources designated Paddling Stream within the AOC is on the list of non-attaining waters because of bacterial contamination (E. coli) and the presence of **non-point source pollution** is the **primary** cause, this BUI will be considered restored when a **TMDL is approved** and the State and RAP can document that the level of bacterial contamination is not significantly worse than similar watersheds.

BUI 10 Paddling Streams – Evaluation Objectives

1. Impaired Waters list determination
2. Bacterial source identification
 - Long-term control plan?
 - TMDL?
3. E. coli data evaluation
 - Comparison to non-AOC watershed
4. Make Recommendation



Black River *E. coli*

On impaired waters list

Upper watershed sources

- Agriculture
- Failing septic systems

Lower Watershed sources

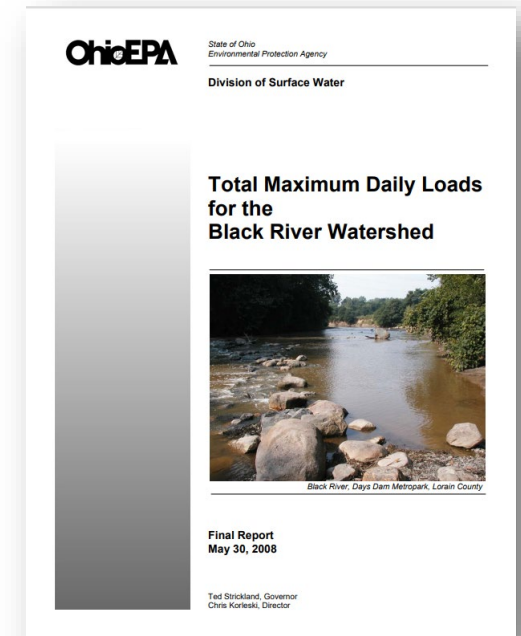
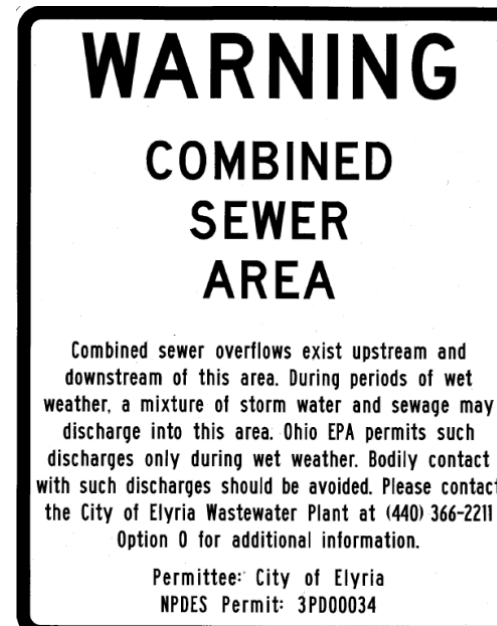
- CSOs and bypasses
- Urbanization

French Creek sources

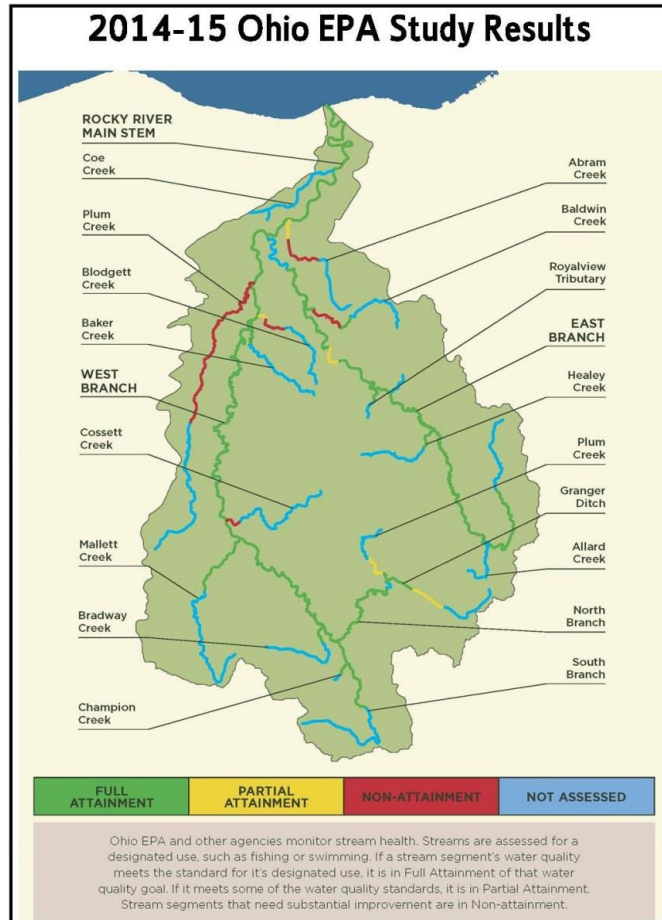
- Failing septic systems
- CSOs
- Urbanization

Plans to address bacteria sources

- TMDL (2008 and upcoming)
- City of Elyria Consent Decree (2022)
- Black River Watershed Action Plan (2011)



E. Coli Comparison to Rocky River



Wilcoxon Signed Ranks test:

E. coli densities in the Lower Black River (2012-2018) were significantly lower than densities in the Rocky River (2013-2018) during dry weather

- No significant difference during wet weather

Serves as documentation that the level of bacterial contamination is not significantly worse than similar watersheds

BUI 10 Summary

PUBLIC BATHING BEACHES

Meeting for algal bloom advisories

Not meeting bacterial contamination advisories

Additional evaluation:

- No distinct *E. coli* sources to remediate at Lakeview Beach
- No clear *E. coli* source at Century Park Beach
- Not an AOC specific issue
 - 42% of Central Basin Beaches are not meeting removal criteria

PADDLING STREAMS

Meting for Black River Paddling based on:

- CSOs, urbanization, failing septic systems are primary *E. coli* sources that will be addressed under TMDL and LTCP
 - 2008 and upcoming bacterial TMDL
 - City of Elyria Consent Decree
 - Watershed Action Plan
- The Black River does not have worse bacterial contamination than the Rocky River

Recommendation and Timeline

Recommendation:

- Proceed with BUI 10 removal process
- Make justifications for Public Bathing Beaches



Assembly of Draft BUI Removal Document

Internal Agency Review

GLNPO Technical Resource Lead (TRL) Review

- 30-day review
- Update draft based on review

Black River AOC Advisory Committee Review

- 14-day review
- Update draft based on review

Public Review

- 14- or 30-day Public Comment Period + Public Meeting as determined

Final Removal Package Compiled

Request letter of support from Advisory Committee

OLEC submits to USEPA for concurrence approval.



Questions?