



Black River Advisory Committee

LoCo 'Yaks | Facilitating Organization

138 Alabama Avenue

Lorain, OH 44052

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BRAC PRE-SUMMIT MEETING | Tuesday, May 3, 2022 @ 1:00PM via Zoom

Minutes

- ❖ Welcome / Call to Order – Don Romancak @ 1:32pm
 - Attendance: Don Romancak, BRAC Chair, LCCD; Kate Golden, BRAC City Liaison, Storm Water Manager, City of Lorain; Christen Brandon, LCCD; Steve Holland, ODNR; John Sabo, concerned citizen; Kristen Risch, Coldwater Consulting; Lynn Garrity, OLEC; Matt Nahorn, Beaver Creek Watershed; Amber Bellamy, USFWS; Jennifer Wasilk, Amherst City Council, EHS Services; Chip Wendt, Coldwater Consulting; Stephanie Koscho, LoCo 'Yaks, BRAC Facilitator.
- ❖ Fiscal Report – Stephanie: Still trying to spend it all. No exact number, but we're getting close. Don will make sure recent invoice from Emerge for County portion is forwarded appropriately. Otherwise, prepping for the Summit.
- ❖ Old Business
 - Approval of Meeting Minutes 3/03/2022 – postponed until/if we have a quorum.
- ❖ Black River Watershed Project Updates
 - County
 - Don: Our projects are about complete. Just need to submit final financial report for Phase III App projects. Lyn has ordered signposts and QR codes. Moving along well. Should be able to debut at the Summit.
 - Don: County is hoping to find a home for 180,000 cubic yards of fill from the Gerber property on St. Rt. 83 in the Willow Creek watershed. Will ultimately be a stream restoration and wetland facility similar to a smaller nearby project. North Ridgeville is facilitating the relocation of this fill. Still waiting approval from H2Ohio application for this project.
 - City
 - Kate: Seep modification contractor is on site with final work anticipated to be done by the end of this month.
 - The City is the anticipated recipient of an additional \$750,000 of federal funds requested from the EPA to finalize another 14 acres to be capped & covered. Working with Noel to finalize.
 - Kristen Risch: Thanks to Lynn Garrity for pushing to get this funding.
 - Chip: Solitary Sandpipers migrating through. Very cool that wildlife responded within a matter of days.

❖ Ohio AOC Program Updates & Announcements

- Lynn Garrity: Received preliminary approval for \$750,000 as Kate mentioned for cap & cover. With this funding request, an updated MAP list needed to be submitted. Lynn/Ohio AOC Program submitted the document to U.S. EPA and it has received formal approval.
- BUI Updates, etc.
 - Dredge BUI: Incorporated the few BRAC comments and received zero public comments. Ohio submitted final request document to U.S. EPA and ...
 - BREAKING NEWS: Dredge BUI was officially approved for removal last week, April 26, 2022. May do a press release to coincide with Summit. Looking forwards to celebrating this BUI recognition at BR Summit.
 - Initial draft for Beach Closing BUI has been started but will be several months until it is complete.
 - Working with USFWS to gather information & data to begin looking at Fish Tumors BUI.
- Ohio AOC Program through OLEC an OhEPA has produced a “program highlight” document that will be sent to everyone and posted on our website.
- GLAOC Conference is set for Muskegon, MI May 24-26. Already have 250 registered participants. No poster/display space for AOCs.
- Melanie’s replacement is coming. Interviews have been completed and they are working to determine final candidate.
- Kate: Lynn, can you please send out a BUI update list? Yes, Lynn will email BUI details.
- Lynn: Biological sampling for last 3 BUIs. Planning to do sampling next year to set us up for the remaining BUIs.
- Stephanie: Did we know about Dredge BUI before just now? No, Lynn is “getting ready” to send that announcement now.
- Kate: Why is Dredge being removed – because material is “clean” or because open-lake dumping is no longer allowable? Lynn: Ohio updated BUI target criteria several years based on screening levels. Analysis through USACE and OhEPA recognized the Black River is meeting screening levels for reuse or for aquatic projects.

❖ New/Ongoing Business

- Next Grant FY22
 - Final draft was submitted with Lynn & Cherie’s comments/edits. Cherie said it will be a while until final approval comes through and will be backdated to April 1st. Don: Any changes from normal workplan? No, same as usual. Lynn: Think there is movement and hopefully approval is coming shortly.
- Summit: Thursday, May 19th, 2022, 10AM-2PM
 - Agenda
 - Stephanie shared current draft, just needs final details. Comments or edits? Lynn suggested adding more information about the bus tour. Kate gave a summary of several projects that we want to make sure people see. Kate + Coldwater will create an official bus itinerary. Long discussion led to clarifying

the name/description of the tour. Don asked everyone what sites they felt were the most important to see from an “unfamiliar” perspective. Stephanie shared Evite and asked the committee for editing recommendations.

- BRAC Presentations
 - Kate & AJ are ready; Lyn will review the App; Don will get Lundy’s presentation ready & relevant to economic impact. Korleski is confirmed – “big picture” presentation will take about 20 minutes. Lynn – 5-10 minutes about Ohio AOC Program overall. Johnson will discuss environmental improvements and the business environment for about 15 minutes.
- Lunch
 - Kate: Spectrum will cater the entire event – coffee, light breakfast snack options in the morning. Taco bar lunch. Cupcakes for celebration with blue-water theme. Should they go with lunch or at the end before bus tour? Everyone basically agreed to do cupcakes at lunch and sparkling toast
- Videos
 - We are still piecing things together. Lots of footage from Coldwater. Videos will play during down time. Doodly will start the event.
- Lynn asked about FireFish project. Stephanie is frustrated and this conversation makes her heartbeat sky rocket.

❖ Approval of past meeting minutes delayed from earlier

- Motion to approve by Kate, second by John. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.

❖ Announcements

- Kate and Stephanie are meeting tomorrow to finalize Ariel contract at venue.
- Steve: Spoke with Ohio Sea Grant and they have extended an offer to help the Black River AOC should we ever need anything, they would love to help.

❖ Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn by Jennifer, second by Steve. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 1:59PM.