



Black River Advisory Committee

LoCo 'Yaks | Facilitating Organization
138 Alabama Avenue
Lorain, OH 44052
(440) 249-0590

QUARTERLY MEETING | Monday, January 6, 2020 | 1:00 PM
Lorain Public Library South Branch | 2121 Homewood Dr., Lorain OH 44055

Minutes

- ❖ Welcome 1:02pm Don R. called the meeting to order.
 - In attendance: Don Romancak, Chair (Lorain County), Kate Golden (City of Lorain), Chip Wendt (Coldwater Consulting), Jannah Wilson (LCMP), Matt Nahorn (Beaver Creek Watershed), Max Schaefer (Ohio Environmental Council), Jennifer Scott-Wasilk (City of Amherst), Lyn Ickes (Lorain County), John Sabo (LCPH), Christen Brandon (Lorain County), Rick Payerchin (Morning Journal), Tyler Reavis (Project Freshwater), Duane Cribley (LCPH), Helena Hart (Lorain County), Brandon Wysocki (Turtle Guy), Julie Mackey (Lorain County OSU Ext.), Lynn Garrity (Ohio Lake Erie Commission), Marijoy Halitzka (Lorain City Farmer), Pam Davis (NOACA), Steve Holland (ODNR), Jill Lis (LCPH), ON THE PHONE: Kristen Isom (US EPA), Stephanie Lesco (LCPH).
- ❖ Fiscal Report
 - FY2018 support grant – Stephanie reported that the grant has spent \$24,753.77 through the end of December.
- ❖ Approval of Meeting Minutes 10/21/2019 – Motion to accept as is by Max. Second by Kate. No discussion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.
- ❖ Black River Restoration Project Updates
 - County
 - Lyn –
 - Phase 2 is complete including all paperwork
 - Phase 3 – little bits of work; Should finish with guards around trees this week. Have had some high winds but all looks good - only one or 2 have fallen.
 - Don – Phase 2's final report has been submitted. Once we get approval from US EPA, links to the report will be made available.
 - Chip – More than 60 acres of invasives were reduced by 2 classes (goal was 30 acres); Lyn's crew saw reductions of up to 7 classes in some areas. ("class" refers to the density of the plants throughout a location [10 classes]); Rec site was not as successful because of dynamic conditions & access limitations.
 - City
 - (Kate has been out) Chip – Rec site project is moving along. Grading is complete, but cover is not. New extended area will get some seeding later. Remaining funds (about \$1,000,000) will complete in-river habitat from flood plain to seep system – increase fish shelves to include all city property (seep to rookery). Will have to be publicly bid. Substantial completion is expected by the end of June.

- Chip – They are continuing to move slag & dirt. The end goal is to cap & contain storm water. But clean soil is needed, and the county is full of invasives. Pumphouse inlet had a lot of slag. Flow is already better and will reduce PH level.
- Kate – Geopool - aka Dredge Pilot Project – \$4 million Healthy Lake Erie Initiative to construct Dredge Reuse Facility (to process dredged material for reuse). BR is very limited for space. Looking for alternative technology that is more cost effective. The Geopool is basically a giant above ground pool with a permeable liner. Slurry was pumped in, was great for a couple days, but then the cables broke & it all fell apart. Working with manufacturer to rebuild and start over in the spring.
 - Steve asked when dredging can begin. Kate said we need to be ready by late summer 2021. Timeline hasn't changed, but design process has been exponentially extended. ODNR is still interested in the geopool project.
 - Jennifer confirmed with Kate that dredging is for navigability and not for environmental cleanup.
 - Design capacity is approximately 75,000 cubic yards of dewatering volume. Designers see it as a “water management project” because our sediment doesn't settle quickly enough without adding a polymer, but that increases cost and there's a cap on dollars spent on final product.
 - New rules being made to accommodate dredge reuse materials (managed by Ohio EPA).
 - Water is to go back in cleaner than we took it.

❖ Ohio AOC Program Updates – Lynn G. (Melanie had a conflicting meeting)

- BUI #11 Removal Recommendation
 - Still working to assemble BUI 11 removal docs. Report will get an initial tech review by federal partners, then comes back to committee, then gets submitted again. Melanie is working on 1st stage.
 - #11 is top goal for state AOC program.
- 2020 priorities
 - Completion of Rec Site. – state AOC partners are all in to help.
 - Fish tumor BUI #4 next – working with USFW to assemble data for evaluation
 - MAPs complete (GLRI Action Plan 3) – BR is on final stretch. Want us to submit MAPs complete in 2020.
 - Collectively look at other BUIs to see where we are for removal evaluations/process.
- Ohio AOC Summit – Will provide updates about each AOC. Hopefully will be scheduled in March. Looking for committee input/priorities as well (survey coming).

❖ Old Business

- River Chatter
 - November. Black River History with Lorain Historical Society. Don provided a summary of the event to the committee: about 12-15 ppl, well received presentation by Barb Piscopo.
 - Dec. rescheduled to 1/14. Bascule Bridge – The Ruhlin Co. Jack Herig, Senior Estimator. Video of the bridge opening from the control tower and underneath. Stephanie provided a summary of the event to the committee: approx. 25-30 ppl, great presentation about the inner-workings of the bridge and what they are currently doing with the construction, estimated completion date.

- Don – this is a good opportunity to reach new people. Get input from others throughout the county.
- February 18th. Developers – The Shipyards. Main Street Lorain. Oasis.
- March? Ideas?
 - Pam – TMDL updates? Public engagement - more technical and boring, but maybe worth it. They have to do this outreach. Maybe Melanie can help make it more engaging.
 - Steve – lighthouse, why it was built? And modern day shipping, 2nd lighthouse and why the historical lighthouse is leaning.

❖ New Business

- Next Black River Summit
 - Date – Week of Kayak-A-Thon. Still waiting for confirmation & details. Looking at end of June with International Festival & KAT. Tentatively scheduled June 25th. Hope that government travelers may stay for Festival and KAT (since KAT is GLNPO public outreach project). Also coincides with Rec Site substantial completion. Tom will confirm venue details when he gets back to the office.
 - Pending schedule, combo event –
 - 10am – 11am: Summer meeting.
 - 11:30am – 1pm: Networking Lunch.
 - 1pm – 4pm: Summit, ending with cake & bubbles for MAPs Complete celebration.
 - 4:30pm: Private Happy Hour to precede River Boat Tours at Port office (by invitation only).
 - Block of Ariel hotel rooms for Summit guests.
 - How did we start with environmental development that led to this great economic development? But also have stakeholders have a say in how they helped.
 - Potential speakers? In addition to government stakeholders -
 - OEC
 - Port
 - Coldwater
 - Isom – Maps complete – but, if there are Rec Site delays, what’s the backup plan. Kate says it **will** be substantially complete. Timeline is technically end of April, so we have wiggle room.
- Box of AOC history from Jill - LCPH moved to new building and gave us all the old RAP stuff: vintage reports, maps, historical stuff.... Kate can scan big stuff. Please everyone, take whatever you want. We will also ask Historical Society if they are interested in any of it.

❖ Announcements/ Other Business

- OSU Extension Youth Environmental Day – Lynn & Lyn & Stephanie are working with a committee coordinated by OSU Ext. Planning a field trip for about 250 5th graders. Will be indoor & outdoor hands-on event at French Creek Nature Center with several “stations”. More info this coming Thursday.
- LCMP – this is the year of the Black River. Year-long celebration throughout the county with all BR stakeholders/communities. LCMP is creating master list of ALL BR programs with everyone that’s open to the public. Partner breakfast meeting is Feb 7th @ Lakeview Park Sunset Terrace.

- BRCU – with LCMP – last solo LoCo ‘Yaks event. Looking for another group to take over and LY will continue to sponsor, participate, and consult on future BRCUs.
 - 2020 – kayak check-in & lunch location at French Creek Nature Center. Shuttle service for kayakers also provided by LCMP. Other check-ins as usual. We’re expecting a larger reach and turnout with marketing through LCMP.
- ❖ April meeting – 4/20 and 9/21 both at 1pm. Check with Jill for space at new LCPH building.
- ❖ Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by Kate at 2:22PM. Second by Max. No discussion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.