



Black River Advisory Committee

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

BI-MONTHLY (COVID) MEETING | Tues., December 8, 2020 | 10:00 AM

MINUTES

- ❖ Welcome / Call to Order – Don called to order at 10:04am.
 - In attendance: Don, Lorain County; Max, OEC; Jannah, Lorain Co. Metro Parks; Chip, Coldwater; Jennifer, City of Amherst / Sandstone EHS Services; Steve, ODNR; Katie, BRAC Media Specialist; Pamela, NOACA; Stephanie, LCPH; Stephanie, LoCo 'Yaks; Lyn, BRCCC; Matt, Beaver Creek Watershed; John Sabo, retired; Rick, Morning Journal; Amber, FWS; Julie, OSU Extension; Melanie, Ohio EPA; Kristen Risch, Coldwater; Kristen Isom, US EPA
- ❖ Fiscal Report
 - Spent \$42,605.00 with \$70,605 remaining through the end of November. Have not really spent any money since last meeting besides staff hours.
 - Videos – Robb has been working on the trailer video. Katie is working on the AOC basics video.
 - QUESTIONS? – [Don] Asked for fiscal report print out to be made available next meeting.
 - Approval of Fiscal Report; motion to accept by Jennifer; second by Steve; no discussion; all in favor; none opposed; motion carries unanimously.
- ❖ Old Business
 - Approval of Meeting Minutes 10/14/2020; motion to accept as-is by Steve; second by John; no discussion; all in favor; none opposed; motion carries unanimously.
 - VibrantNEO Honorable Mention – [Don] We received Honorable Mention. The City of Lorain was one of three winners was the city with the streetscape on Broadway. It feels that we played a big part of the streetscape as well, with getting downtown moving again to make it a nice area with the river. Hoping to do great next year after removing at least one more BUI and completing Management Actions. The VibrantNEO Individual Champion was Jim Rokakis with Western Reserve Land Conservancy. With all of the projects submitted, it was good to see both the county and the city of Lorain recognized for their efforts. Don and Stephanie attended award ceremony virtually. [Steve] Congrats to everyone involved. The Lorain streetscape is well deserving. It does not get the accolades that it deserves.
 - Geopool Video Trailer – [Stephanee] The final video may be around 8-10 minutes to really get into more detail. Robb does need a picture of the slag piles when they were just starting to be covered. The video will be on our YouTube channel, website, social media, and in a newsletter. [Kristen] Cory can help with graphics or anything needed. Suggests a better map graphic. Looking good!
 - Doodly video – [Stephanee] This will be a sketch video similar to the Wisconsin AOC video. We bought a subscription for Doodly online software. Katie is working on this video.

❖ Black River Restoration Project Updates

- County – [Lyn] We have finally been given approval by GLNPO to move ahead on “stage 1” of the app development. We are waiting on finding out the intricacies of how we do the contractual work. We have everything lined up and in order. Once we get the green light and have contracts signed, we should be able to move forward. We will only be working on Phase 3 and Willow Fortune Peak project to start. The end goal is all of Lorain County, preferably in the near future. The long-term goal is be regional.
 - Questions? None.
- City – [Chip] Aquatic habitat restoration project is nearing completion (as far as design phase), which entails 1300 feet of stream bank restoration and 400 feet of in-water aquatic habitat. It is going to go out to bid probably spring of 2021. We will aim to be constructing this project during seasonal low water (August-October). Since the last meeting, we have pulled material from the geopool and begun to work with it and make test plots. The sediments are challenging to work with here specifically. Some of the material is wet in nature and difficult to work with, so we must periodically check the moisture content of that sediment.
 - [Kristen] The study Chip referred to is being called the residual solids evaluation, which is a new separate grant from ODNR. It is an evaluation study on beneficial re-use of those sediments outside of the Rec Site for things like ag-production, general fill, and structural fill. We do have some test plots going, which will carry on through the winter and spring. We’re going to try to grow a crop on a plot and see how it does. Another project that will be completed later in ’21 is the seep retrofit. The seep system at about river mouth 4.8 is getting a makeover. These will be the last two projects within the management actions. Work can be seen at the Rec Site from Colorado Ave driving by. The Rec Site has gotten a cover on it and vegetation has grown on it. The west side that has not been capped and covered will be where the dredge facility goes. [Don] Remind us of what the retrofit consists of. [Kristen] It is a larger treatment system, larger holding tank, and ability to deal with different viscosities within the oil and groundwater. [Don] How long did the dredge material stay in the geopool before it was removed and put onto the plots? [Kristen] A month and a half approximately. It is still dewatering. We saw significant dewatering immediately and then it slowed down. This week they will be opening the gates at the geopool to see how slumpy the material is and whether it can be taken out or not. We are going to rely on “freeze - thaw” to help us with that de-watering through the winter. In the geopool pilot system, there is a clay liner, so we are only getting horizontal dewatering. Whereas, in the full system we will also get vertical dewatering with a gravel bottom. Dewatering will go faster in the full system. The performance of the geopool the second time around was really good.
 - QUESTIONS? [Steve] Is the fabric seen in the photos only on the edge or underneath all of the sediment? [Kristen] Fabric is just around the edge. For the pilot, put down a Geotech style impermeable liner. Did not want to introduce water into the vap site – forced horizontal dewatering only. A bottom made of gravel and piping will allow the vertical and horizontal dewatering in full system. [Steve] Makes sense. What happens to the fabric to get it out? [Kristen] When you open the gates, you can just cut the fabric out. You could also take the time to backwash the fabric. However, the fabric is not that expensive to just replace it each year. [Steve] Is the fabric biodegradable? [Kristen] Unfortunately, no. It is similar to a silt fence type of fabric.

❖ Ohio AOC Program Updates – [Melanie]

- BUI #11 Removal Recommendation Report – Went out for official comment on 11/25/2020. It is a 14-day comment period. It will close after call of business tomorrow, 12/9/2020. We haven't received any comments thus far. Any last-minute comments will be addressed. Next step will be submitting the final draft to the GLNPO director for sign off. Once that sign off is complete, the BUI will be officially removed. This will likely happen in January due to the holidays. [Don] We did push it out there on social media and such, but we aren't surprised that there has not been any comments made yet.

❖ New Business

- App - [Lyn] We have permission from Cornell to use their bird calls on the app and we already have a lot of photos of our own to use. The goal is to do this for the entire GLRI project area within the Black River watershed. In the grand scheme of things, it will be an open-ended platform to offer to other AOCs or even regional Great Lakes.

- Questions?

[Jennifer] What is the cost for this? [Lyn] The cost for design and development is about \$19,000. [Jennifer] I assume the incremental cost for the other AOCs to join would be \$19,000. [Lyn] Correct, that is why we are being so careful with the design and development. [Don] It was not easy to locate companies able to create the app. Emerge, locally, has done quite a few apps. [Jennifer] Have we looked at the annual fees to maintain the app? [Lyn] Currently, it is a little under \$800 a year. Subject to change. [Jennifer] Does that include the fees charged by the carriers? [Lyn] I.e., Google Play? Good question. I believe it does since Emerge is hosting.

❖ Announcements/ Other Business

- No announcements.

❖ Adjourn

- Steve makes a motion to adjourn; second by Stephanie; no discussion; all in favor; none opposed; meeting adjourned at 10:56 am.