



## **Black River Area of Concern Advisory Committee**

9880 South Murray Ridge Road

Elyria, Ohio 44035

Phone (440) 322-6367 Fax (440) 322-0911

# **BLACK RIVER AREA OF CONCERN Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, November 18, 2015**

**2:00 PM**

Carlisle Visitor Center, LaGrange, OH 44050

### **In Attendance:**

Beaver Creek Watershed (Matt Nahorn); City of Amherst (Jennifer Scott-Wasilk); City of Lorain (Derek Feuerstein, William Gollnitz, Kate Hoffmann); Coldwater Consulting (Chip Wendt); LoCo 'Yaks (Robb Koscho); Lorain County Community Development (Christin Brandon, Lyn Ickes, Don Romancak); Lorain County General Health District (Duane Cribley, Stephanie Lesco, Jill Lis); Lorain County Metro Parks (Bryan Goldthorpe); Ohio Department of Natural Resources (Steve Holland); Ohio EPA (Ted Conlin); US Steel (Dave Schmidt)

### **Agenda Items**

#### **Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes from July 8, 2015**

- Motion to approve by Kate Hoffmann; second by Bryan Goldthorpe
- All in favor; minutes approved as submitted

#### **Fiscal Report Update and Current AOC Deliverables**

- Required to provide fiscal report at all meetings; will be a standing agenda items
- Applied for and received the full amount requested from EPA for the AOC
- Activities are broken down into core and supplemental deliverables
- Upcoming projects
  - Identification of areas for stream clean-up; clean-up work itself was not a deliverable
  - Video for the City of Lorain on restoration
  - AOC workshop for invasive species

#### **New Black River AOC Website**

- Website revisions made by Emerge, Inc. and Lorain County General Health District
- Reviewed new website with Advisory Committee; [www.blackriveraoc.com](http://www.blackriveraoc.com)
- Revisions: add credit to pictures on timeline, fix some web links, add Chair/Vice Chair/Liaison information to Contact Us

## Lorain County Project Updates

- Invasive Species Workshop
  - December 9 and 10; attendees choose one day
  - Classroom and field training
  - Information was emailed to Advisory Committee prior to completion of minutes
- Willow Creek Stream Restoration
  - \$600,000 grant from the US EPA for restoration in Willow Creek to work on some of the project identified by EnviroScience
  - Received approximately 5 proposals; selected Coldwater Consulting's proposal to bring to the board for approvals
- Invasive Species Removal
  - Fieldwork for the first phase is completed; in process of finalizing report for NOAA
  - Phases 2 and 3 are in progress concurrently; 30 acres for Phase 2 and 30 acres for Phase 3
  - Visit this site for more information: <http://blackriverwatershed.org/>
- Healing Our Waters Conference
  - Kate Hoffmann, Lyn Ickes, and Kristen Risch presented at the conference in Chicago
  - Gave an update on what is going on with the Black River watershed; well-received presentation
- Website Migration
  - In process of migrating <http://blackriverwatershed.org/> to the county's website; should be completed in early January
  - Advisory Committee members are encouraged to like the Black River Watershed's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/blackriverwatershed>

## City of Lorain Project Updates

- Rookery and Black River Landing
  - Money awarded by NOAA last year
  - Restoration and installation of fish shelves at the remainder of the heron rookery; fish shelves are installed and currently working on bank stabilization
  - At Black River Landing, focus was on removal of invasives, bank regrading, and installation of erosion protection; this work is completed
- Near Shore Revegetation Project
  - Request made for \$88,000 to plant willow trees in areas that are semi-submerged
  - No formal bidding process due to low cost of project; went with Radix Landscaping who was able to plant more trees for the money and was approved by the board on November 16
  - Planting 5,000 willow trees between now and the end of March 2016
- Lakeview Beach
  - Received green infrastructure grant
  - Conducted testing on the stormwater outfall on the west side to see if it had an effect on bacterial advisories
  - All sampling completed but results weren't as expected
    - No dry weather bacteria problem from the outfall
    - Wet weather samples had high bacteria levels throughout the duration of the storm

- Project for installation of a passive stormwater treatment system is currently on hold
- Information shared by William Gollnitz from the City of Lorain WWTP on fluorescence; Advisory Committee discussed the use of fluorescence to determine the type of bacteria in the water; could possibly take samples and test them to trace back to where the bacteria are added
- Black River Restoration and Remediation Program
  - Awarded \$15.095 million in August; largest GLRI grant ever awarded
  - Quality assurance plans submitted and received preliminary comments on one of them
  - Drum disposal - in assessment portion of remediation
  - Moving overburden from one location to another to see what is underground; assessment slated to begin in December but is weather dependent
  - Hoping for design and construction in March 2016
  - Met with Ohio EPA division administrators in Columbus about project; will have groups at regional and state level to help with project management

#### **Lakeview Beach BARK Project Results**

- Ohio EPA gave Metro Parks a grant to implement a gull control program aimed to reduce the gull population and improve water quality. Ohio Geese Control was hired to use their trained border collies to assist with this project.
- 10% reduction in positive results for E. coli from summer 2014 to summer 2015 despite a very rainy summer (58% in 2015 vs. 68% in 2014)
- Also found that the bacterial levels were not as high
- This has been a positive program and will be continued with in-house dog or rehiring the company used this year

#### **Old Business**

##### **Guidance Document**

- Ted Conlin did not receive comments on the guidance document
- Unsure if Don Romancak will receive a letter from EPA soon about the adoption of the guidance document

##### **Use of Sediments from Dredging**

- Impending moratorium on open lake dumping
- Kate Hoffmann was contacted by the EPA Director's Office about a list of potential projects to utilize dredge sediments
- Concern is the contamination of sediments with Phragmites

##### **BUI Removal**

- Feds reviewed algae and eutrophication BUI Removal document and had a few comments
- Did not view the fish consumption BUI Removal document favorably and suggested odd and cosmetic changes
- Call was held with GLNPO about fish consumption documents

- Will send both documents when they are ready
- Will need a public meeting and public comments

## **New Business**

### **City of Lorain Update**

- Working with Metro Parks to stencil on the catch basins to alert people that they go to the river and lake
- Outreach requirements for 2016
  - Possibility of the county working together on an instructional video for homeowner associations about Phragmites
  - Include information on post-construction requirements and basin management

### **Tour of the Black River AOC**

- Ted Conlin was recently given the Cuyahoga AOC
- Cuyahoga AOC wants to set up a tour of the Black River AOC and bring a bus of people to view it

### **French Creek Projects**

- Unsure of progress on projects
- Projects should be going through Ohio EPA but going through US EPA
- Issue with fish toxicity

## **Announcements**

### **Coastal Management Assistance Grants**

- Grant will be awarded for the purposes of improving water quality, coastal planning, education programs, land acquisition, research, improving public access, habitat restoration, and innovative projects
- Grants available for 1-1 match; applications due Friday, December 4
- More information is available at <http://coastal.ohiodnr.gov/cmagrants>

### **Public Comments**

None

Motion to adjourn by William Gollnitz, second by Kate Hoffmann. All in favor and meeting adjourned.

**Next Meeting** - Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 2:00PM. Location to be determined.

Minutes submitted by Stephanie Lesco on December 1, 2015.

Minutes revised by Stephanie Lesco on April 4, 2016