



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

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

**Tuesday, March 31, 2015**

**2:00 PM**

Police Training Room, Lorain City Hall  
200 West Erie Avenue, Lorain, OH 44052

### **In Attendance:**

Beaver Creek Watershed Group (Matt Nahorn); City of Amherst (Jennifer Scott-Wasilk); City of Lorain (Derek Feuerstein, Kate Hoffmann); Coldwater Consulting (Kristen Risch); Lo Co 'Yaks (Robb Koscho, Josh Notley); Lorain County Community Development (Christin Brandon, Lyn Ickes, Don Romancak); Lorain County Farm Bureau (Amanda Denes-Diedrick); Lorain County General Health District (Stephanie Lesco, Jill Lis, John Sabo); Lorain County Metro Parks (Bryan Goldthorpe); Lorain County Soil and Water Conservation District (Chip Wendt); Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District (Jeff Van Loon); Ohio EPA (Ted Conlin); Ross Environmental (Barbara Kewish); Sheffield Village (Eddie Herdendorf)

### **Agenda Items**

#### **Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes from 2-26-2015**

- Minutes approved as submitted

#### **AOC Re-Designation Status**

- Discussion led by Ted Conlin, Ohio EPA, on the re-designation of the Black River AOC to the lower 15 miles, which is the confluence of the East and West Branches to the mouth of the river in Lorain; Would also include French Creek
- Reviewed minutes and Ted's presentation from 2-26-2015 meeting and held open discussion
- Concerns, considerations, and highlights from discussion
  - If resized, the upper watershed won't be able to leverage AOC funds for projects, but there are other funding sources available
  - Willow Creek still has problems but wouldn't not fit in the new geographical AOC boundaries; need to make a case for inclusion in the AOC based on the impact the creek has on the river
  - Nowhere in the guidance document does it state a required width or boundary of an AOC; Advisory Committee needs to make a decision on the boundary and justify it in relation to BUIs

- The farther we define the boundary from the river corridor, the more difficult it is to tie back to BUIs
- We are required to complete management action plans for each BUI; there are 9 BUIs in the Black River AOC
- After discussion, the Advisory Committee took a vote on whether or not to resize the AOC
- **VOTE: The Black River AOC Advisory Committee has voted to move forward with the re-designation to the AOC to the lower 15 miles of the Black River and French Creek plus the outer harbor and two Lake Erie beaches**
- **VOTE: The Black River AOC Advisory Committee is in favor of Ted Conlin re-writing the document to re-designate the Black River AOC to also include the mainstem HUCs and beginning the process with the Ohio and US EPA.**
  - **Ted said that he will would like to check with Ohio EPA and GLNPO before he starts the effort to re-write the document; the Advisory Committee agreed that this should be done**
- UPDATE (4/23/15): The City of Lorain abstained from the vote during the meeting. The idea of re-sizing the Black River AOC was presented to the Lorain County Commissioners, and they also voted to approve the re-designation.

### **Next Steps for Advisory Committee**

- Bylaws
  - Sub-committee already began work on bylaws
  - Will meet again to tailor bylaws to the re-designated AOC
  - Will be required to have members from government, industry/business, and citizens
- System for Letter of Support
  - If possible, bring information to the meeting to share with group
  - When deadline prohibits this, an email will be shared and a vote taken as to whether or not to provide letter of support

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

#### **Black River Clean-Up**

- Clean-up will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 2-3 at the Black River Wharf; check-in at Grumpy's
- Get more information and register for the event at <http://blackrivercleanup.webs.com/>; announcement is also shared on the Black River RAP website
- Any participation is greatly appreciated and needed

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Black River Kayak-A-Thon**

- Event will be held on Saturday, June 27 at the Black River Wharf
- Will take place all at one location this year; more information will follow
- Informational cards available to share throughout community; information up on Facebook page

#### **Rock For Water Recycled Fashion Show**

- A David Anthony Salon puts together a recycled materials fashion show as a fundraiser
- This year proceed go toward the Black River Clean-Up and Sierra Club
- Event is Saturday, April 18 at 8:00 PM at Nick Abraham Ford in Elyria

- For more information visit their Facebook page:  
[https://www.facebook.com/RockForWater?sk=timeline&app\\_data](https://www.facebook.com/RockForWater?sk=timeline&app_data)

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

- Keep meeting on April 23, 2015 to discuss bylaws, AOC-specific information
- Hold meeting in May for EnviroScience to present on the Willow Creek project; helps satisfy requirement of holding public meetings to explain project as dictated in RFP
- Advisory Committee would like to hold their annual summer picnic at Black River Landing in the transportation center and go on another boat tour; Port Authority will be contacted to set this up (likely July 15). Look for more information as we near the event.

**Next Meeting** - Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 2:00 PM in the Carlisle Room of the Carlisle Visitor Center (12882 Diagonal Road, LaGrange, OH 44050)

Minutes submitted by Stephanie Lesco on April 7, 2015

Minutes revised by Stephanie Lesco on April 27, 2015