



Black River Remedial Action Plan Coordinating Committee

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BLACK RIVER REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN

Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 13, 2014

2:00 PM

Sandy Ridge Reservation

6195 Otten Road

North Ridgeville, OH 44039

In Attendance: City of Elyria (Tony Nigro); City of North Ridgeville (Cathy Becker); Environ (Tim Barber); LoCo 'Yaks (Robb Koscho, Stephanie Moore); Lorain County Community Development (Lyn Ickes); Lorain County General Health District (Stephanie Lesco, Jill Lis, John Sabo, Mark Smith); Lorain County Metro Parks (Bryan Goldthorpe); Medina Soil & Water Conservation District (Jeff Van Loon); NOACA (Pam Davis); Ohio EPA (Ted Conlin); US Steel (Karen Bezoski); Sanstone EHS Services, LLC. (Jennifer Scott-Wasilk); The Ohio State University (Charles Herdendorf); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Jo Ann Banda)

Agenda Items

Willow Creek RFP Update

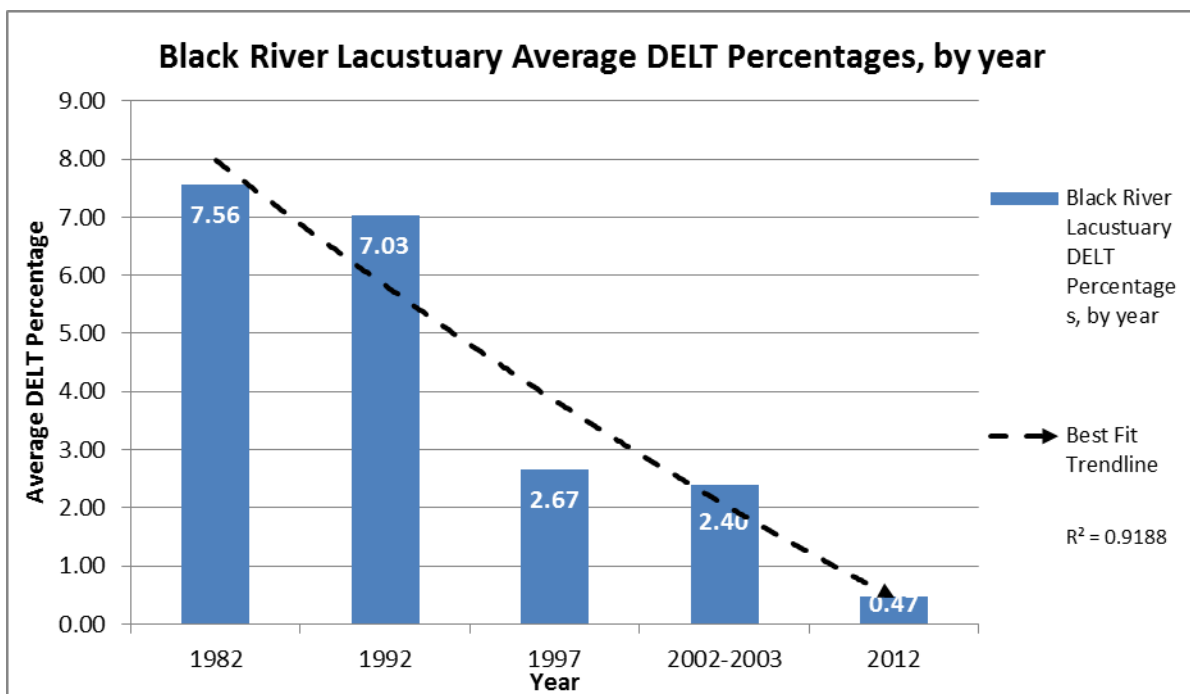
- Received 6 proposals for the development of a plan to restore the Willow Creek sub-basin
- Review committee will meet on March 20 to select the top 2-3 proposals; those companies will be asked to give a 20-minute presentation to the group
- Would like to bring the winning proposal to the LCGHD Board of Health meeting in April for approval

Invasive Species Removal/Grant Project Update

- Last year, the grant stated that 40 acres of invasives would be removed; workers exceeded that goal by removing approximately 60 acres
- Grant funding was continued for this year
 - Will be removing phragmites, purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, and narrow-leaved cattail
- Currently in the hiring process for field crew
 - Work should begin in mid-April or beginning of May; dependent on weather
 - 4 days/week, 8-10 hours/day
 - Those interested in working can call 440-248-4455

BUI Removal/Delisting AOCs - Draft State Guidance Document

- A new draft state guidance for AOC and BUI delisting is nearing completion. Several changes in this new guidance document were discussed including:
 - Fish Consumption: In lacustrine areas, fish consumption advisories for identical Lake Erie species can be used as background, regional levels of contamination
 - Fish Tumors and Other Deformities: DELT values now need be $\leq 3\%$ in lacustrine areas (was 0.5%) and 1.3% in upstream areas. Liver tumors now needs to meet 5% (was not set before).
 - Benthos: there is a new and lower target value for ICI in lacustrine areas
 - Eutrophication/Algae: Now using a Trophic Index value as a target plus dissolved oxygen levels
 - Beach Closings/Recreational Use:
 - Lake Erie Beach Target is < 19 posted advisory days per season in 3 of the last 5 seasons
 - Stream target is if stream segment is listed on the bi-annual report on impaired waters for bacteria
- Fish Tumor BUI
 - External tumors prevalence (as measured by the deformities, eroded fins, lesions and tumors index, or DELT) are currently below new and even old targets
 - Preliminary results report of bullhead liver tumor study is due soon. Expectations are that the prevalence of liver tumors will allow BUI removal in the Black River AOC



- The 2014 Fish Consumption Advisory List has been posted by Ohio EPA. It is available on the RAP web page as well as at epa.ohio.gov/dsw/fishadvisory/index.aspx
 - Changes in the Black River AOC include:
 - Adding channel catfish @ 1 meal per month in the mainstem
 - The range of the common carp advisory in the East Branch was expanded
 - Common carp & rock bass were added to the West Branch

Annual Report for 2013

- Current topics to include in report
 - 2013 Black River Kayak-A-Thon
 - Lower Black River restoration projects
 - Invasive species removal
 - EPA summer sampling and fish tumor study
 - LCGHD summer interns' home sewage treatment system inventory project
- If you have topics that you would like to include, send the information to Stephanie Lesco at slesco@loraincounthealth.com

Black River Video Update

- Received draft video from LCCC and viewed it at meeting
- Hosting the video premier at the Palace Theatre in Lorain on Saturday, April 26 at 4:00pm
- Question & Answer session from 4:30-5:00pm
- Reception immediately following at Charleston Coffee House across from theater
- Will also have a 3-minute video to hit the video highlights and grab people's attention; partners can use this on their websites, etc.

Planning for Summer Meeting

- Meeting will be held Thursday, July 10
- Continue with the potluck lunch
- Try to book Black River Transportation Center and boat tour again

Old Business - None

New Business

Black River Clean-Up

- Saturday and Sunday, May 3-4, 2014 10:00am-3:00pm
- Clean-up headquarters is located at Black River Landing in Lorain
- Supplies, water, snacks, and dinner are provided
- Register at <http://blackrivercleanup.webs.com/> if you would like to assist either day

USFWS and Army Corps of Engineers Watershed Crossover Survey

- Completing 4 surveys in the state; 1 will be completed in Medina

- Collecting data to create a better barrier effect to prevent exotic species from crossing over from one watershed to another
- Asian carp are a major concern

2014 Great Lakes AOC Conference in Chicago

- Reps from Coldwater Consulting, Lorain County Community Development, and City of Lorain will be attending the AOC on March 18-19

City of Lorain and Lower Black River Projects (Coldwater Consulting updates)

- City of Lorain applied for 2 NOAA grants in February 2014
 - Streambank work at the rookery and the Landing
 - An assessment/design grant for the old BOP pond that is next to the rookery
- 2 USFWS pre-proposals turned in for assessment of
 - A drum disposal area
 - Bulkhead habitat restoration
- ODNR project going to bid in April
 - Mainly soil hauling and spreading, then planting trees and shrubs on a 4-acre site adjacent to the rookery

Announcements - None

Next Meeting - Thursday, July 10, 2014 Time and Location TBA