



Black River Advisory Committee

LoCo 'Yaks | Facilitating Organization
138 Alabama Avenue
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[NON-SUMMIT] MEETING | Thursday, September 16, 2021 @ 10:00AM via Zoom

Minutes

- ❖ Welcome / Call to Order – **(Don)** 10:02AM
 - Attendance: Don Romancak, Committee Chair (LCCD); Steve Holland (ODNR); Christen Brandon (LCCD); Kate Golden (City of Lorain); Pamela Davis (NOACA); Max Schaefer, Committee Vice Chair (Main Street Lorain); Kristen Risch (Coldwater Consulting); John Sabo (retiree); Lynn Garrity (Ohio Lake Erie Commission); Jennifer Wasilk (Amherst City Council President; Sandstone Environmental Health & Safety Services); Chip Wendt (Coldwater Consulting); Matt Nahorn (Beaver Creek Watershed); Kristen Isom (U.S. EPA, GLNPO); Deborah Millsap (USFWS); Jill Lis (LCPH); Richard Payerchin (The Morning Journal); Stephanie Koscho (facilitator)
- ❖ Fiscal Report - We canceled all Summit expenditures. – **(Stephane)** Nothing to report. No questions.
- ❖ Old Business
 - Approval of Meeting Minutes 08/17/2021 – Steve makes motion to approve. Max seconds. No discussion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.
 - App – **(Don)** Demo available. Background programming is complete. QR codes and photos have been added, with room for expansion. Continuing general information pages. Still waiting for permission to use GLRI logo. [Don is screen sharing app demo. Showing photos, tag links, etc.] **(Garrity)** Questions use of logo and banner header as designed as it may create confusion because it looks like it's coming from GLRI. Takes away from Black River specificness. Don is taking notes for refinement. But also wants it to be clear that it is a bigger endeavor than just Black River. **(Steve)** Is this meant for being out in the field or just a general education tool? **(Don)** Both. In the field, self-guided tours with area information, but because of Covid, the photos are allowing for a virtual guided tour as well. More impactful to experience the sites, but can be appreciated from afar as well. **(Risch)** Is this a new web page or addition to something else? **(Don)** A new, stand-alone page. While it's starting with Black River, ideally, we'll go Great Lakes basin-wide. It's educational, but also an economic development tool by getting people to those locations. This app could

be utilized by watersheds throughout the Great Lakes. There's a lot of potential, and we'll need to work together to make sure we see all of its potential. **(Risch)** What's the address? <https://glri.emergeinc.com/peak> but waiting for approvals/changes before going live with that address. **(Isom)** Don, have you been working with Noel? ... Will follow-up after this meeting. **(Garrity)** Very concerned about "glri..." in the address and confusion with reaching the glri.us site. **(Don)** Will work with Emerge for changes. **(Steve)** Maybe start with "Black River". **(Don)** The goal is to be bigger than Black River so, maybe we start with "AOC_sites" or something less specific. **(John)** How about "Great Lakes AOCs"? ... other questions... **(Isom)** How will we approach private property projects? **(Don)** Private property will be highlighted, but we will determine a way to NOT encourage trespassing. **(Stephane)** Maybe use different colored dots and NO TRESPASSING indicators with details. **(Risch)** Do we have enough money? Do we need more? **(Don)** Expansion is designed to be easy with low-cost. Then will look at other funding options to add more projects or watersheds as needed.

- FireFish – **(Stephane)**
 - Photo delays – Taking a while to get photos from Historical Society.
 - Draft timeline attached – needs OH EPA approval before going to print.

❖ Black River Restoration Project Updates

- County – **(Don)** Lyn Ickes is out in the field. She completed spraying floodplain few weeks ago. But the phrag does not appear to be dying or even under any distress a week+ after spraying. We need to determine if we need to test the plant, check the water & soil in that area, figure out why does it seem "immune". Otherwise, she's finishing up some end-of-season projects with the City of Lorain. Should be completed within the next week, except for the floodplain phrag problem. Will Share application notes with Coldwater, Chip will do a site visit, and then discuss. Lyn will also reach out to Noel.
- City – **(Kate)** Seep modification project has begun "material acquisition" so that construction can start on time. Aquatic habitat grant funded project is in final design – will let Chip continue. **(Chip)** Expect to send it for bids soon. **(Kate)** Martins Run funded through H2Ohio to help City combat flooding. Property has been acquired. In process of awarding agreement, then construction should start mid-Oct through mid-Nov. Project will include moving 50,000 (up to 72,000) cubic yards to the rec site for utilization on future restoration activities. Have applied for grant funding to use it to cover some areas throughout steel mill site. Leftovers could be used for dredge project.

- ❖ Ohio AOC Program Updates – **(Lynn Garrity)** Deborah Millsap &/or Amber Bellamy will be representing USFWS for the BRAC moving forward. They also helped with the fish tumor sampling for BUI removal. Melanie is working on dredge BUI, assembling maps and information for the removal document. Should be ready for BRAC to review later this fall, then public comment. Other BUIs are waiting for biological data to help determine next steps for fish populations, benthos, and tumors samplings. Ashtabula was delisted in August. Black is next priority. – GLAOC Conference was postponed to May 24-26, 2022, same location & same format.
- ❖ New Business
 - Everything is canceled – **(Don)** Is this true?
 - Schedule next meetings – **(Stephane)** I'll send out a Doodle Poll for Nov., Jan., and before the grant ends. **(Don)** Those will be good timing for wrapping up some projects. Such as, getting quotes to replace some of the trees that were lost at Peak Preserve
 - **(John)** Should we consider a Virtual Summit? **(Don)** We shied away from it before because it was supposed to be a “celebration” but maybe now we should reconsider it. Let's put it on November's agenda.
 - **(Pam)** TMDL - Total Maximum Daily Load, basically a pollution budget. Assess data and then determine efficient uses. Black River TMDL Report is being rewritten with details on impairments, covering both urban and rural issues. Preliminary report will be released within the next few weeks and forwarded to BRAC for comment. **(Kate)** Expressed concerned about annual reporting requirements that revolve around TMDL reports, in order to make sure next year will transition smoothly with any report changes. ... Does the new report separate the river into segments, similar to the last report? **(Pam)** Yes (and offered several examples).
- ❖ Announcements
 - **(Don)** Commissioners awarded contract for Willow Creek watershed for both stormwater & ecological work. Does impact the Black River. Acquired roughly 60 acres on Rt. 83. Ecological survey is underway to design a project, drainage ditch, restoration, maintenance, spraying, etc. Includes money to identify other Willow Creek projects. LC Stormwater District has added Kipton Village. They will have a stormwater utility and the county will assist with stormwater management.
- ❖ Adjourn
 - Kate makes a motion to adjourn at 11:08AM. Steve seconds. No discussion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned.