



# BLACK RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FACILITATING ORGANIZATION:

**LoCo 'YAKS**

**138 ALABAMA AVENUE**

(MAILING ADDRESS: 331 MISSOURI AVE.)

**LORAIN, OH 44052**

**(419) 239-3779**

## BLACK RIVER AREA OF CONCERN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**Monday, April 3, 2017**

**1:00 PM**

Sunset Terrace @ Lakeview Park  
1800 West Erie Ave.  
Lorain, OH 44052

### *Minutes*

Attendance:

Jennifer Wasilk	Private Citizen Member
Duane Cribley	Lorain County General Health District
Steve Holland	ODNR - Office of Coastal Management
John Sabo	Lorain County General Health District
Ted Conlin	Ohio EPA
Max Schaefer	Private Citizen Member/ OEC
Tiffany McClelland	Lorain Port Authority
Tom Brown	Lorain Port Authority
Stephanie Lesco	Lorain County General Health District
Bryan Goldthorpe	Lorain County Metro Parks
Derek Feuerstein	City of Lorain
Lyn Ickes	Lorain County Community Development
Kate Golden	City of Lorain
Christin Brandon	Lorain County Community Development
Don Romancak	Lorain County Community Development
Stephane Moore Koscho	Advisory Committee Coordinating Agency
Robb Koscho	Advisory Committee

- ❖ Welcome – Meeting called to order at 1:10pm.
- ❖ Approval of Meeting Minutes 2/6/17– Motion to accept made by Derek Feuerstein, Second by Bryan Goldthorpe. All in favor; minutes approved.
- ❖ Fiscal Report
  - \$17,694.35 remains – detailed table attached as per Don’s recommendation.
  - Marine Debris Prevention Educational Program (MDPEP) updates – still scheduling & visiting schools of all grade levels. Scheduled to visit camps this summer as well. Handing out Black River Activity Book at all visits.



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- ❖ Delisting Acceptance Letter & Management Actions Letter
  - The letter was drafted by Kate Golden and emailed out to the committee for approval. Eight YES votes were received.
  - Completed letter was sent via email to Ted Conlin who transmitted to GLNPO.
- ❖ *Lower Black River Restoration* Grant Project Updates
  - Kate Golden – Assessment of the Reclamation Site is moving forward. Currently, groundwater flow and site assessment is being completed and is anticipated for completion at the end of 2017. Project design for the Reclamation Site will follow based on assessment outcomes. The Seep System is installed but not yet functional. We are waiting on the installation of a few key components and water testing will begin shortly after. We are awaiting the 30% design for the LSYC river wall project and anticipate the drawings this week. As an overall project update: \$7.6 million in total project funding as already been allocated. The remaining \$7.4 million in funding is still up in the air and is dependent on federal budget decisions.
  - Lyn Ickes– There has been a bit of biomass removal and the BRCCC crew planted 500 live stakes at Willow Creek. Additional live stake planting will be completed within the next two weeks. Lorain County is moving forward with hiring for the BRCCC and the 2017 crew was hired today.
  - Don Romancak– Willow Creek – presentation by Coldwater @ Margaret Peak; work reports have been very positive; weather continues to be an issue; Clinton Ave. ditch is looking to bid out late summer; most work should be done through the winter then planting & seeding in spring; preliminary design looks promising; 14 acres of restoration; not designed for stormwater retention but restoration will increase length of ditch/ stream.
- ❖ Regional AOC Conference
  - The following comments were made regarding the AOC Annual Conference:
    - Lynn Ickes– Other AOC have more public/ gov't partnerships. Recommend producing more printed material to accurately inform the public and provide information on river access, boating, walking, paddling.
    - Robb Koscho - Noted that Lyn's comment was similar to idea of phone app which was not funded this year.
    - Steve Holland– Recommended producing a spreadsheet or educational material listing projects to help inform community and to educate those outside of the project areas on the restoration work being completed. Libraries would be a recommended location for distribution.
    - Don asked Ted for input from other AOCs
      - BRAOC has always been different. USEPA liaison used to try to get small watershed groups developed within the County but to no avail. People in this watershed just don't seem to have an interest in participating in



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sub-watershed groups. There seems to be a disconnect within Lorain County and the BRAOC between agriculture & urban/industry.

- Stephanee Moore Koscho– Noted that a gentleman from MI asked "What is my incentive for delisting?" as if to imply that there wasn't an immediate desire to delist because the funding would dry up. Stephanee confirmed that the committee is on the same page with regard to working to complete the delisting. Our job is to complete all projects, not stretch it out so we can keep collecting funding.
- Stephanie Lesco – discussed the Collective Impact seminar & the importance of this – and how John Perrecone name dropped LoCo 'Yaks for being regular people facilitating an AOC committee because they're doing what they love..
- Kristen Isom – She appreciates the candid feedback. Noted that we are making great progress and that we can see the finish line, but it takes a while to remove BUIs.
- Ted Conlin – Noted that we should pat ourselves on the back. We are the first AOC within Lake Erie to delist for fish tumors and benthos and we have 2 of the 6 BUI delistings for Ohio.
- John – enjoyed atmosphere; people were very open & sharing; not about making everyone A students – about getting F students to C
- Lyn – Recommended talking to EPA about funding, as Ashtabula & Ottawa continuing to monitor 10+ years after completion of management actions.
- Stephanie – asked about the 2020 goal/ "bucket" – is that realistic? –
  - Kate – funding consideration and other findings are within current schedule;
  - Don – once projects are done, we have to make sure data supports the action before removal or delisting;
  - Summary: 2020 is realistic but we can't rush it because of this EPA goal

### ❖ Picnic plan– July 11 or 18, 2017

- Tom Brown noted that the Lorain Port Authority will continue donation of river boats.
- Kate Golden noted that a date and time would be set and an invite will be sent for the AOC summer meeting potluck & boat tour.
- Stephanee noted the possibility of doing a walkthrough of the new Loco 'Yak Shak; info to come.

### ❖ Old Business

- New Logo
  - Genesis – Jill, Kate, Max, Derek, Jennifer, Matt, Don
  - Edwin – Max, Marijoy



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### ❖ New Business

- Petition – Max Schaefer requested the support of the AOC for an OEC sponsored funding petition. Don Romancak stated that support of such a petition would need to be brought before many of the AOC Committee members' governing boards prior to AOC Committee support.
  - Stephanie will email to committee to allow members to support it personally
- New Chair/ Vice Chair vote at next meeting – Nominations & voting will occur at our July meeting

### ❖ Announcements

- Kayak-a-Thon will be held June 24, 2017
- Black River Cleanup will be held May 6-7, 2017.
- Nature Based Living Shorelines training will be held May 2 & 3, 2017. The May 2nd meeting is designed for consultants & engineers and May 3rd for landowners. Please contact Steve Holland for more information.
- Lakefront communities Transportation Grant public meetings will tentatively be held on April 29 and May, 5, 2017. More details to come.

### ❖ Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn made by Derek Feuerstein; second by Kate Golden.
- All in favor; Motion carries
- Meeting adjourned at 2:23pm.