



Black River Area of Concern Advisory Committee

Facilitating Organization: LoCo 'Yaks

Mailing Address: 331 Missouri Ave., Lorain, OH

(419) 239-3779

BLACK RIVER AREA OF CONCERN Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 6, 2017 1:00 PM

Wellington Reservation Visitor Center

Lorain County Metro Parks

535 Jones Road, Wellington, Ohio

- Attendance

Don Romancak	Lorain County Community Development
Ted Conlin	Ohio EPA
Lyn Ickes	Lorain County
Chip Wendt	Coldwater Consulting
Bryan Goldthorpe	Lorain County Metro Parks
Jill Lis	Lorain County General Health District (LCGHD)
Kate Golden	City of Lorain
Derek Feurestein	City of Lorain
Jennifer Scott-Wasilk	Private Citizen
Matt Nahorn	Citizen representing Beaver Creek Watershed
Max Schaefer	Private Citizen / The Ohio Environmental Council
Marijoy Halitzka	Private Citizen
Kristen Isom – via Google Hangouts	USEPA Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO)
John Perrecone – via Google Hangouts	USEPA Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO)
Robb Koscho	LoCo 'Yaks
Stephane Moore Koscho	LoCo 'Yaks

- Meeting called to order by Don Romancak at 1:09pm.
- Approval of Meeting Minutes 10/26/2016
 - Ted Conlin made note of change in wording in Old Business, Excessive warning days... *Beach/ bird study recommended as bacteria may be coming from ~~beach~~ birds rather than outfalls.*
 - Stephane made appropriate change.
 - Motion to accept minutes with edit, by Bryan Goldthorpe; second by Derek Feuerstein.
 - All in favor; minutes approved with edit.
- Fiscal Report -- 2017 Ohio EPA Support Grant
 - \$3,077.94 has been spent to date. \$20,677.04 remaining.

- Guidance Document
 - Kate Golden – The acceptance of the guidance document was discussed with the group, including specific local items pertaining to BUI 6 and 11. Toxicity studies are underway that will help us understand the effect of contaminants on the river and will help us better define Restoration Targets specific to the Black River. The City recommends moving forward with approval of the Guidance Document, with the stipulation that local data and decision making be utilized to identify local Restoration Targets for BUIs that may differ from those identified within the Guidance Document.
 - Ted Conlin – Letter should state something to the effect that we “reserve the right to change and adopt our own local targets [with reservations] as needed, based on additional research”. The Guidance Document needed to be accepted last year.
 - Kate Golden will draft a final acceptance letter. Letter will then be forwarded through committee email for review and acceptance.
 - Motion to accept per final electronic review, by Jill Lis; second by Derek Feuerstein.
 - All in favor. Motion passes.

- Management Action Project List (attached with minutes)
 - Kate Golden – Plan has been updated to reflect AOC’s current situation. Fortune Ditch may stay on list, may come off.
 - Kristen Isom – List has changed to reflect “big” \$15 mil grant.
 - Letter to Ohio EPA re: Management Action Project List updates will be drafted by Kate Golden, signed by facilitating organization, to be reviewed by US EPA and GLNPO.
 - Fortune Ditch / Willow Creek was covered when Willow Creek was still part of AOC.
 - Since, we have reduced size of AOC, Willow Creek was still included as important tributary to the east branch of the Black feeding into the lower Black River. “Disconnected satellite.”
 - Construction = \$288,000 + \$26,000 BRCC work. Total \$300,000. Engineering/ design \$120,000, inspections of \$48,000.
 - Kate Golden offered to put together single page review as to why additional funding is needed.

- *Lower Black River Restoration Grant Project Updates*
 - Kate Golden – City work continues at mile 0.3 on fish habitat with KS Associates’ Coastal Engineers on design & implementation.
 - Kate Golden – QAPP has been preliminarily reviewed by US EPA. Conference call with US EPA and consultants later this week. Samplings should begin this spring as planned to determine what is actually happening, what is coming off that site and affects of river.
 - Willow Creek is under construction. Chip Wendt – Crazy weather has slowed construction. Bank protection has been installed. Next phase is weather permitting, need consistent cold for ground freeze.
 - Lyn Ickes – Margaret Peak - Again, need freezing temperatures to get to locations. 100-175 live stakes in ground as of now. Progressing, but slowly.
 - Ted Conlin – French Creek fish toxicity study will begin in May.
 - Brownfield Area-Wide Planning Grant – County and City partnership received \$200,000. Redevelopment of Pellet Terminal and Rt. 57 Corridor. Waiting for contracts to come through. Hopefully this is the final step in completing Brownfield site, thus bringing

people back in contact with Black River & Lake Erie and produce tax revenue again for the City of Lorain.

- New AOC Logo
 - Robb Koscho – Several great submissions from LCCC students.
 - Committee took a short break to look at submissions and discuss.
 - Top three were chosen by those in attendance (attached with minutes) and will be sent to rest of AOC committee for discussion, any changes, and final selection.
 - Would like to inform students of selection by 2/17/2017.

- New Website
 - Black River AOC website is not a stand-alone site. In order for Emerge Inc. to transfer blackriveraoc.com to LoCo 'Yaks, the site needs to be attached to a main site maintained by Emerge Inc. LoCo 'Yaks cannot afford to hire Emerge Inc., therefore an alternative must be figured out.
 - Currently, Stephanie Lesco / LCGHD continues to maintain the site, which requires several steps that make the process more troublesome than is necessary.
 - LoCo 'Yaks has proposed to move the website away from Emerge Inc. to their own web hosting service where locoyaks.com and locoyakshak.com are maintained. Stephanie can then maintain without any assistance from LCGHD, and can make changes as needed and at a time which is convenient for LoCo 'Yaks.
 - In order to move the site, the cost will be significantly less than anticipated transition costs as allowed in the current support grant, and a budget change approval must be received from Martha Spurbeck, Grants Administrator, Ohio EPA.
 - Before requesting move from Martha Spurbeck, Don would like to speak with Emerge Inc. due to Emerge Inc. also hosting Lorain County sites. Stephanie will contact Emerge Inc. explaining the situation and request Ed Skimin contact Don directly.
 - Don and Stephanie will discuss the results of the above conversation before proceeding.

- GLC Regional AOC Conference Travel Funds Request
 - Requesting funds for: Six attendees, 2 cars - mileage, 3 cars - tolls & parking, 4 hotel rooms. (Stephanee Moore Koscho, Robb Koscho, Lyn Ickes, Jill Lis, Stephanie Lesco, John Sabo)
 - Maximum amount requested: \$2,679.00. Stephanie will complete request form for Don to submit.
 - Update 2/10/2017: Form submitted; awaiting approval.

- LoCo 'Yaks Support Letter Request
 - LoCo 'Yaks are in the process of applying for a grant from Nordson Corporation Foundation for Presentation & Operating Equipment and Support.
 - To show LoCo 'Yaks' growth and accomplishments as part of this grant application, a Letter of Support has been requested from the Black River AOC Advisory Committee.
 - Ted Conlin noted that LoCo 'Yaks goals and mission align with the priorities of the AOC committee and this request should be considered.
 - Kate Golden has volunteered to write the letter.

- Motion to write the letter in support of LoCo 'Yaks and their grant application, by Kate Golden; second by Jill Lis.
- All in favor. Motion passes.
- As of 2/13, the letter has been written and approved with 6 affirmative votes. LoCo 'Yaks is awaiting a signed copy to attach to the grant submission.

- 2017 Meeting Dates and Picnic
 - Kate Golden requested that LoCo 'Yaks bring the baby to summer meeting as she will hold her while Stephanie & Robb conduct the meeting and take minutes 😊
 - Meetings as decided from all in attendance (locations TBD):
 - April 3, 2017 1:00-3:00 PM
 - Summer picnic meeting and boat tour of restoration work (pending river boat schedule).
 - Potluck lunch at noon, followed by regular meeting, then boat tour.
 - 1st choice: July 11th
 - 2nd choice: July 18th
 - Kate Golden will schedule space and boat with Port Authority, then relay to committee.
 - October 16, 2017 1:00-3:00 PM

- Seating of additional VotingMembers
 - Marijoy Halitzka – Private Citizen (possible transition to business rep. for Norfolk Southern)
 - Max Schaefer – Private Citizen (possible transition to business rep. for The Ohio Environmental Council).
 - Jennifer Wasilk – Private Citizen
 - Kate Golden will reach out to David Schmidt to confirm position on committee as business rep. for US Steel.
 - Complete List (*new italicized*):

Government:	
Don Romancak	Lorain County
Derek Feurestein / Kate Golden	City of Lorain
Jill Lis	Lorain County General Health District
Bryan Goldthorpe	Lorain County Metro Parks
Business:	
David Schmidt	US Steel
Private Citizens:	
Matt Nahorn	Beaver Creek Watershed
<i>Jennifer Wasilk</i>	
<i>Marijoy Halitzka</i>	
<i>Max Schaefer</i>	

- Motion to accept new members as presented, by Derek Feuerstein; second by Kate Golden.
- All in favor. Motion passes.

- Old Business
 - Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative Meeting update – Call for Projects request and specification attached with minutes.

- New Business
 - BRWP is updating fundraising plan. Would like ideas/ plans from other watershed groups. If anyone has anything to share, please contact Phil Martin, Blanchard River Watershed Coordinator @ brwp1237@gmail.com or 419.422.6487

- Announcements
 - Jill Lis – LCGHD is accepting internships. Please have interested parties contact her for more information.
 - LoCo 'Yaks – BRCU Planning Meeting, Film Festival fundraisers
 - Kayak-A-Thon is June 24, 2017 (Saturday of International Festival)
 - NOACA's Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI)
 - Joint project involving Lorain County, City of Lorain, Lorain County General Health District, Lorain County Metro Parks.
 - Public meetings to come.

- Adjourn
 - Motion to adjourn by Bryan Goldthorpe; second by Kate Golden.
 - All in favor; motion carries.
 - Meeting adjourned at 2:36pm.