



Black River Advisory Committee

LoCo 'Yaks | Facilitating Organization

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BRAC QUARTERLY MEETING | Tuesday, January 31st, 2023 @ 1:00 PM

Location: Lorain County Public Health (LCPH) @ 9880 Murray Ridge Rd, Elyria, OH 44035
and Via Zoom.

MINUTES

❖ Welcome / Call to Order* / Introductions

- It took a really long time to get the Zoom and room connected. Apologies if anyone is missing from this list. Please let me know before Committee approval.
- Introductions
 - **Online** – John Sabo, public member; Julie Mackey, OSU Extension; Jennifer Wasilk, Sandstone Environmental Health Services; Michael Hennessey, US EPA; Kristen Risch, Coldwater Consulting; Tom Brown, Lorain Port & Finance Authority; Matt Nahorn, Beaver Creek Watershed; Amber Bellamy, USFWS.
 - **In-person** – Jill Lis, LCPH; Kate Golden, City of Lorain; Hannah Boesinger, Ohio Lake Erie Commission; Scott Pozna, LCPH; Steve Holland, ODNR Coastal Management; Duane Cribley, LCPH; Chip Wendt, Coldwater Consulting; Max Schaefer, Main Street Lorain; Don Romancak, LCCD; Stephanie Koscho, Facilitator.

❖ Fiscal Report - Stephanie

- Grant Extension was approved. No additional money, only an extension of time and some minor recategorizing of funds. We are expecting an overlap with us and the new facilitator. Steve did not know LY is leaving the position, so Stephanie provided a quick summary of what we need to do before grant expires.

❖ Old Business

- Approval of Meeting Minutes 11/15/2022
 - Motion to accept the minutes as presented by Max. Seconded by Jill. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carries. Minutes approved & accepted.

❖ New Business

- Advertising options for LoCoBROh.com
 - Stephanee requested advertising contact information. Kate texted immediately.
- Mapping meeting
 - Kate & Lyn need to discuss QR post locations. All are invited to join the meeting and help make decisions.
 - LCMP bike trail near steel mill is a great choice because of the view. Kate feels LCMP makes more sense than other locations on the river.
 - Kate is to discuss a post at top of Parker's Marina with the Parkers. They should be invited to meetings & events that discuss the number of posts and locations to understand the scope of the project.
 - Don asked about QR locations for older projects, like fish shelves and bank restoration. Tom Brown agreed to have some on Port properties. And there will be one at the screening building across from City Hall for the shelves at Lorain Harbor Yacht Club.
- Next meetings: End of April for app release, early to mid-July to confirm everything is moving along, end of September for grant wrap-up.
 - Don inquired about a Summit. Kate noted that nothing has really happened since the last Summit. Don suggested maybe planning a Summit in the fall when another BUI should be removed. Kate also discussed the fact that there should be some pre-development complete at the pellet terminal in regards to the Sunset Pier project and they could offer a presentation on that work and the funds secured.
 - Don also suggested that as the AOC gets closer to delisting, maybe the Committee stays involved, but hands off the Summit to another Lorain organization. Kate suggested partnering with the Port because of their involvement in economic development.
 - After discussion, the Committee chose April 25th @ 1:00pm for the next meeting to be hosted online and in-person again at LCPH, and Stephanee will send a Doodle Poll for July & September.

❖ Black River Watershed Project Updates

- County
 - Out of money. Closed out grants. Submitted final reports. EPA has not reached out so seems all is well.

- County will continue invasives removal outside of the GLRI program but on a more limited basis using Stormwater District funds.
 - County will also continue working on the app's completion and full launch.
 - Don also discussed other projects for which the County is pursuing funding: Gerber Project in the Willow Creek watershed and 200 acres acquired by the Stream and Wetland foundation by auction that will become a wetland mitigation bank.
- City
 - Completed final grant submittal in November and they also have not heard from anyone at the EPA so that is done.
 - Reviewed the additional capping funds for steel mill site (see January 2023 minutes for more details).
 - Discussed redevelopment efforts for the pellet terminal property and Hot Waters, and a brownfield project on about 20 acres that should be complete by this summer.
- ❖ Ohio AOC Program Updates & Announcements
 - RFP for biological sampling is due Feb. 6.
 - BUI 4 report is under internal review. Hannah is still planning to get requested data to some committee members. The Committee will get the final document for complete review in the coming months.
 - BUI 10 evaluation is almost complete, but Hannah is still working on some data review. Will plan a meeting with BRAC before April to go over data with those interested in a more detailed discussion.
- ❖ Federal AOC Program Updates & Announcements
 - Michael will be in Lorain this week to tour the Sunset Pier Park project area.
 - He is also still reviewing some alternative projects for funding opportunities through the EPA.
- ❖ Announcements
 - Jill is taking a new role within LCPH and will no longer be their AOC representative. Scott Pozna will be the new AOC rep for the health district.
 - Steve announced 2 job openings within his office.
 - Steve also discussed the search for projects to fund with H2O.
 - Main St. Lorain's St. Patrick's Bar Crawl is coming up.

- New County Commissioner was elected. Commissioners are looking at becoming more involved with the AOC. Don does not know what that means or if it will affect his involvement.

❖ Adjournment*

- Motion to adjourn by Jill. Seconded by Max. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.

*The meeting was one hour long once we actually started and were properly connected to Zoom. Because of the technical difficulties, I do not know the exact time of the Call to Order or the Adjournment. -sk