



## Black River Advisory Committee

LoCo 'Yaks | Facilitating Organization

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**BRAC QUARTERLY MEETING | Wednesday, August 3, 2022**

**Lunch @ 1:00pm Meeting @ 2:00pm Site Tour @ following meeting**

Location: Black River Landing Transportation Center @ 421 Black River Lane, Lorain

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### Minutes

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#### ❖ Welcome / Call to Order / Introductions

- Meeting called to order @ 2:02PM. Max welcomed everyone.
- Introductions.
  - In attendance: Max Schaefer, Vice Chair (leading this meeting); Joan Perch, FireFish; Brandon Wysocki, Turtle Nerd; Chip Wendt, Coldwater Consulting; Christen Brandon, Lorain County Community Development; Lyn Ickes, Lorain County Stormwater Management District; Kate Golden, City of Lorain Engineering Department; Hannah Boesinger, Ohio Lake Erie Commission; Michael Hennessey, US EPA; Robb Koscho, LoCo 'Yaks; Stephanie Koscho, LoCo 'Yaks; Pamela Davis, NOACA; Jill Liss, Lorain County Public Health.

#### ❖ Fiscal Report

- \$42,700 total grant funds; \$4775.35 spent in first quarter.

#### ❖ Old Business

- Approval of Meeting Minutes 5/03/2022
  - Motion to approve by Kate; second by Jill; no discussion; all in favor; motion carries.
- Black River Summit Review
  - Max provided a general summary of speakers and attendance.
  - Chip discussed the bus tour.
  - Robb said the cupcakes were mentioned at GLAOC in MI.
  - Stephanie shared the FireFish project.
  - Full Summit is on YouTube.
- GLAOC in Muskegon, MI
  - Robb talked about the town and the small business startup program.
  - Robb learned of an AOC Committee with *paid* committee members. Replaced the community group. Members had to go through trainings to make the group more diverse, informed, and experienced. Michael Hennessey is using it as a case study as he is the environmental justice advocate for his office.

- No details for the next GLAOC.

#### ❖ New Business

- FY22 Grant Approval details
  - \$42,7000
    - \$2000 for continuation of app; bus & boat tours; venue fees; supplies; \$2500 printing and advertising; \$4000 for travel but maybe could be shifted to another category bc travel has already happened and it was less than 25% of the allotted funds.
      - Lyn Ickes would like to rent a post-hole digger to put up the QR code signs.
      - Jill asked if OhioEPA had specific requirements that need to be met. Stephanie replied with \*general deliverables, yes; specifics, no\*.
  - Joan Perch invited BRAC and LoCoBROh.com to be part of the FireFish Festival in September. She asked the committee to think about participating and she'll reach out in the next week or so. UPDATE: Joan never followed up with plans and we did not participate in the festival.

#### ❖ Black River Watershed Project Updates

- App progress
  - Discussed previously; Lyn has some review to do before we take next steps for official launch, editing/updating, and promoting.
- County
  - H2Ohio grant possible for 60-acre stream restoration on Gerber property that would create 60-90 acres of storm water retention. (Property is upstream from Margaret Peak Preserve.) Soil sampling is happening that may help with final project costs by selling off usable soil.
  - County has identified Foster Ditch (Grafton township) and seven homeowners looking to enhance properties and expand floodplain with stream restoration work. Project will enhance previous projects completed within the Black River watershed.
- City
  - Kate – almost done with \$15mil project. Waiting for one small adaptation/modification to SEEP System.
  - Received additional \$750,000 to finish capping and stabilization on final 14 acres at Rec Site. Using dirt from Martin's Run for cover. Award was finalized this week. Looking to advertise work this year still for better pricing on work that can be completed during cold season.
  - Martin's Run is substantially complete – all done except for a small foot bridge. Includes a chronologue "doohickey" for taking a photo with your phone, using the exact same location & angle for every photo, that then uploads the photo to a website when you can see the progress over time from all the visitor-submitted pics.

#### ❖ Ohio AOC Program Updates & Announcements

- Hannah officially introduced herself.

- BUI #4 is being evaluated now. Estimate for removal draft is later this year. Don would like the committee to see and understand the data before the draft document is released.
- Beach Closings data will begin to be evaluated for next steps in early 2023.
- Summer 2023 – planning (funds pending) to complete some biological sampling. Will use this sampling data to map out the delisting timeline.
- Thanked everyone who attended the GLAOC. Nice turnout – 308 registered attendees.
- Maumee AOC’s Consumption BUI removal document is currently out for public comment. Ends this Friday (Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>).
- Video recently released video of the delisting process of the Ashtabula AOC. Will forward to BRAC.

#### ❖ Federal AOC Program Updates & Announcements

- Michael officially introduced himself.
  - US EPA’s goal is to have all MAPs in all AOCs complete by 2030 and feels this is very ambitious.
  - Feel free to reach out to him any time. He is proud to come in on the tails of Kristen Isom’s work and see it all be completed 😊

#### ❖ Announcements

- Stephanie & Robb explained the future of LoCo ‘Yaks and our family and next steps for the Black River Clean-Up, educational events, stewardship outreach, etc.
- Don – Lorain County Fair August 21-28. Looking for volunteers to man the county table.
- Max – Main Street Lorain is now a fully accredited Main Street. This opens up free trainings for all citizens of Lorain through Heritage Ohio.

#### ❖ Adjournment and Site Tour

- Don motions to adjourn; Jill seconds; all in favor; motion carries.
- River boat tour will depart from park adjacent to meeting venue.