



Black River Area of Concern Advisory Committee

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BLACK RIVER AREA OF CONCERN Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

5:00 PM

Sunset Terrace, Lakeview Park, Lorain, OH 44052

In Attendance: City of Lorain (Derek Feuerstein, Kate Hoffmann); Coldwater Consulting (Kristen Risch, Chip Wendt); Lorain County Community Development (Lyn Ickes, Don Romancak); LoCo 'Yaks (Robb Koscho, Stephanie Moore-Koscho); Lorain County General Health District (Stephanie Lesco, Jill Lis); Lorain County Metro Parks (Bryan Goldthorpe); Lorain County Soil and Water Conservation District (Caroline Cicerchi); Ohio Department of Natural Resources (Steve Holland); Ohio EPA (Ted Conlin)

Meeting called to order by Don Romancak at 5:02PM

Agenda Items

Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes from March 16, 2016

- Motion to approve by Kate Hoffmann; second by Stephanie Moore-Koscho
- All in favor; minutes approved as submitted

Fiscal Report Update

- No fiscal report because with no facilitating agency, there is no budget
- Funding for the AOC grant came to an end at the end of February 2016
- Opportunity for funding for facilitating agency, up to \$40,000 per year

AOC Facilitating Organization

- Discussions held with LoCo 'Yaks and Lorain County Soil and Water Conservation District about becoming the facilitating organization (FO) for the Black River AOC
- Purpose of tonight's discussion is not to select an agency but hear information from potential FOs and bring information back to Ohio EPA
 - Lorain County Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Board member expressed initial interest and there was open discussion at their meeting regarding the FO opportunity

- Due to time commitments, staff changes, and staff preparedness to undertake the task, LCSWCD politely declined the opportunity to be the FO at this time
 - Very willing to remain involved as a Black River AOC Advisory Committee member and may consider being the FO in the future
 - LoCo 'Yaks
 - Still interested in becoming FO after discussion with Don Romancak and reviewing paperwork and have backing of their board
 - Would like to further community involvement and engagement in schools
 - Already an active organization in the Black River and looking to further involvement
- Discussion held regarding specifics of the FO; questions for LoCo 'Yaks on FO duties
 - This is a reimbursement grant, so money is needed up front
 - EPA needs a proposal and listing of costs; need to determine how much staffs' time is worth
 - Organizations are willing to provide letters of support to EPA for LoCo 'Yaks to be the FO
 - LoCo 'Yaks to create a "resume" of what they have done in the Black River and why they would be a suitable FO
 - Lorain County General Health District is still able to maintain the website
- Next steps would be to discuss the information with Ohio EPA and get their feedback; share with Advisory Committee when available

Planning for Summer Meeting/Picnic/Boat Tour

- Kate Hoffmann agreed to coordinate this year's event
- Work with Rick Novak with Lorain Port Authority to reserve transportation center and boat tour
- Hoping to hold meeting on Wednesday, July 13 but need to confirm with Rick
- More information will follow from Kate

Old Business

Grants Updates

- GLRI Phase 2 and 3
 - Approved for a no-cost extension through 2019
 - Gaining acreage
 - Need to treat for poison hemlock in locations of Phragmites
- City of Lorain project
 - Scope of project with EPA is questioned due to funds needed to complete everything as originally planned
 - More information will follow
 - Dredged materials
 - Discussions held with EPA and Army Corps of Engineers to discuss dredged sediments
 - Seep project has been advertised and is out to bid

New Business

None

Announcements

Black River Kayak-A-Thon

- Kayak-A-Thon is Saturday, June 25; tentative rain date is Saturday, August 6
- Kate Hoffmann sent an email asking for volunteers
- Partners asked to add information to their websites
- For more information, visit <http://www.cityoflorain.org/engineering/kayak-a-thon> and <https://www.facebook.com/lorainblackriver>

Public Comments

None

Motion to adjourn by Lyn Ickes, second by Bryan Goldthorpe.
All in favor and meeting adjourned at 5:56PM.

Next Meeting - Date and time to be determined by Don Romancak

Minutes submitted by Stephanie Lesco on June 2, 2016