



Black River Advisory Committee

LoCo 'Yaks | Facilitating Organization

138 Alabama Avenue

Lorain, OH 44052

(440) 249-0590

QUARTERLY MEETING | Tuesday, July 06, 2021 @ 1:00PM

Minutes

- ❖ Welcome / Call to Order – 1:05 Call meeting to order. New guests, so we did introductions. In attendance: Steve Holland, ODNR; Matt Nahorn, Beaver Creek Watershed; Tom Brown, LP&FA; Max Scheafer, Main Street Lorain; Matt Lundy, LC Commissioner; Melanie Barbis, Ohio EPA; John Sabo, LC Retiree; Pamela Davis, NOACA; Chip Wendt, Coldwater Consulting; Kristen Risch, Coldwater Consulting; Stephanie Koscho, Facilitator; Don Romancak, LCCD.
- ❖ Fiscal Report
 - \$63,508.98 spent including current Emerge bill. – Steph – finally spending money on the app. Everyone is happy. County will help cover final costs of the app.
 - Steve – Do we have a name for the app? Don – Not yet.
 - Max – What is the \$63,500+ for? Steph – Since the beginning of the grant, all projects (river chatter, kayak trips, etc.) plus payroll and office items like the Doodly & Zoom subscriptions.
- ❖ Old Business
 - Approval of Meeting Minutes 04/13/2021 – Steph – sorry, they aren't ready yet. Blame me.
 - App – County approved \$4200 for LoCo 'Yaks to pay towards the final cost. (mentioned above)
- ❖ Black River Restoration Project Updates
 - County – Don – LC is looking for the herbicide for invasives. Have found a source and have ordered. In the meantime, we have shared with LCMP some at a different concentration, but we need much more to complete the job. Have completed some limited spraying at a couple of other places and in Avon at electric plant – poison hemlock. Lyn & Don went on site tour, and everything looks great. Phrag is generally remaining in control, mowing continues, and some HOAs are maintaining prior phrag control projects.
 - Lyn has been organizing photos & descriptions of various rehabilitation sites for the app.
 - Willow/Peak GLRI and Phase 3 grants will close out 2/22/2022.
 - City – Chip – Rec Site: cap & cover 40 acres project is well-vegetated with stable slopes. Addressing a few warranty issues with contractor, but nothing major. Just finishing touching up to complete erosional issues. Biological monitoring report associated with that ecustuary has passed the first round of reviews. Preparers are finishing up documentation of biologic response to all of the projects. SEEP remediation system is underway. Concrete vault has a big lead time which is slowing the entire project. Aquatic Habitat Restoration has been designed and is being reviewed for permits from USACE. Planning to start work in October and continue through the new year. Busy late summer/early fall because of construction holdups. Don is asking about when we can see the report. Chip says he can't say. Bugs are not responding as hoped. Fish, however, are trending upward with the fish habitat. Other factors will affect the speed of a full recovery. Habitat monitoring shows increases in the quality of the areas. But, Coldwater will reach out to see when BRAC can see the report.
- ❖ Ohio AOC Program Updates – Melanie – One of the bigger things currently at hand is Oh EPA is working with USACE & state Dredge Team to remove dredging BUI. USACE's recent evaluation is

being used by Oh EPA to update the removal recommendation draft. Aiming to complete the draft by the end of FFY which is Sept. 30.

❖ New Business

- Summit -- *Ecological Restoration and Economic Development on the Black River, Lorain County*
 - Date – September 16; ballroom and rooftop – Tom confirmed. General discussion group decision – ballroom setup and rooftop access: \$2000 flat rate.
 - VIP hour before Boat Tours – at Black River Landing / Port office – priority invites start with federal reps, then state, county officials, city, etc.
 - Taco Bar & Cupcakes – Kayak-A-Thon leftovers money will fund food.
 - Cake, cupcakes, & bubbly juice to celebrate MAPs complete.
 - FireFish project – the org. has had some internal delays, but we are working to meet with the artist & their project committee. – Steph – not much to report. Will meet this afternoon and forward info accordingly.
 - Possible Speakers
 - GLNPO – Isom will reach out to her management about who they want to participate
 - Ohio EPA – Invite Director to decide who will speak, possibly Kurt Princic.
 - Port Authority – Tom – needs guidance for appropriate suit – will speak on correlation between ecology & economy
 - Commissioner(s) – Don will handle
 - Mayor Bradley &/or someone from Mayor’s office
 - Project Team – MAPs, final projects, etc. – City & Coldwater
 - Max – Main Street – host, introductions, summary of Main Street Lorain
 - Invite to attend: All the politicians, Senators, Governor DeWine, LEC Director Mullinax (Kaptur & Gibbs, Portman, Brown, Mannings)
 - Risch recommends making sure that the politicians know what’s going on outside of the river and that there is still plenty of work to be done.
 - Will need everyone to help with slide shows between speakers, with updated info in simple terms. Posterboards? Kate – Do we want to do the MAPs? (Discussion with Risch) others will need to be updated. Drone video of full river.
 - Outline of the day:
 - 10:00-11:30 BRAC regular meeting
 - 11:30-1:00 lunch
 - 1:00-4:00 summit
 - 4:00-5:30 VIP Happy Hour
 - 5:30-7:30 River Boat Tours
 - Online presence – live stream -AND- pre-recorded event?
 - Digital presentation will be available on website & YouTube afterwards (combination of event video + PowerPoints)
 - Zoom and Live-Stream some portions.
- Schedule next meetings – Summit sub-committee and regular AOC
 - Next meeting to confirm Summit details – Sept. 17th @ 1:00
 - Summit sub-committee will continue meeting regularly

❖ Announcements

- Tom asked about email for Rahdika to send contract – blackriveraoc@gmail.com

❖ Adjourn – Tom motions to adjourn; Julie seconds; all in favor; meeting adjourned at 2:05pm