



Black River Advisory Committee

LoCo 'Yaks | Facilitating Organization

138 Alabama Avenue

Lorain, OH 44052

(419) 239-3779

QUARTERLY MEETING | Monday, October 21, 2019 | 1:00 PM

Brew & Stew | 630 Broadway Ave., Lorain OH 44052

Minutes

- ❖ 1:08pm Don R. called the meeting to order.
 - In attendance: Don Romancak, Chair (Lorain County), Kristen Risch (Coldwater Consulting), Kate Golden (City of Lorain), Chip Wendt (Coldwater Consulting), Tom Brown (Lorain Port Authority), Bryan Goldthorpe (LCMP), Matt Nahorn (Beaver Creek Watershed), Max Schaefer (Ohio Environmental Council), Jennifer Wasilk (Sandstone EHS Services), Lyn Ickes (Lorain County), Stephanie Lesco (Lorain County Public Health), John Sabo (Lorain County Public Health), John Schwartz (Lorain SWCD), Melanie Barbis (Ohio EPA), Christen Brandon (Lorain County), Rick Payerchin (Morning Journal), ON THE PHONE: Kristen Isom (US EPA).
- ❖ Fiscal Report
 - FY2018 support grant: Stephanie reported that \$17,592 of \$55,600 has been spent to date.
 - GLAOC Conference travel funding is still processing and will be disbursed upon receipt.
- ❖ Approval of Meeting Minutes 7/22/2019
 - Motion to accept as is by Bryan G. Motion second by John Sabo. No discussion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.
- ❖ Old Business
 - GLAOC Conference:
 - Don – Better content than previous years. Was nice to have multiple speakers from BRAOC. What's happening in Lorain is similar all across the region – referred to U. of M. study: “every dollar invested equals \$3 in the local community” – this is important for those in-charge to know as it truly is an “investment”.
 - Kate – Thought BRAOC had the best presenters.
 - Chip – Many presentations aren't science or results focused, but [the fish shelf project] was with real-life, visible results. Lots of questions during & after. It was nice for others to see new concepts. “We were kinda the shining star of Ohio AOCs.”
 - Robb – Has always liked hearing others' success stories at previous conferences, so to be local and have so many interested in us was really cool. Chip & Kate were great speakers, with really good energy.
 - Don – People really liked the display table. (It was artwork from the AOC High School kayaking trips.)
 - John Sabo – Most presenters were just ok, but enthusiasm helps. Chip wore a suit.
 - Kate – Was blown away by Chip's public speaker abilities.
 - Don – Power points will be available on GLAOC conference site.



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- No word on the next GLAOC Conference. Melanie said probably every 18 months now
- Margaret Peak tree planting event
 - Don – The amount of Prep by Lyn & BRCCC, USFW, Eaton Twp, Coldwater was outstanding. 30ish volunteers planted 400 trees in 2 hours. A lot of support. Very successful and well-received. All-around impressive event. Amazing, but too much stress – don't want to do it again. Exceeded expectations. 3 hours of cleanup and watering afterwards. This adds another 50 acres of good habitat to BR watershed. Peak is now a complete preserve, no farming.
 - Max – Would love to see more projects like this as the results are amazing. \$22000 project cost was outstanding. Great experience.
 - Lyn – probably the most rewarding experience of my career with Lorain County. Holes not much, but trees in them in 2.5 hours is phenomenal. The stars aligned perfectly to take us from nothing to everything in 10 months.
 - Chip – Dick Knechtges said we were able to make Margaret Peak's vision a reality.
 - Rick – (attended not as work assignment) Thank you (to AOC) for a great project.
- ❖ Black River Restoration Grant Project Updates
 - County
 - Chip – Phase 2: County's efforts are complete and the grant has ended. 64 acres of invasives were removed, which doubled the goal of original grant. There will be additional seedings at Margaret. Phase 3 continues through next year, focused closer to lake, and current acreage has also exceeded grant goals. And exceeded qualitative goal – canopy coverage by more than double.
 - Don – Phase 2: We are reviewing report for completeness, and paying final expenses – but we've spent it all.
 - Don – One year for Willow grant. County may pursue additional funds for invasives and Lyn stuff. (She needs to keep her job.)
 - Chip – Next: Reassess Fortune for polishing. Habitat evaluation to EPA's database. (Chip, please send to Stephanie for website.)
 - City
 - Kate – Rec Site: Last Monday broke ground and begun baseline work, mostly hauling & excavating.
 - Chip – (on-site daily) They are currently moving "soil" (not "dirt"), grading slag to less-erosive slopes, and topping soil for infiltration resistance. Some hazardous issues have been addressed and everything is moving forward. 60,000 truckloads of soil from now until July 15th (@ hundreds per day) starting at old drum disposal area. Nothing bad unearthed so far.



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- Kate – Project is viewable from 611 near Parker Marina & LCMP trailhead.
 - Seep area – Scope issues, not much going on.
 - Lakeview – Nothing to report. Report to US EPA, but nothing from them yet. City's obligations have been fulfilled. Army Corps will probably do their own study because of human DNA in outfalls. May use cameras along every inch of sewers to outfalls, but nothing definitive is in place yet.
- ❖ Updates from Ohio AOC program – Melanie
- Thanks to everyone for attending, supporting & presenting at the GLAOC. BR was very well received. Everyone did a great job. Most attended conference in AOC history.
 - Lake Erie Commission quarterly meeting was 9/18 in Lorain. Thanks to Kate for presenting. It was a great opportunity to showcase Lorain's revitalization in coordination with the efforts along the river.
- ❖ BUI #11 Degradation of Aesthetics: Removal Recommendation
- Melanie – Next Steps – Goal is to submit to US EPA by end of this year.
 - Melanie – We should submit paperwork for next BUI next year.
 - Max – SSOs not ok, but we have 3 – Don says there are other mechanisms for addressing those issues. SSO & CSOs handled by utilities dept. Melanie – CSOs are handled differently throughout the state, SSOs are legal as long as they are being addressed and monitored.
 - Max – Oil spills – industry has been missed with significant increase in spills this year. Kate agrees, needs to be addressed, but also said EPA is actively involved in Republic's problems with spilling.
 - Don – Report should be augmented to keep public from poking holes in final statistics. Needs to be accurate with things easily identifiable.
- ❖ New Business
- Monthly informational events at Union Town Provisions
 - 1 Tuesday per month 6-8pm
 - Display Board – 3/4 people to create informational display for use at similar events now that MAPs are almost complete. Reach out to Cuyahoga to see their display board. Maybe use Coldwater's project map, etc.
 - Possible topics: AOC Basics/ grants & projects overview; invasives on private property; fish shelves; BR history (historical society); bridge construction; Oasis. Will discuss in more detail at committee meeting.
 - Name ideas – Lyn – river chatter.
 - Don – Now taking sub-committee volunteers – Th. Nov 7th. 10am committee meeting at Kate's office. – Lyn, Kate, Helena, Max, someone from Coldwater. Tom will help with marketing the event.
 - Lyn – need to target younger crowd too.



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- Don't schedule too close to Climate & Cocktails for cross over information and to avoid repetitiveness.
- This could lead us to "after delisting" outreach. Project education isn't as significant since projects are ending. We need to maintain and educate on maintenance efforts & activities.
- Don – will speak about AOC history.
- Next Black River Summit
 - Sub-committee – Lyn, Max, Kate, Chip/Jackson. Th. Nov 7th. 10am committee meeting at Kate's office.
 - Date – after beginning of April – check availability for mid-May during weekday office hours.
 - Location – Consensus is that everyone would prefer Ariel with Spectrum Catering. Tom really wants this to happen. Port can assist with cost to make it feasible.
 - Theme – MAPs substantially complete.
 - Drone footage / 360 video of rookery – Can we put the 360 on a drone??
 - Possibly include some kind of field trip.
 - Kristen Risch's opinion (from someone who doesn't technically live here) – economic upturn of downtown was best part of last summit. It was catch-all for so much relevant information. Connecting the dots between river restoration and local economy.
 - Tom – maybe offer an optional eco-tour? – kayaks at FC.
 - Don will reach out to Cuyahoga lady on Black River kayak tours. Eileen.
 - Maybe get dragon boats or Cabela's involved?
 - County Trolley for streetscape tour?
- ❖ Announcements
 - LCMP – promoting all things Black River next season. Lots of new programming.
 - Port – USACE – CDE – (pay lease to AC, this year port pays) funds go to study for dike disposal; then multi-year invasives project.
 - Soil & Water – H2Ohio Water Quality Plan will be unveiled in Nov. by the Governor's office.
 - Streetscape will be done within a few weeks. Just some planting and minor aesthetics to finish.
 - Future project?? – Martin's Run. Nonstop flooding. We've had 5 years of studies of its effects on central Lorain. Solutions have included upstream basins that turned into wetland complexes. Intent is to turn the area into a park that can alleviate flooding.
 - LCPH – Thanks to the Household Sewage Treatment System Grant Program, LCPH inspects, monitors and issues permits for household sewage treatment systems according to State of Ohio



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requirements, as well as offering community outreach & public education on operation & maintenance of household systems.

- Don – Vibrant NEO Champion Awards – luncheon ceremony in November. Next year, BR AOC submission for MAPs complete, along with recent projects. This 2nd annual event at CSU will include regional recognition.

❖ Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn by Max Schaefer. Second by Bryan. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:38PM.