



## Black River Advisory Committee

LoCo 'Yaks | Facilitating Organization

138 Alabama Avenue

Lorain, OH 44052

(419) 239-3779

QUARTERLY MEETING | Tuesday, April 23, 2019 | 1:00 PM

Lorain Public Library | Meeting Room A | 351 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Lorain OH 44052

### Minutes

- ❖ Welcome / Call to Order – 1:02PM meeting called to order by Don Romancak\*, Chair. Also in attendance: Max Schaefer\*, Justin Carpenter, Jill Lis\*, Kate Golden\*, Kristen Risch, Rick Payerchin, Jennifer Wasilk\*, Steve Holland, Bryan Goldthorp\*, Matt Nahorn\*, John Sabo, Lyn Ickes, Lynn Garrity, Julie Mackey\*, Joann Banda, Robb Koscho, Stephanie Moore Koscho, with Noel Vargas & Kristen Isom on the phone. (\*Voting Member)
- ❖ Fiscal Report
  - FY2018 support grant (SK) – No grant approval means no budget yet.
- ❖ Approval of Meeting Minutes 1/29/2019 – One “Voting Member” mistake fixed prior to this meeting. Motion to accept: Julie M. Second by Bryan G. All in favor. Motion carries.
- ❖ Lower Black River Restoration Grant Project Updates –
  - Kate:
    - Seep – system is in place. Oil is causing a problem. Working on modifications. In process of gathering plans for bid. Should be relatively large project \$500,000 maybe. Need to add “robustness” to system because we don’t know exactly what’s coming out of hillside. Hoping to be operational still this year. Questions brought up: How much has steel mill paid for this restoration? Are projects that have been funded through GLRI the responsibility of steel mill? Can it be enforced? Answer: Possibly, and if so, not immediately.
    - LSYC – Changed name: Lorain Harbor Boat Club. Updated displays accordingly (club has not updated signage). Minor modifications needed on the bulkheads and new construction to ensure usability is same. Low cost.
    - Rec Site – bid was released Feb-March. City chose to do-over. Rejected all bids. Released new bid documents. Have received bids, but have not awarded yet. Five bids in initial round. Four bids second round.
      - Questions were raised as to the qualifications of the lowest bidders during both rounds. Looking for lowest AND best. Process continues.
      - Questions also raised by lowest bidder from first round. Bringing City through court system to get the job. Asking for order to halt work, and award to low bidder, regardless of City’s process or decision.
      - If awarded now, probably get done on time. If not awarded soon, we may not meet timeline.
    - Lakeview – wrapping up work with the water-rotation model. Shows what’s happening during wind & wet weather. Helped understand how water moves in & around beach. No easy answers with the breakwalls. Limited in the work that can be done because of the area. Working on completion of the final analysis document.
      - Completely wind driven - last 2 years have had dominating eastern winds. It’s not a westerly dominated wind pattern anymore, as has always been the assumption. -- Any public info on this, Steve H.?
        - Steve: Used NOAA’s lake model to start. Can get report.
      - Outfall water stays put and can drift for hours (depending on the wind) over a couple thousand feet.
        - US EPA looked at situation.
        - Outfalls have miles of water travel. Needs more intensive studies. Covers 1000s of homes, Kings Woods, plus several square miles of urban runoff.

— Other\* bacteria were just as high as human. \*Other – something other than what can be tested for, probably some sort of varmint.

- Lyn I.:
  - Phase II - monitoring, planting, seeding.
  - Phase III extended through 2020. Treatment continues where we can – public/ private property. Looking for crew – need 8.
  - Willow Creek is beautiful. Old channel was “corked”. New channel was “unplugged”. (pics available). Has been seeded. Planting may start next week.
    - Removed log jam near start of new creek that dramatically changed flooding situation.
    - New tile going in today or tomorrow.
  - Margaret Peak: 45+ acres have been frost seeded (planting in snow – USF&W) and it went well. Trees in November. Keep Lorain County Beautiful event resulted in 400 plantings at Margaret Peak and another 150 at Fortune.
  - Lake Avenue 319 grant project is complete.
  - Ohio Means Jobs Lorain County – for Lyn’s crew.
- ❖ Kristen R. asked Joann Banda to bring shocking tank to summer picnic. Joann will look into it and discuss further via email if necessary.
- ❖ BUI #11 Summary update (LG)
  - Tetra Tech completed report few weeks ago. It included spill records, litter reports, recreational use, new infrastructure, etc. The summary document is lengthy, but helps the state move towards removal recommendation to BRAC. Can share the document with BRAC. Don & Stephane will distribute. Data will support state’s request for removal. Next stage – July or Oct. meeting state may be ready with request for removal through BRAC. Will seek BRAC approval of request at appropriate time.
  - Email will funnel questions through me so we can keep a chain of conversations specific to the document.
- ❖ French Creek Study update (LG)
  - OEPA initiated with USEPA & F&W, looking at relationship of contamination to habitat in French creek.
  - Joann Banda – is contamination causing biological situation? Took samples, looked for legacy contaminants, IBI scores, moved testing from 3.2 to 6.9 near school, compared samples & scores – didn’t see concern for French creek. Should not hold up delisting efforts. Compared to other criteria. Should not hold up fish degradation BUI removal.
  - Trying to determine abnormally low fish scores at one particular location. Must be natural site creating problem, not contamination. Creek had been straightened near development & stadium, which is more likely the problem.
  - Lynn – F&W is finalizing report. Can do webinar or something with results – How do we want them to share it with us?
  - Banda – scores generally improved since 1977. Not sure why we have the issue or concern to begin with.
  - Lyn will send me one-page summary. If we want full document or more info, we can make it happen.
- ❖ Other BUI updates (LG)
  - BUI #4 (Fish tumors) – coordinate F&W, USEPA for next steps/ projects. Data assembly for dredging will continue through 2020.
  - Kate – update on dredge facility – Design & conceptualization is in full swing. Interviews tomorrow for top 3 facility manager applicants. Hoping to bring staff in during design phase. Five businesses, all very qualified, some not local. Timeline is construction next year.
- ❖ NEDO AOC Coordinator Status (LG)
  - So close to having the position filled. Interviews done. Candidate is chosen. Waiting for HR process. Can’t name names. Hoping person starts in June. Hopefully will be at summer meeting.
- ❖ GLAOC Conference updates (LG)

- Planning committee is finalizing agenda with registration available in May. Wants all OH AOCs highlighted. Black is great for showcasing “revitalizing”.
- Caitie Nigrelli – wants to discuss our Virtual Reality videos/ equipment.
- Location: Windows On The River.
- Poster Session with registration night before.
- Dinner cruise 9/11.
- ❖ Old Business
  - Brownfields grant app with Port Authority; requested BRAC as partner at last meeting; next steps? (TB/ DR)
    - Grant has been submitted – requesting funds for Phase 1 & 2 plus cleanup at pellet terminal site.
    - County applied for assessment on Baumhart Rd.
  - Summit – Comments:
    - Don – venue was perfect. Sound was good. Overall it worked well.
    - Kristen R – seemed like good turnout from local stakeholders. Thought it was great.
    - 110 in attendance.
    - Robb – thought it was cool to be “the city” with the projects and see outside people interested in us.
    - Kate – Fruit kabobs next year. (Kate just volunteered for Summit’s dining committee.)
    - Next year? – Things to keep in mind as we start planning: Rec site will be done, MAPs complete, BUI 11 may be off.
    - Steve – Considering the public turnout, for next year – make acronym board.
    - Kristen R – Next year – maybe focus on all the newness in Lorain near the river – new businesses – new recreation – what has been created. Highlight the positive.
    - Displays – Kristen R. showed the displays of the City projects. (County project displays were not at the meeting because Stephanie didn’t know that the displays lived at 2 different offices, and therefore didn’t ask Lyn to bring them.
    - K. Isom – Director Korelski loved the Summit. A huge thanks to BRAC for accommodating their requests, and for hosting an enjoyable event.
  - Next support grant (SK)
    - Schedule April & July 2020 meetings - Will do as they get closer.
- ❖ New Business
  - BRCU (RK/ SK)
    - 3 locations with check-in at each.
    - No bus.
    - Saturday lunch at Black River Landing.
    - Significant new dumping at Cromwell within the last month. According to Deputy Strohsak, two cameras will be installed.
    - LCPH – bringing group
  - KAT (KG/ KR)
    - June 29. Same event as last year. Committee meeting this Thursday. This is year is 9<sup>th</sup> annual - 10<sup>th</sup> is most likely the last.
  - July meeting & boat tours
    - Choose location after we decide if Joann is bringing shock tank.
  - Don – City, County & USEPA coordinating on other environmental issues. City could be target for additional resources for possibly another year – including sanitary sewers & lead-based paint. This is bigger than AOC, and we do not have much detail yet.
- ❖ Announcements
  - Steve H. – Coastal Atlases for everyone!
  - Robb – looking for old pictures from time that committee started.
  - Jill – Cuyahoga River - River of the Year Award from AmericanRivers.org

- ❖ Isom and Vargas can never really hear very well on the conference line, so a few items were reviewed before adjourning...
  - K. Isom – We need to get any questions re: French Creek study out ASAP with only one more meeting before September.
  - K. Isom – September is supposed to be “MAPs Complete” and we need to confirm this. Possibly have an extra meeting before then. We need to have sufficient information to make informed decisions.
    - Don – may have to have some “email meetings” to review information. Need to look at complete vs. not-complete. Are remaining projects “polished”? Are we “on-task”? Does data support MAPs Complete?
    - Lynn G. – MAPs Complete is a pretty substantial milestone that needs to be celebrated with partners – Ohio EPA, USEPA, City, County, BRAC, GLC, etc.
    - Don ask K. Isom if we can have info to discuss by July meeting. Isom answered with – We can discuss MAPs at July meeting, see where we are, then plan accordingly for next meeting.
- ❖ Adjourn
  - Motion to adjourn at 2:44pm by Max. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kate G. All in favor. Motion Carries.