



Black River Advisory Committee

LoCo 'Yaks | Facilitating Organization
138 Alabama Avenue
Lorain, OH 44052
(440) 249-0590

BRAC QUARTERLY MEETING | Wednesday, November 17, 2021 @ 12:30PM via Zoom

Minutes

- ❖ Welcome / Call to Order by Don Romancak at 12:30 PM
 - Attendance: Don Romancak, LCCD; Stephanie Koscho, Facilitator; Kate Golden, Liaison – City of Lorain; Jennifer Scott-Wasilk, Sandstone EHS Services; Steve Holland, ODNR; Pamela Davis, NOACA; Julie Mackey, OSU Extension Lorain County; Kristen Isom, US EPA; Chip Wendt, Coldwater Consulting; Max Schaefer, Main Street Lorain; Jannah Wilson, LCMP; Amber Bellamy, USFWS; Melanie Barbis, OhioEPA; Kristen Risch, Coldwater Consulting; Matthew Nahorn, Beaver Creek Watershed; John Sabo, Retiree; Richard Payerchin, Morning Journal
- ❖ Fiscal Report
 - Stephanie screenshared current budget spreadsheet. Don requested invoice from LoCo 'Yaks for the County's portion of the Emerge app project. Questions: Steve asked if we are taking ideas for how to spend the excess funds left from canceled pandemic events. Stephanie advised that the grant is scheduled to end, and if that's still on schedule, then we need to try to spend it by March 2022. LoCo 'Yaks does not have a scheduled meeting or any info from Cherie about the end of the cycle and any continuing pandemic changes. No further questions. Max makes a motion to accept the financial report as-is. Steve seconds. No discussion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.
- ❖ Old Business
 - Approval of Meeting Minutes 09/16/2021
 - Motion to accept as presented by Max. Second by Steve. No comments. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.
 - App updates
 - Don: We've met with Emerge to change some formatting items. Basics like colors, placement, and photos for outdoor views and audience appropriateness. Invoices should be coming. Will meet with Emerge again in a week or 2.
 - FireFish project updates
 - Stephanie: Lost the flash drive of Coldwater in the river. Currently working on the Publisher version. Screenshared beginning of the draft for the artist. Once we approve, will go to OhioEPA & OLEC.
- ❖ Black River Restoration Project Updates
 - County
 - Don: Ickes is in the field taking photos & planting stakes for guideposts with QR code about the specific location. She's also been working with Chip on two grant reports. Frost was early this year, but the invasive work was very successful. They aimed to reduce the phrag by 2 cover classes and exceeded that in many areas. The new power

sprayer made an incredible difference and is probably most of the reason for the increased success rate. The season is over. Goal was 30 acres but we treated over 65 acres.

- City

- Kate: Substantial Completion at big rec site. Finishing some maintenance work now. Approximately 40 acres restored with less than 1 acre of maintenance – erosion issues. The final 2 active projects at rec site is Aquatic Habitat (bank restoration) and In-stream Habitat work moving through contract now. Hoping to have all signatures this week. Project was awarded to Mark Haynes Construction. Seep modification project is in progress. Contractors have been out to begin preparations. Both projects are expected to be completed in the spring.
 - Martin’s Run – City 18-acre wetland project. Funded partially through H2Ohio and partially by City of Lorain. Actively moving dirt now – 75,000 cubic yards of topsoil & earth material coming out of that and being stockpiled in 2 locations at the rec site. Planning to use it for 14-acres of cover at rec site. Funding seems not likely under existing AOC program, but we have applied elsewhere.

- ❖ Ohio AOC Program Updates

- Melanie: Had annual meeting with GLNPO in October – discussed progress and future funding.
- Melanie: Dredge BUI – Final steps: at internal review now. Would like to get it to BRAC early December. Will probably have public comment period in January. Makes removal slated for February. Don: Would like to wait to decide for sure if we should have a public “comment period” or public meeting (virtual or hybrid). Melanie agreed. Don will see how tomorrow’s public TMDL meeting goes to help make that determination. Combining the meeting along with NOACA’s involvement, we should wait to see if there’s public interest. Melanie: We have time, but need to be ready to make a decision within the next month or so.
- Pamela Davis: This is the first time we’ve had a TMDL for the Black River developed under the new state requirements for preliminary drafts, allowing OhioEPA to gather feedback before finalizing the actual goals & objectives of the TMDLs. This will apply to several storm sewer systems in the next round of permits, including priorities in reductions in point sources and mapping that needs focusing on non-point implementation strategy plans, and we may need to consider Willow Creek as a priority. Don: Will there be another northern-Lorain County public meeting? Pam: Working on plans for possibly hosting a hybrid [in-person and virtual] meeting. But we are very interested in seeing how the first one, tomorrow, goes.
- Melanie: Hoping to get fish tumor data early in 2022, as well as beach data shortly after.

- ❖ New Business

- Virtual Summit – Pros, Cons, Concerns, Suggestions...
 - Don: Leaning towards virtual or summer hybrid. We want to bring people together to our assets, comfortably. Stephanie proposed the committee gets together and celebrates but we put the presentations online. Steve likes the idea of waiting until summer. Don likes the idea of waiting, depending on how funding proceeds. We’ll see what happens with funding for now.

❖ Announcements

○ Next Meetings:

- Tuesday, January 11, 2022 @ 1:30PM
- Thursday, March 3, 2022 @ 1:30PM

- Max: Small Business Saturday is next week. Visit downtown Lorain! Don offered the committee to assist Main Street however needed.
- Melanie: State of Lake Erie (SOLE) Conference is March 16-18 in Cleveland. Cuyahoga Summit/Conference is March 22.
- Don: Thanks to LCMP & Jim Zimink for flood response.

❖ Adjourn

- Julie motions to adjourn. Kate seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM by Don Romancak.