



Black River Area of Concern Advisory Committee

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BLACK RIVER AREA OF CONCERN Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 23, 2015

2:00 PM

Carlisle Visitor Center, Lorain County Metro Parks
12882 Diagonal Road, LaGrange, OH 44050

In Attendance:

Beaver Creek Watershed Group (Matt Nahorn); City of Elyria Wastewater (Tony Nigro); City of Lorain (Kate Hoffmann); Coldwater Consulting (Chad Kettlewell, Kristen Risch); LoCo 'Yaks (Robb Koscho, Stephanie Moore-Koscho); Lorain County (Lyn Ickes, Don Romancak); Lorain County General Health District (Stephanie Lesco, Jill Lis, John Sabo); Lorain County Metro Parks (Bryan Goldthorpe); Lorain County Soil and Water Conservation District (Chip Wendt); Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (Pam Davis); OBD/CSSE (David Ashenurst); Ohio Department of Natural Resources Coastal Management (Steve Holland); Ohio EPA (Ted Conlin); Ross Environmental (Maggie Kelch); Sheffield Village (Eddie Herdendorf); US Steel (David Schmidt)

Agenda Items

Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes from March 31, 2015

- Update to minutes - Lorain County abstained from the vote on resizing the AOC; gave approval after presentation to the county
- Motion to approve with proposed change by Kate Hoffmann; second by Eddie Herdendorf
- All in favor; minutes approved as submitted

Presentation and Discussion of BUI Removal

- Presentation by Ted Conlin on potential removal of 3 beneficial use impairments (BUIs) in our AOC
- Discussion followed presentation of each BUI
- Votes for BUI removals
 - Fish and Wildlife Consumption - Yes
 - Motion to approve by Eddie Herdendorf; second by Robb Koscho
 - All in favor; approval to begin process for BUI removal
 - Eutrophication/Undesirable Algae - Yes
 - Motion to approve by Don Romancak; second by Kate Hoffmann
 - All in favor; approval to begin process for BUI removal

- Degradation of Aesthetics - Table for later date
 - Want to wait until long term combined sewer overflow (CSO) plan for Elyria is approved before moving forward with BUI removal
 - Uncomfortable moving forward due to observable acetone smell near French Creek Nature Center and in the mainstem at times; further discussion with Lorain County needed on this possible issue
 - Would like further discussion of other “nuisances,” including tires, brick, slag, concrete along the river
 - Motion to table by Don Romancak; second by Kate Hoffmann
 - All in favor of tabling BUI removal for this item

AOC Priority Project List

- Discussion by Kate Hoffmann on the priority projects for the Black River AOC and discussion followed
- Meeting held with federal organizations at the Lorain County General Health District on Friday, April 10 to identify priority projects for the AOC that will best benefit the AOC and help with delisting
 - Projects focus on legacy issues, original reasons why the Black River became an AOC
- Project descriptions were submitted to GLNPO; timeline for projects would be the end of 2016
- Vote for approval of priority projects
 - Motion to approve by Matt Nahorn; second by Eddie Herdendorf
 - All in favor; project list approved as submitted

Bylaws - Open Discussion

- Updates have been made to draft bylaws from last discussion
- Discussion items from meeting
 - Removed references to dates of meetings but left July as the membership meeting where new officers would be appointed; most well-attended meeting of the year
 - Question as to whether the numbers needed for a quorum and membership numbers were feasible
 - Need to define committee, board, and member in terms of the group
 - Clarification on who appoints officers and members and who votes on them
 - Question as to how concerned citizens with constituency fit in the group
 - Required to have guidance and operating procedures; choosing to keep these simple to serve how we function
 - Staggering of membership terms so there isn't complete turn-over at once
 - Need for standard approval process for voting and non-voting members
 - Participation of consultants on committee
 - Need for a conflict of interest form
 - Need to add a piece on amendments and a participation clause for members
 - 75% participation; can have a proxy or alternate but need this in writing prior to the meeting
 - EPA requires members to complete an ethics training with proof that course was taken
- Vote on bylaws - vote to approve bylaws with proposed changes on how amendments would be made and clarification of committee, board, and member
 - Motion to approve by Kate Hoffmann; second by Don Romancak

- All in favor; bylaws with proposed changes approved

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Announcements

Black River Clean-Up

- Clean-up will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 2-3 at the Black River Wharf
- Get more information and register for the event at <http://blackrivercleanup.webs.com/>
- Any participation is greatly appreciated

5th Annual Black River Kayak-A-Thon

- Event will be held on Saturday, June 27 at the Black River Wharf
- Will take place all at one location this year; more information will follow

Paddle and Pedal Fest

- Free event will take place on Sunday, May 17 at Lakeview Park from 11:00AM to 3:00PM
- Able to try out various kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards and learn about bikes and bike safety; free helmets for kids (first come, first serve)
- Live music and food vendors

Next Meeting - Monday, May 4, 2015 at 2:00PM at the Sandy Ridge Reservation (6195 Otten Road, North Ridgeville, OH, 44039) for EnviroScience presentation about Willow Creek Project.

Summer Meeting/Picnic/Boat Tour - Wednesday, July 8 at 12:00PM at the Black River Landing Transportation Center (421 Black River Lane, Lorain, OH 44052)