



Black River Advisory Committee

LoCo 'Yaks | Facilitating Organization

138 Alabama Avenue

Lorain, OH 44052

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BRAC QUARTERLY MEETING | Tuesday, January 11, 2022 @ 1:30PM via Zoom

Minutes

- ❖ Welcome / Call to Order by Don Romancak at 1:30 PM.
 - Attendance: Don Romancak, LCCD; Stephanie Koscho, Facilitator (LY); Darby Sherman, Lorain SWCD; Jennifer Scott-Wasilk, Sandstone EHS Services; Steve Holland, ODNR; Pamela Davis, NOACA; Julie Mackey, OSU Extension Lorain County; Kristen Isom, US EPA; Max Schaefer, Main Street Lorain; Jason Matyac, LCMP; Amber Bellamy, USFWS; Melanie Barbis, OhioEPA; Kristen Risch, Coldwater Consulting; Matthew Nahorn, Beaver Creek Watershed; John Sabo, Retiree; Christen Brandon, LCCD; Lyn Ickes, LCCD; Cherie Blair, OhioEPA
- ❖ Fiscal Report
 - Stephanie: We need to spend \$9,804.57 by March 31.
- ❖ Old Business
 - Approval of Meeting Minutes 09/16/2021
 - Stephanie: No minutes today. Sorry, next meeting.
 - App updates
 - Ickes: No updates. Meeting with Ed Thursday. We have ordered signposts for QR codes. Need Ed to make QR codes before we can send them to the sign company for the actual signs.
 - FireFish project updates
 - Stephanie: Screenshared final Publisher draft that was sent to the artist – top half of each panel with photos and information. Waiting to hear from the artist for completion timeline. Don asked if we could possibly get it completed before March 31. Stephanie is hoping so but waiting to hear. No questions from the committee.
- ❖ Black River Restoration Project Updates
 - County
 - Don: “It’s winter, it’s cold, the growing season is definitely over. So, we wait for spring.” Submitted final report for Willow Creek. Under contract with Coldwater to do final closeout. Will probably not spend all the funds. We have a history of being under budget for these projects. Last day for grant activity is Feb 22. And then final closeout. Lyn doesn’t have all the numbers to share at the moment, but we will post results on webpage and social media.
 - City
 - Risch: (Kate’s on vacation & Chip has been out) Cap & cover project is going through closeout with the contractor. Seep project is dealing with cold weather changes. All needs to be finished by June. No questions from committee members.
- ❖ Ohio AOC Program Updates
 - Ohio AOC Conference
 - Melanie: Dredge BUI doc is still under review. Holiday setbacks. Comments should come in the next week or 2. Then to the BRAC for comments mid-February, then to public comment by early March. Official removal slated for some time in April. Will keep you updated through next steps. Looking for quick turnaround.

Melanie: Biological BUIs are the next priority – compiling data for last 10+ years; 2012 - present. Evaluated with BUI targets by HUCs per site [[Surface Water Quality and Hydrologic Units \(HUCs\)](#)]. Will send summary page to LY for forwarding. For French Creek, BUIs 3 & 14 meet the target, but #6 does not meet it. Numbers have actually fallen. The main stem has different targets --- all BUIs meet all of the targets. Not meeting targets beyond there. Hoping to do a full sweep of biological sampling in 2023. May push back some BUI removals. If everything goes as planned, looking at delisting by 2025. Risch: Kate will want info. You averaged each site and then averaged the HUC? Were there more sites for one over the other? Melanie can forward all info accordingly. Who will do 2023 sampling? Answer: Not sure but will be contracted out.

❖ New Business

○ Virtual Summit

- Stephane: Time to talk about money. What do you want to do?... Steve: Virtual Summit would be nice if we have time. Don: Max, how is downtown? Does virtual seem realistic? Max: Not unrealistic, but do we want to be the group where a covid outbreak happens? Don: In-person is nerve-wracking. How do we plan and limit it? We should stick with Ariel on Broadway. Stephane: Maybe we live-stream video presentation instead of an in-person event. Don: This could be a placeholder in the meantime before we can eventually have a MAPs Complete celebration with all parties involved.
- Stephane: Maybe we can be a bigger part of LCMP's Black River Celebration? Jason: Any help is appreciated. Mid-March thru April. Don: We can discuss in a few weeks and re-convene to see what we can do about spending some money on a virtual event. Cherie: We just want you to follow procurement procedures. Hoping to keep same spirit & excitement from previous summits. Good luck with that. Hoping it'll work and others will follow in your footsteps.
- Don: Suggests movie presentation at the Palace. Max can make initial contact. Steve brought up The Erie Situation in Maumee as a more modern movie option. Cherie explained the producers also worked on Maumee video and it could be a good option to partner with our other videos. Cherie forwarded info.
- Formal vote held to have an update meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 1 @ 1:30PM. Motion by Jennifer. Second by John Sabo. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries. We'll have a meeting to discuss possible expenditures for a virtual summit and/or movie.

❖ Announcements

○ Next Meeting:

- Update meeting now scheduled for Feb. 1 @ 1:30.
- Thursday, March 3, 2022 @ 1:30PM
- Current AOC Support grant is scheduled to end March 31, 2022.
- Stephane: Introduced Jason from LCMP. Jason: Introduced himself.
- Stephane: Introduced Darby who is replacing Jason Schwartz from SWCD.
- Steve: Coastal Management is looking for a surveyor to take an office job. And possibly an engineer position as well.
- Max: We have a baby girl! Working from home. Life is great! I'll be off in March for paternity leave.
- Pamela: NOACA TMDLs are still processing. Mapping is ongoing. Complete updates coming soon. Need priorities.
- Don: County is working on a 60-acre project that will flow through Margaret Peak & Willow Creek.

❖ Adjourn

- Steve motions to adjourn. Max seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned by Don Romancak at 2:46 PM.