



**Black River Advisory Committee**  
Lorain County Conservation District | Facilitating Organization  
conservation@loraincounty.us  
(440) 326-5800

**BRAC QUARTERLY MEETING** | Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 1:00 PM

Location: Lorain City Hall, Police Training Room, 200 W. Erie Ave., Lorain, OH 44052

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## **MINUTES**

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- ❖ Welcome / Call to Order: 1:07 PM by Max Schaefer – Don Romancak running late
  - Attendees (in person only): Patti Donnellan (LC Conservation District); Kate Golden (City of Lorain); Lyn Ickes (LC Stormwater); John Sabo (resident); Julie Mackey (OSU Extension); Jennifer Wasilk (Sandstone Environmental Health Services); Kristen Risch (Coldwater Consulting); Matt Nahorn (Beaver Creek Watershed); Pam Davis (NOACA); Hannah Boesinger (Ohio Lake Erie Commission); Carla Rosenfeld (US EPA); Scott Pozna (LCPH); John Timmons (ODA); Steve Holland (ODNR Coastal Management); Duane Cribley (LCPH); Chip Wendt (Coldwater Consulting); Jack Caruso (Coldwater Consulting); Max Schaefer (Main Street Lorain); Don Romancak (LC Development); Stephanie Koscho (LoCoYaks)
- ❖ Fiscal Report – no report given
- ❖ Old Business
  - Approval of Meeting Minutes from 9/19/2023
    - Julie Mackey needs to be added to attendees from last meeting. Motion to accept the minutes by Kate G. Seconded by Scott P. All in favor & motion carries. Minutes approved & accepted with amendment.
  - GLAOC Conference (still on agenda since 9/2023 minutes not sent)
    - Recap: great sessions; biggest audience to date; food not great
  - Lorain High School field trip
    - If another trip is planned, smaller class size & more coordination
- ❖ New Business
  - Ohio AOC Summit – Thursday, November 9, 2023 at Shipyards Event Center
    - Five voting members & facilitating organization required
      - Don R., Kate G. (presenting), Scott P., Steve H., Max S., & Patti D.
      - Kate to share her presentation with BRAC

- H2Ohio updates:
  - Patti D. co-hosting H2Ohio public information meeting with Medina Soil & Water District
  - November 15th at Penfield Township Hall, 6:30 - 8 PM – open to the public. No registration necessary
  - Kip Studer, ODA Nutrient Management Specialist for WLEB, presenting
- Lorain County Stormwater Management District: Conservation projects update
  - No formal awards
  - Potentially \$2 million in grants – still awaiting final determination
    - 60 acres conversion into wetland/stream – upstream of Margaret Peak Nature Preserve -> Fortune Ditch -> Willow Creek -> Black River
    - Construction by Fall 2024
    - Removal, not redistribution, of > 800,000 cubic yards of soil by private contractor

#### ❖ Black River Watershed Project Updates

- County
  - Lyn I.: Projects complete for 2023; still doing limited spraying; LoCoBROH app launched & well received.
- City
  - Kate G.: All projects complete or nearly so for 2023. Black River riparian area final 14 acres need topsoil cover, which will be coming from 4 separate locations. To be completed by end of year
  - Pellet Terminal project will improve resident access to waterfront
  - Phase 2 roadway infrastructure Coastal Management Access Grant for \$150,000. Contract with Coldwater Consulting
  - Structural assessment of sheet piling to be completed by June 2025

#### ❖ Ohio AOC Program Updates & Announcements: Hannah Boesinger

- BUI 4 for fish deformities/tumors (DELTS) is officially removed
- BUI 10 evaluation is almost complete., Hannah B. is still working on data review. Look for update in Spring 2024.
- Four BUIs remain: One for beaches, three biological BUIs

#### ❖ Federal AOC Program Updates & Announcements: Carla Rosenfeld

- New Director at Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) as Chris Korleski retired. Theresa Seidel (spelling?) is transitioning into new role.
- Tour of waterfront & Rec site after BRAC meeting today.

❖ Announcements

- Steve H.: Main Street Beach in Vermilion & Brad Street Landing in Rocky River are two projects that are improving public access to the waterfront
- Max S.: County EMA planning for 2024 eclipse
- Jennifer: Lorain County Emergency Planning Committee
  - Schools closed for April 8, 2024 eclipse
  - Republic Services may be impacted due to increased visitation to Lorain County, which is in the path of totality.
- Congratulations to Matt Nahorn on his appointment to Amherst City Council
- Matt N. mentioned Bruce Kole, retiree from US Coast Guard, would like to be involved with BRAC. Will invite Bruce to next meeting.

❖ Adjournment

- Next meeting tentatively scheduled for February 6, 2024, 2:00 PM at Lorain County Public Health building.
- Motion to adjourn by Scott. Seconded by John. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.

