



Black River Advisory Committee

Lorain County Conservation District - Facilitating Organization
blackriveraoc@gmail.com
440.326.5800

BRAC QUARTERLY MEETING | Tuesday, May 14th, 2024 @ 2:00 PM

Location: Lorain County Public Health Building, 880 Murray Ridge Rd., Elyria, OH 440355

Minutes

3 Call to order: Time: 2:01pm by Don Romancak

- Welcome & introductions: In person: **Don Romancak**, Lorain County Community Development/Stormwater **Kate Golden**, City of Lorain **Hannah Boesinger**, Ohio Lake Erie Commission (OLEC) **Duane Cribley**, Lorain County Public Health (LCPH) **Scott Pozna**, LCPH **John Sabo**, Community member **Jennifer Scott-Wasilk**, City of Amherst/Sandstone EH Services **Julie Mackey**, OSU Extension **Chip Wendt**, Coldwater Consulting **Steve Holland**, ODNR Attending virtually: **Pam Davis**, NOACA **Mike Jindra**, LCPH **Kris Patterson**, OLEC **Kristen Risch**, Coldwater Consulting **Max Schaefer**, Main Street Lorain **John Timmons**, Ohio Dept. of Agriculture **Patti Donnellan**, Lorain County Conservation (Soil & Water) District

3 Fiscal report:

- Next grant cycle (2024-2026) has begun April 1. Nothing to report so far.

3 Old business

- Minutes from February 2024 - Approved by: Scott P. Seconded by: Julie M.

3 New business

- Presentation by Hannah Boesinger, Ohio Lake Erie Commission (presentation attached)
- Merch has arrived - Please take supplies & shirts
- AOC/Community Field Day
 - Black River clean-up event for Lorain County Beautiful, Saturday, May 18, 2024 from 9-11am at Cascade Park. Supplies provided, but bring your own if you have them
- Meeting with Chronicle Telegram 5/1/24. All advertising strategies (including billboards) have been very successful. (See attached 2 pages at end)
 - Ideas for additional promotion/advertising? Follow-up meeting 5/20/24
- [Water Management Association of Ohio \(WMAO\) 53rd Annual Conference: Navigating Troubled Waters: Past, Present, Future](#)
 - November 1th & 20th, 2024 @ Crowne Plaza Columbus North, Worthington
 - Abstracts for a 20 minute presentation are due July 31st



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Minutes, cont'd

❖ Black River Watershed Project Updates

- County updates:
 - County Commissioners approved \$30,000 H2Ohio project for self-forming channel in LaGrange (Foster Ditch)
 - Gerber Wetlands project on SR 83: 30% of design is completed, working through permitting process now
 - Woodpecker Ditch project in Rochester Township on Rte 162 is DONE
 - Wetland mitigation banks: proposed/completed throughout Lorain County. Good: wetland protection/mitigation Bad: These can potentially be a drain on local governments if the property transfers to an entity that is not taxable
- City/Township updates:
 - Chip W.: Should chloride be looked at as another pollutant? There has been no increase in benthos despite 10 years of restoration. Benthos not recovering in other AOCs in the lacustuary zones.
 - Past/future projects in the French Creek watershed/headwaters -such as the Boulder Dr. project in N. Ridgeville
 - Look for large landowners: schools, churches, etc & their mowing/landscaping practices
 - Kate: AOC work at Rec Site done December 2023 - waiting on growth to determine if re-seeding is necessary before final completion. Dredge facility is nearly complete (Geopool frames still under construction.) Will be operational by August 15, 2024 when USACE begins dredging.
 - USFWS grant to treat invasive plants & plant trees around the rookery
 - New invasive species staff person & intern for City of Lorain
 - Redevelopment of Hot Waters parking area is nearly complete
 - No plans to manage for cormorants. No evidence to support overpopulation. No impacts to nesting herons & eagles.
 - USDA looking for gull nesting locations on City-owned property
 - Martin s Run has been performing well. No water quality studies done yet, but there has only been one culvert overtopping incident (storm during Fair Week 2023). Minor invasive growth is currently being treated. Seeding & regrading will be performed as needed.



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❖ **Ohio AOC Program Updates & Announcements**

- BUI 10 - Beach closings - [link to OLEC website/documents](#)
 - No substantial comments received from committee. Document currently available for 3 week public comment period until May 31, 2024. On track for removal this summer.
 - Letter of support needed: Motion: Jennifer W. / Second: John S.
- OLEC received \$5.8 million to develop & implement Environmental Justice/Civil Rights Grant Program. First grant cycle to begin early 2025. More details to come.
- Great Lakes AOC Conference in Toledo in early 2025. More details to come.
- Annual Report needed for 2022 & 2023 - will do combined report

❖ **Announcements & Other Business**

- Future of Black River committee - formalize a 501(c)(3) to obtain future funding opportunities. Discussions needed to establish facilitator, advisory committee, change mission, name. Reach out to other local watershed groups for assistance in establishing a Black River group & not become a part of another entity. Kris Patterson informed that Partners for Clean Streams came from the Maumee AOC, with guidance from Chagrin River Watershed Partners.
- ❖ Motion to adjourn: Jennifer W. / Second: Kate G. at 3:45pm
- ❖ Next Black River Advisory Committee meeting is Thursday, July 18th @ 10:00am at the [City of Lorain Reclamation Facility, 2601 E. 28th St, Lorain, OH 44055](#)