



## Cuyahoga River Area of Concern

### MINUTES

AOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 22, 2019  
ENVIROSCIENCE, STOW

#### Attendance

Members: Jenn Grieser, Meiring Borchers, Elaine Marsh, Rebecca McCleary, Scott Hardy, Howard Simon, Martin Hilovsky, Dan Brown, Joy Mulinex, Bill Hughes, Jordyn Stoll, Robert Brand, Pat Gsellman, Kate Chapel, Ana Burns, Kevin Kratt, Katie Evans, Joe Hadley, Peter Bode, Joe McDonald sub for Grace Gallucci, Kristin Hall alt for Matt Gray.

Ex Officio: Lynn Garrity, Russ Brandenburg,

Guests: Michael Liptak/EnviroScience, Ata Adeel/Cleveland, Emily Rindfleisch/West Creek

Staff: Carolyn Krause, Jane Goodman

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### Annual General Elections

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**Welcome and Introductions** by Chairwoman Grieser

#### Election of Members

Chairwoman Grieser read the first resolution aloud, and clarified that in voting for the entire slate, each member was voting for the other members but not for him/herself.

#### RESOLUTION

By the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern Advisory Committee  
Committee Member Appointments  
Presented January 22, 2019

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following individuals are hereby elected to membership on the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern Advisory Committee for a 2-year term beginning at the Board's January 22, 2019 meeting, and ending on the day of the Committee's January, 2021 meeting:

1. Meiring Borchers
2. Dan Brown
3. Kate Chapel
4. Frank Greenland
5. Jennifer Grieser
6. Pat Gsellman
7. Joseph Hadley
8. Martin Hilovsky
9. Elizabeth Hiser
10. William Hughes

11. Elaine Marsh
12. Rebecca McCleary
13. Joy Mulinex
14. Bryan Stubbs

**Motion to elect the listed candidates made by Ana Burns, seconded by Howard Simon. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Election of Subcommittee Chairs**

Jenn Grieser read the second resolution aloud.

#### **RESOLUTION**

By the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern Advisory Committee  
Appointments of Committee and Subcommittee Chairpersons  
Presented January 22, 2019

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following individuals are hereby appointed as Chairpersons of the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern Advisory Committee and subcommittees, to serve a 2-year term beginning at the Board's January 22, 2019 meeting, and ending on the day of the Committee's January, 2021 meeting:

#### **Area of Concern Advisory Committee**

Chairwoman: Jennifer Grieser  
Vice-Chairman: J. Meiring Borchers

Strategic Implementation Subcommittee  
Chairman: Frank Greenland

Outreach and Education Subcommittee  
Chairman: Scott Hardy

Governance Subcommittee  
Chairman: Bryan Stubbs

**Motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ana Burns, all vote aye, motion passes 9:10**

**Motion to adjourn made by Howard Simon, seconded, all vote aye.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:12 am.**

## Quarterly Advisory Committee Meeting

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### **Approval of Minutes of October 23, 2018**

Minutes from previous meeting on October 23 are available on the AOC website. This part of the website is not password protected. <http://cuyahogaoc.org/the-area-of-concern-advisory-committee.html>

Chairperson asked for revisions to minutes; no revisions were proposed.

**Motion to accept minutes by Meiring Borchers at 9:12, motion seconded, passed unanimously.**

### **Chairwoman Comment**

Chairwoman Grieser thanked the current members who will be continuing. Last year we celebrated the removal of 2 BUIs, and paperwork has been submitted for removal of another, the Restrictions on Fish Consumption. So the list is shorter this year, as we are celebrating the anniversary of the fire, and quite a bit of federal investment. It's regrettable that all the federal ex-officio members couldn't join us today to be thanked. She reminded committee members to represent the AOC in the anniversary celebrations and events this year; there will be competition for press space, time, fundraising this year and we want to be sure that people know about the AOC roles and goals.

### **Open floor for public comments:**

No comments.

### **Old Business**

No old business was discussed.

### **New Business**

J Goodman reported on the status of the CRR Subgrant Workplan, and the Letter of Support from the AOC Chair that has to be submitted once reviewed by the Advisory Committee

CRR receives a subgrant from OhioEPA from the funding the state receives from US EPA/Great Lakes National Program Office(GLNPO) out of its Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funds. The workplan year ends March 31, so the next subgrant should start April 1, which is before the next advisory subcommittee meeting. We don't have a draft plan yet, so we'll do an email vote between meetings to approve the draft workplan.

Lynn Garrity – It is subject to Ohio EPA federal funding, so we'll have to work to make sure there's no gap in funding due to current conditions.

J Goodman – The AOC grant coordinator has things Ohio EPA wants done, so a lot of things on the workplan will be the required activities in the framework for all the nonprofit facilitating organizations.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

Governance Subcommittee Update - Bryan Stubbs unable to attend due to family concerns; update on governance by J Grieser.

There were more applications to join the committee than slots, including multiple applications from EnviroScience and Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District. Each organization can only have one vote, so the second individual from an organization will serve as an alternate. In the past we've had individuals change jobs in the middle of a term, so in after those moves we had multiple representatives from an organization. Members need to know that if you change organizations you must notify the committee, and since only one individual from each organization can vote you must identify who is the lead voting member and who is the alternate member.

J Goodman requested all committee members turn in their signed Conflict Of Interest forms to her by the end of the meeting.

#### Public outreach committee update – Scott Hardy

##### AOC Symposium (October 26, 2018) debrief

- 150 participants
- Out of 65 survey responses 47 said they were more likely to support work of AOC committee as a result of the symposium.
- Recommendations:
  - o More ways for members of public and local gov'ts to get involved
  - o Improve collaboration between agencies, AOC group, non-profits and consultants.
  - o Demographic profile – comments suggest we should do more to recruit more diverse participation.
- Participants were asked to pick one word to describe the Cuyahoga AOC. The most common two were "improving" and "hopeful".
- In response to the question "What action did the symposium inspire you to do?" respondents said "Learn and volunteer."

Online – blogpost had 100+ hits.

Next Outreach Subcommittee meeting in early February. Lots to do this quarter, plant seeds for AOC conference in September; as a subcommittee give presentations in each of subwatersheds; celebrate removal of BUI 1.

M Borchards – A 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebratory issue of Time Magazine came out this month. Follow up – Meiring will send to Jane to send around to committee.

#### Strategic implementation Subcommittee update – M Borchards standing in for F Greenland

Meeting last week considered the next steps since Chad Ferguson is leaving us.

- BUI 10 beach closures - We're ready to talk to Ohio EPA. Frank has compiled enough info to present to OEPA to start composing a letter for removal. Once we have a new AOC coordinator we'll set up a meeting with them.
- BUI 1 fish consumption - submitted, waiting for USEPA approval.
- BUI 8 algae – might have enough info to write up; will take time, need staff time.
- BUI 4 fish tumors – 2018 study will give us information to determine next steps.
- BUI 7 dredging - Chad was working on this. Will give update at next meeting.

Next quarterly subcommittee meeting will be scheduled once OEPA has a new person to replace Chad.

**OhioEPA update** - Lynn Garrity on behalf of Chad Ferguson, Ohio EPA

Logistical issues – Chad Ferguson no longer with Ohio EPA; until further notice Lynn Garrity will be the contact for the AOC. We'll be working on updating that position. We need to keep moving forward, not let things slow down because of logistical issues.

Progress in November – OEPA and Lake Erie commission met to talk about all AOCs in Ohio. Established tentative workplan for all AOCs in Ohio. Met with Jenn Grieser, executive committee and Jane Goodman to talk about that.

Ohio EPA did submit BUI 1a (fish consumption) to US EPA in December; waiting for final approval, last heard expect 60 days to process, could be longer now with shutdown. We'll do a celebratory event when approved; hopefully first quarter.

BUIs 14a (Fish Habitat) and 6 (Benthos) – 16 projects on list right now, a couple are underway, a few more working on to find implementers. Will take a quick pause (a month or two) to evaluate 2017-18 data to decide whether to pursue not started projects. OEPA will work with SIP committee and OEPA on habitat projects.

BUI 7 Dredging – evaluating data for Cuyahoga; more to come after we figure out what to do since Chad's departure

BUI 8 Eutrophication – seeking background/status, hope to have by early April

Quick overview of workplan for Cuyahoga

Coordinating with USEPA on management actions already underway – want to accomplish by 2024. Many will take multiple years to get underway. OEPA and OLEC want to coordinate on a quarterly basis with local implementers; we'll be reaching out for 2-3 sentence updates on project implementation status; will provide update to committee so it's timed with meetings. This will help stay on track for timelines. Local project implementers should expect to hear from OLEC by next week.

Key is coordinating with Mark Loomis on funding, plugging projects into USEPA funding source.

Talked with GLNPO on management action list itself. Currently have project list for fish habitat BUI, need list of actions for all BUIS by end of calendar year to submit to GLNPO.

Both state and GLNPO are interested in celebrating milestone events when they occur, e.g. removal of a BUI, completion of management actions. Will work with Scott and committee to coordinate these events.

2019 Great Lakes AOC Conference will be hosted in Cleveland this year, Sept 10-12. Expect 250 people. Little delay in planning due to conditions to coordinate agenda with USEPA. Location: Windows on the River; Great Lakes Commission doing contracting. Expect a "save the date" for the 2019 Great Lakes AOC Conference to be sent out in March.

Lynn Garrity wants the committee's help to have a site tour on September 10 to showcase progress to date in Cuyahoga AOC.

## **CRR Subgrant Update – J Goodman**

CRR got great proposals for the contract to develop conceptual designs for behind the bulkhead habitat management action projects. Contract went to EnviroScience. The design will cover fish habitat on the west edge of the Scranton peninsula, and the Center Street bridge swing property. EnviroScience will do conceptual designs by mid- March.

Working on the subgrant work plan for next year. This year's budget is on track, though most heavy spending in the last quarter was related to the symposium.

Carolyn's been building and updating the database (have to update after every election) of municipal councils for communities in the AOC and the entire watershed, considering the effect that upriver conditions can have on the lower river. Starting to schedule presentations to city councils. Outreach committee and anyone else who would like to help could do short presentation to each council (2 minutes) about "Your Community and the AOC." For example, Jenn Greiser could do Brecksville, Marty Hilovsky could do Stow, etc.

We are also building a list of all service directors and school property managers to get them involved for general support from municipalities, and because we're going to be doing trainings on weed and invasives control (CRR project).

Working on redoing the AOC website. Seems to be a consensus in the outreach committee to eliminate the interactive map of delisting sampling site data. Talked about in work plan and in meeting with Sherry. The map is tough to update; and people don't need to know scores at every site. We're going to present delisting status in a different way. The line graphs will still be in the subwatershed and BUI pages, but there won't be that map. Also removing the search engine from the website to save money because it's not being used.

CRR is holding about \$3k in funds received from the symposium that AOC will be able to use.

River Day - We're starting to plan River Day activities.

We've done a ton of interviews – blogs, online, print publications from all over the country, talking about the AOC and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

I'll be going to Washington in March to talk about water as infrastructure. FYI, Dave Joyce, 14<sup>th</sup> district congressman, got appointed as the ranking Republican on the House appropriations subcommittee that handles interior, environment, and related agencies. We'll meet with all our elected officials, especially Anthony Gonzalez, the one replacing Congressman Renacci, to push for GLRI support and to talk about how they want to be involved in 2019 river stuff. Already started talking with Senators Portman and Brown's offices.

Jordyn Stoll asked if it would help to use ESRI map tools for the interactive website map? Answer: The maps are already created, but the problem is that recent sampling data isn't available, so we can't keep them up-to-date.

## **Announcements**

Events

June 22 – many events on the date of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the famous river fire; will be a hectic time.

June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1-5pm: River Rally fieldtrip(s?). River Rally is that weekend; their program just made available. Metroparks is hosting 4 field trips, 2 out of Merwins Wharf on dragonboat and LC2. Cleveland Metroparks can host a max of 90 people; then tour around Rivergate; reserved room at Merwin's for happy hour refreshment – all invited – gives people coming from out of town an opportunity to meet local implementers.

J Goodman asked – Who's giving the first talk on the River Rally agenda, which is about the Cuyahoga River? Greiser – Presenters not listed.

J Goodman – We're reluctant to encourage people to spend all that money to register thinking the River Rally is in any way about the Cuyahoga; even though one presentation is about the Cuyahoga the *event* is not about it.

J Greiser – People can attend for just one day, it may be a good opportunity to network. She may attend Sunday and Monday.

J Goodman – River Rally provides scholarships – applications are due in March.

Sept 10-12: Great Lakes AOC Conference, Cleveland, Windows on the River

Cleveland Metroparks watershed volunteer program will be using its monthly "Monday MeetUps" for the first half of the year (Jan-June) to feature the Cuyahoga watershed and hopefully get people to be ambassadors of the river.

Feb - Connecting the Cuyahoga with the World @ Port of Cleveland

March - Fish Habitat Along the Shipping Channel @ Canalway Center, Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation

April - Stream Dynamics 101 Stream Walk with Join Paul Kovalcik, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

May - Walk the Greens @ Summit Metro Parks Valley View Golf Club, Akron

June - Monitoring with Ohio EPA @ Summit Metro Parks Furnace Run

Howard raised a concern that publicity of the removal of the fish consumption BUI (if US EPA approves the removal) may cause the misconception that fish from the Cuyahoga are safe to eat without restriction. In fact the delisting of this BUI merely means that fish from the Cuyahoga is have the same restrictions on consumption as fish from Lake Erie. Proposes that all publicity about removal of BUI 1 include info about current restrictions on fish consumption. Consumption restrictions vary based on where you are in the lake, which is confusing. Some areas have children and pregnant women restrictions, others don't. It would be good if we had the same restrictions for entire lake.

When the public outreach committee meets next month, one thing on agenda will be outreach events and drafting pre-written press releases. Suggest that Howard and other members identify sources of info to highlight science and recommendations about healthy consumptions of fish before next outreach subcommittee meeting.

Elane Marsh asked: Isn't OEPA in charge of fish consumption recommendations? How often do they update them? Lynn Garrity – Don't know how often they meet but there's a committee. Lynn will find out how often they meet.

Elaine Marsh – in Summit Metro Parks we have an issue with awareness of fish consumption restrictions among immigrants, where there are gaps in science, and the recommendations don't translate well.

Need input from this committee and a broader discussion about publicity and setting regulations for diverse communities.

Robert Brand – Cuyahoga County Board of Health has found that Bhutanese and Nepalese communities in Cuyahoga County have had issues in the past, but those issues are mostly resolved. Current issues are with Syrian, African communities. Robert has a student who's doing capstone project on consumption; has found discrepancies between ODNR and OEPA recommendations, working on resolving. Cuyahoga County Board of Health will set up a multi-lingual website (along with other work on lead, ticks, dog bites) for Cuyahoga County. Need to work with Summit County to use same information to reduce confusion. Robert Brand is looking for someone from Summit County BOH to work with on coordinating fish consumption messaging.

A concern was raised that removing the fish consumption BUI removed before the fish tumors BUI could be a publicity issue.

Robert Brand – We've found that people not born in US eat fish with tumors unless it's a huge tumor. With workshops we've given, our Bhutanese residents have stopped eating fish with tumors although they still catch them – cultural need. They say they release the fish they don't eat.

Update from Peter Bode – Xtinguish Celebration website is live now <http://xtinguishcelebration.com/>. Mentioned in a good article from waitingfornextyear.com, an underground Cleveland sports joke website. <https://waitingfornextyear.com/2019/01/xtinguish-celebration-2019-cleveland/>

J Goodman – AOC website has link to CRR; at top has 2019 calendar which is similar but not the same as the one the city has; will put link to Peter's website on there. We want the AOC and CRR represented at as many events as possible. Please send info before, and photos after, 2019 events to Jane Goodman (goodmanj@cuyahogariver.org).

#### **Cuyahoga AOC Committee 2019 Meeting Schedule:**

April 9, 9am Next meeting at Brushwood Pavilion, Furnace Run, Summit Metro Park, Richfield

July 9, time tbd – Meeting and Fieldtrip to Ashtabula AOC. Meet at a nearby location (tbd), to ride bus to fieldtrip site (also tbd). Meet members of next AOC, hear about their issues. Have reserved 2 Metroparks buses, but will also coordinate carpooling. May need a larger meeting location, as some of the tour sites can only accommodate a few vehicles. About a 2 hour tour, working lunch meeting, box lunches provided. About a half day commitment.

Oct 8, 9m - Meeting at new Trailside Program Center, Cleveland Metroparks Brecksville Reservation

Comment – Robert Brand – On Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup>, Cuyahoga County BOH and Cuyahoga County Sustainability Office will present their draft of a climate change action plan to Armond Budish, Cuyahoga County executive. The draft includes tree plans, ecology and watershed water quality.

**Motion to adjourn made by M Borchers, Jordyn Stoll seconded; unanimously approved; meeting adjourned 10:15am.**