



## **CUYAHOGA RIVER AREA OF CONCERN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

**October 23, 2018**

**Ohio EPA Northeast District Office**

Present: Jennifer Grieser, Meiring Borchers, Bill Hughes, Jordyn Stoll, Kate Chapel, Jacki Zevenbergen, Kate Evans, Bryan Stubbs, Frank Greenland, Pat Gsellman, Becky McCleary, Joe Hadley, Lisa Petit, Ana Burns, Elizabeth Hiser, Ellen Brown-Armstrong, Kevin Kratt, Chad Ferguson, Lynn Garrity, Jo Ann Banda  
Guest: Judy Shaw  
Staff: Jane Goodman, Carolyn Krause

The meeting was called to order at 9:10am.

### **MINUTES**

Motion by Borchers to accept minutes of July meeting, second by Burns, motion passes.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Judy Shaw introduced herself, talked a bit about her work at University of Akron, former leadership on Raritan River efforts.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None to discuss, Chairwoman Grieser noted that information would come with committee updates.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Ohio EPA:**

AOC Coordinator Chad Ferguson reported that the requisite public meeting on removal of Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) 1a: Restrictions on Fish Consumption was held on September 27 at the West Creek Stewardship Center. Comments and the final presentation will be incorporated into the package to submit the request for removal.

He reports that he is working on four additional BUIs – #4: Fish Tumors or Other Deformities; #7: Restrictions on Navigational Dredging; #8: Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae; and #10a: Beach Closings (Recreational Contact.) He noted that the AOC is seeing the fruits of many years of labor toward delisting.

Lynn Garrity introduced herself. Lynn is familiar to the AOC and watershed communities having worked as watershed coordinator for Euclid Creek, and with Cuyahoga River Community Planning, and most recently at ODNR Coastal Management. She is now at the Ohio Lake Erie Commission, serving as the AOC Administrator, having replaced Russ Gibson in that role, and reflecting the move of the office of the AOC Administrator to the Commission. Though the location has changed, the tasks remain the same, working with U S EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO,) coordinating Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding, meeting with all the Ohio Areas of Concern, and developing their work plans for 2019.

#### **Governance Subcommittee:**

Chairman Bryan Stubbs reported that the committee met on August 13 to discuss membership and on October 10 to review applications, discuss, and decide on recommendations to the full Advisory Committee for new and renewing membership in the class of 2019. There were more applications than available spaces allowed. Voting on, and installation of, new and renewing members at the January AOC AC meeting.



Strategic Implementation Subcommittee:

Chairman Frank Greenland reported that the committee is focusing on the four BUIs that Chad had mentioned (tumors/DELTS; dredge; eutrophication; recreational contact.) He has had phone calls with management action implementers, and sees things moving ahead. He expressed that questions exist regarding meeting the 2024 goal. In some cases, studies need to be discussed. On recreational use, he has some data to share, and is looking at the available exemptions. He plans to discuss Akron's work with Pat Gsellman.

Outreach/Education Subcommittee:

Chairman Scott Hardy reported that outreach is ongoing, with efforts focused on the October 26 Symposium. Ohio Sea Grant Director Chris Winslow will be the keynote speaker, there will be other presentations, posters from Kent State, Akron, and Case Western Reserve university students, and table talks on BUI progress and a variety of subjects. The current registrations, and the program, represent a broad mix of subjects and participants. He also reports that social media use and views continue to increase.

Cuyahoga River Restoration:

Executive Director Jane Goodman reported that the basic subgrant financials are steady, with relatively even expenditures over each quarter. The additional special project funds for conceptual designs for two behind-the-bulkhead fish habitats in the ship channel will be expended in the last quarter of the grant, January, for designs to be complete by the end of the grant period in March.

She reports that Symposium registrations are at 130, including presenters and table talk hosts. Sponsors include Cleveland Metroparks, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, NEORS, the Port of Cleveland, EnviroScience, Biohabitats, and Ecology&Environment. In addition, exhibitors will include Norwalk Concrete Industries, Davey Resource Group, Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners, Urban Shepherds, TestAmerica Laboratories, Inc., Cuyahoga River Water Trail, and West Creek Conservancy.

CRR has been assisting watershed groups, hosted tours for Cleveland Council on World Affairs and the American Iron and Steel Institute, edited a case study on the economic impact of the AOC cleanup with John Hartig for the International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) website, and gave several media interviews. Earlier in October, CRR worked with Doan Brook to depave an area at the head of the watershed, and with the City of Stow to plant 90 trees along a Mud Brook tributary.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairwoman Grieser announced that 2019 Advisory Committee meetings will happen in January, April, July, and October. She will have specific dates in time to include in the symposium program, and they will go on the advisory committee page on the [cuyahogaoc.org](http://cuyahogaoc.org) website.

Garrity mentioned that she has been looking at the habitat management action projects, working with Tetra Tech on help in the Brandywine HUC, and on other projects.

Elizabeth Hiser, Euclid Creek coordinator, has been working with Lynn on the Mayfield Sandridge golf course phases 1 and 3 management action projects, which she expects to go into construction soon.

Grieser noted that Cleveland Metroparks has been working on the feasibility study for an Doan Brook estuary/daylighting through Gordon Park, with EnviroScience managing the study.

Greenland reports that the District and Army Corps of Engineers are working on the Euclid Creek E. 185<sup>th</sup> St. spillway project, which has been delayed due to issues with property owners. The West Creek flume project is in the design phase, and looking to be a \$7 or \$8 million project involving ODOT.

The Canal Diversion Dam project is still pending, with NEORS and the City of Akron each having put \$900K into the pot. Garrity reports that she is working with GLNPO on additional funds. Jacki Zevenbergen notes



that Friends of the Crooked River, serving as the fiduciary partner, wants to be sure that funds are in hand in order to proceed with the removal.

Lisa Petit reports that the national park has the funding to begin design and feasibility for the flood plain projects upstream of Station Road, with the Corps of Engineers as facilitator for the two locations, to start in 2019 with construction in 2020.

Kate Chapel reports for Tinker's Creek that invasives at the Hudson Tenbroeck management action site have been taken care of, and restoration construction is planned to begin in summer of 2019.

Elaine Marsh, reporting for Summit Metro Parks, notes that US EPA has appointed ch2m to manage phase 2 of the Gorge Dam sediment removal and the partners will meet with their team this week. No construction date has been set.

The Valley View area's conversion to a natural area is moving along, noting the remarkable progress the naturalization efforts have made. Funding has come through NOAA for the next phase, which includes river restoration over an 18-month timeline, with construction in fall 2019.

Gsellman announced that Water Trail open houses will take place at Merwin's tomorrow, and in Kent the following week.

Meiring Borchers moved to adjourn the meeting, Zevenbergen seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.