



AOC Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 9:05am at the NEORSD EMSC.

Present –

Voting Members: Jennifer Grieser, Bill Hughes, Elaine Price (for A. Ball,) Peter Bode, Robert Brand, Dan Brown, Ana Burns, Kate Chapel, Pam Davis (for G. Gallucci,) Katie Evans, Frank Greenland, Pat Gsellman, Joe Hadley, Scott Hardy, Jacki Zevenbergen (for E. Hiser,) Kevin Kratt, Elaine Marsh, Rebecca McCleary, Jordyn Stoll, Bryan Stubbs

Membership Candidates: Shannon Conway, Judith Shaw, Whitnye Long Jones

Ex Officio/Resource: Melanie Barbis/OhioEPA, Russell Brandenburg/USACE, Stacey Faile/OHM Advisors, Lisa Petit/NPS-CVNP, Curt Wagner/ODNR

Guests/Alternates: Savannah Tracy, John Zampino

Staff: Jane Goodman, Alexis Polivka

ELECTION OF MEMBERS

B. Hughes moved, and B. Stubbs seconded the motion, to appoint or re-appoint the following individuals to membership for two-year terms ending with the first meeting in January, 2022:

Peter Bode	Scott Hardy
Robert Brand	Kevin Kratt
Ana Burns	Whitnye Long Jones
Shannon Conway	Elaine Price
Katie Evans	Judith Auer Shaw
Grace Gallucci	Jordyn Stoll
Kristin Hall	

The motion to appoint passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

B. Stubbs moved, and A. Burns seconded the motion, to appoint or re-appoint the following to serve as Chairpersons to the Advisory Committee and subcommittees to serve 2-year terms ending on the day of the Advisory Committee's January, 2022 meeting:

AOC Advisory Committee – Jennifer Grieser to Chair; Bill Hughes to Vice-Chair

Strategic Implementation Committee – Frank Greenland to Chair

Outreach and Education Committee – Scott Hardy to Chair

Governance Committee – Bryan Stubbs to Chair

The motion to appoint passed unanimously.

Chairwoman Grieser welcomed the new members and thanked returning members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Burns moved to approve the minutes of the October meeting as presented, E. Price seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION

OSU Sea Grant Research Proposal – Collaborative Watershed Management of the Cuyahoga River AOC

Scott Hardy described Sea Grant’s proposed research on a shift in the way natural resources are managed, from a top-down model to one across partners including stakeholders, experts, and the public. The research would describe the balancing of science with personal preferences, and be ecosystem-based. The research would consider the costs and benefits of a collaborative model versus having decisions made by a single individual. It would draw on work done by Elinor Ostrom, a political economist who advocated dispersed decision centers rather than top-down hierarchy, positing that local actors possess more and better information than higher level decision makers. The work would ask how efficient a collaborative group is or could be; what makes the collaboration of the AOC committee work? What role and weight do resources, money, people, information, emotion bear, e.g. what is the effect of making decisions based only on science, or on community issues?

PUBLIC COMMENT – none

OLD BUSINESS

J. Goodman reported that she had emailed everyone the link to the fall AOC conference materials on the EPA’s AOC website.

Committee members approved, by email, Chairwoman Grieser’s providing the letter of support for The Nature Conservancy’s Crooked River Cooperative Weed Management Area grant application “Managing Invasive Species to Support the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern (AOC) Delisting Plan.” The letter was sent.

Goodman will send the Conflict of Interest form out for everyone to sign and return if they haven’t done the hard copy.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach/Education Committee

Scott Hardy reported that the committee met and discussed the redesign of the AOC website, development of a fact sheet, and preparing for and scheduling presentations to local governments.

Strategic Implementation Committee

Frank Greenland reported that the committee has been considering prioritizing actions based on maps that include the tributaries only up to the first impediment (falls, etc.)

A. Burns asked about the status of H2Ohio, Greenland responded that details weren't available.

OHIO EPA REPORT

Melanie Barbis reported that she has been working on the following:

Eutrophication BUI 8 – She is speaking with USGS regarding the removal request document, expecting a review by February.

Beach Closings/Recreational Contact BUI 10 – Tetra Tech is finalizing its report, to be available by the April AOC meeting, will have the status information needed to move forward.

Tumors/DELTS BUI 4 – Working on it

Management Action Plans (MAP) – Expects to have updates by April

She is working on the total MAP for all BUIs, expects to have by spring/summer

CUYAHOGA RIVER RESTORATION – NONPROFIT FACILITATING ORGANIZATION REPORT

Jane Goodman reported the following for the previous quarter (since October meeting):

Assisted in development of the NPS-IS plan for the Cleveland-Cuyahoga River HUC that includes the ship channel;

Submitted a CMAG grant for a comprehensive ship channel habitat plan;

Met with property owners and trail project staff on Scranton West habitat project;

Reached out to City of Cleveland re Center St. Swing Bridge habitat site;

Gave a boat tour, focused on habitat, to AOA conference attendees;

Participated in Vision for the Valley meetings;

Gave multiple walking tours during National Arbor Day/Partners in Community Forestry/Society of Municipal Arborist conferences;

Working with contractor on AOC website redesign.

ANNOUNCEMENTS PERTINENT TO BUI REMOVAL ACTIVITIES

J. Zevenbergen reported on progress in Euclid Creek re the removal of the John Nagy Rd. drop structure and work on the rock rack.

E. Marsh gave March 31 from 6pm to 8pm as the next Gorge Dam public meeting at the Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium. Agenda includes report on study, future actions.

The Black River Summit is scheduled for June 25.

AOC MEETING SCHEDULE

Mondays at 9:00am: April 20, July 20, October 19.

Locations to be determined

The July meeting will involve a tour of the Pond Brook stream restoration project.

ADJOURN

J. Stoll moved to adjourn, B. Hughes seconded the motion, passed unanimously.