



## MINUTES

**Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee Meeting  
April 21, 2016 4:00 pm  
Greater Cleveland Aquarium, Cleveland, OH**

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Grieser at 4:05pm.

Present: Bill Hughes, Pam Davis (for Grace Gallucci), Meiring Borchers, Jenn Grieser, Laura Minnig (For Joe Hadley), Claire Posius, Alison Ball, Jane Howington, Howard Simon, Ana Burns (for Joe Gregory), Babette Gowda, Scott Hardy, Peter Bode (for Jane Goodman), Amy Brennan

Ex-Officio: Ted Conlin

Absent: Tom Denbow, Bryan Stubbs, Jan Rybka, Jenita McGowan, Mike Johnson, Frank Greenland, Patrick Gsellman, Rebecca McCleary, Anthony Togliatti, Elaine Marsh, Kathleen Bradley, Ellen Brown- Armstrong

Staff: Kacey Zeiser

Guests: Chris Davis, Angela Larson

### **Approval of Minutes of January 21, 2016**

\*\*At the beginning of the meeting, there was not a quorum. By the middle of the meeting, enough members were in attendance to vote.\*\*

### **Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

### **Great Lakes AOC Conference Summary**

J. Grieser gave a quick overview of the conference that took place in Dearborn, Michigan March 2-3, 2016. J. Grieser said it was a great opportunity to see what work other AOCs are doing. She then asked all those who attended the conference to share their biggest takeaway from the conference.

- H. Simon said that the conference gave him historical perspective on the other AOCs. He found the break out session on complying with delisting BUIs helpful to understand the process. He also liked that J. Goodman promised the Cuyahoga River will have completed management actions by 2021.
- K. Zeiser shared that the creativeness of other AOCs was really interesting. Her favorite session was when the other AOCs shared videos on successful projects. The most intriguing was the fish elevator project completed in the Menominee River. Watch video [here](#).

- P. Bode's takeaway was recognizing that our group is further along in the delisting process than he had believed after hearing the status of other AOCs. He also enjoyed learning the process differences between the AOCs. He thinks the Cuyahoga AOC is highly organized and has a good structure.
- T. Conlin explained that he had been to a lot of the AOC conferences over the years and he has noticed that, as time goes on, the content is more concrete. All the committees are now formed and funded and the process of delisting is more definitive.
- M. Borchers echoed that Russ Gibson was adamant about the Cuyahoga River management actions being complete by 2021. He also stated the management action list due by the end of this year. He also agreed that this year's presentations had more substance than in previous years.
- A. Brennan thought there was more policy related discussions this year. But, she was also hoping to hear more project based discussion that focused on what people were currently doing and what they had already done.
- B. Hughes shared this was his second AOC conference. His biggest takeaway was that this AOC needed to make a schedule to reach the "2021 bucket" goal. He also realized that some AOCs get a lot of support from state and federal personnel, but questioned if we are getting any federal financial support. He also believes the Clinton River AOC might be a good comparison and collaboration for us.
- J. Grieser enjoyed hearing about Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's pragmatic approach to delisting. They write a habitat plan, go after it, and then apply for delisting. She explained their belief that the more you study something, the more you find. For example, another federal agency wanted to do a study in their area, but the Michigan rep discouraged the unnecessary study. She said it was great to hear that other AOCs can move forward so quickly.

Discussion then turned to fish consumption restrictions. H. Simons wants to see documentation surrounding this. **M. Borchers said there is documentation from 2008, which he will send to K. Zeiser to distribute and will put on the website.** Another committee member suggested that Ohio EPA might have a fish consumption pamphlet. T. Conlin does not believe he has never seen something like this or if it exists. **M. Borchers also said that he will be attending the CWRU student presentations tonight on migrant population that subsistence fish and will send those results around.** It was also suggested that Summit County has some good results and data on this issue.

### **Cuyahoga Valley National Park - Strategic Action Plan**

Chris Davis from the CVNP was invited to this meeting to present the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Strategic Action Plan, which is centered on Cuyahoga River. C. Davis explained that CVNP never had an action plan before, but the only natural resource mentioned in the "laws" to form the park is the Cuyahoga River. The park-wide vision for 2016-2021 is to focus on the Cuyahoga River watershed. All the staff has bought into this vision, which C. Davis was very excited about. Each division has their own separate piece and vision that they identified as their "victory." The process to produce this document was about a year and a half long.

*Attached to these minutes is the CVNP Strategic Action Plan document. The notes below reflect the discussion of the document.*

C. Davis explained the Action Plan mentions delisting the Cuyahoga River as an Area of Concern and earning a National Water Trail designation and Natural Scenic River designation.

Question was asked regarding the goal to have a water trail designated, would it be just the stretch in the national park or whole river? C. Davis said this is yet to be determined, but he would like to pull it all together.

C. Davis said CVNP has promised to focus on actions to promote and educate about the river, which includes the large staff and volunteer crew.

C. Davis also pitched to the group that he likes to write grants and apply for money that helps with habitat improvement and to let him know if you are interested in collaborating.

M. Borchers asked if CVNP was involved with the sediment work with the Port. C. Davis said they don't do too much work with them.

The question was asked about the origin for the idea to focus on the river. C. Davis said that the Natural Resource Division came up with original idea to focus on the river and everyone liked it.

### **Approval of Minutes of January 21, 2016**

**\*\*At this point in the meeting, a quorum was reached.\*\***

A. Brennan move to pass, A. Ball seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

#### *Governance*

J. Grieser was contacted for a support letter from the AOC. B. Stubbs thought it should be something the committee voted on (whether or not the AOC did support the specific issue). The Committee discussed voting by proxy online for issues like this. P. Davis suggested maybe a Doodle poll could work. A. Brennan suggested Google Survey. **CRR will look in to a service that will work.** J. Grieser asked for a few weeks lead time in the future to write these support letters until an online voting proxy is identified.

#### *Public Outreach*

E. Brown-Armstrong has been updating the Facebook page. **J. Grieser asked the Committee to contact E. Brown Armstrong to post anything of interest for the AOC they may come across.**

Cuyahoga Falls Dam Removal Time Lapse video will be featured in a traveling Smithsonian Institute exhibit.

J. Howington asked how and if CVNP and Public Outreach can work together for our 2019 celebration? **C. Davis said to check with Arrye Rosser** (who serves on the Public Outreach Committee).

The question was asked if there had been any follow up on the video this Subcommittee discussed for 2019. There hasn't been any work to date. L. Minnig volunteered to help with this project.

### *Strategic Implementation*

M. Borchers gave the update for this Subcommittee. He is currently drafting letter to Ohio EPA that says this Committee accepts the guidance document they created. At the last meeting, the Subcommittee had a final presentation from Tetra Tech on their first grant period. No upcoming meeting scheduled yet.

M. Borchers said next task for Tetra Tech will be to complete a management actions list by the end of this year.

M. Borchers also mentioned the shared AOC Committee Dropbox folder. The goal for this folder is for the Committee to have access to information regarding the AOC Advisory Committee. The first task is to help compile the contacts for the aesthetics' survey. **Email K. Zeiser if you cannot access this spreadsheet.**

The Committee also discussed how there are no projects for Mud Brook or Yellow Creek for the management action list. **L. Minnig said she may have some updates she will share with CRR, J. Grieser and M. Borchers.**

## **OEPA UPDATE**

### *Tetra Tech*

No one from Tetra Tech was present to give an update. M. Borchers shared their work product for next time around is to develop the management action list.

### *Cuyahoga River Restoration*

K. Zeiser told the Committee a film crew from Indonesia came to visit the Cuyahoga River to hear about how we deal with water quality issues. CRR took the crew and many members of the AOC Committee on a trip down the river. The crew interviewed members of the Committee as well.

T. Conlin gave updates on his work for the AOC. The SI Committee recommended the removal of Furnace Run and Mogadore Reservoir sub-basins to the AOC Committee who voted to proceed with these removals. Unfortunately, the Mogadore Reservoir sub-basin does not meet removal criteria due to algae and cannot be removed at this time. A draft document to remove Furnace Run sub-basin was sent to GLNPO for their review. GLNPO is discussing how best to proceed with this document. He also drafted a Recreational Access BUI removal document, which has been accepted by GLNPO. He suggests the Committee waits for a public comment meeting until there are multiple removals to present (BUI#10b, Recreational Access, the removal of Furnace Run, BUI #11, Aesthetics).

P. Bode clarified that CRR will distribute aesthetics poll and Tetra Tech will create it.

### **EVENTS**

Stormwater Conference :May 4-6, 2016

River Sweep: May 7, 2016

Akron Blue Heron Homecoming: May 7, 2016

CWMA Invasive Plant Management Workshop: May 17, 2016

River Day: May 21, 2016

Euclid Creek "Day in the Life of Euclid Creek": July 16, 2016

### **Cuyahoga AOC Committee 2016 Meeting Schedule**

July 14: Next meeting is the field trip to the Black River. J. Grieser has arranged for a Metropark bus to drive members. J. Grieser would like us all to ride together, if possible, in order to discuss committee business along the way.

October 20 is the last meeting of 2016. The goal could be to have the public comment meeting after our Advisory Committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:19pm.