



## **MINUTES**

### **Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee Meeting**

**July 14, 2016 • 11:30 am**

**Days Dam, Lorain, OH**

This meeting took place after the Committee field trip to the Black River AOC. The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Grieser at 11:39 am.

J. Grieser asked all in attendance to introduce themselves and give a brief description of who they are representing.

Present: Bill Hughes, Pam Davis (for Grace Gallucci), Meiring Borchers, Jenn Grieser, Laura Minnig (For Joe Hadley), Bryan Stubbs, Howard Simon, Joe Gregory, Babette Gowda, Scott Hardy, Jane Goodman, Ellen Brown- Armstrong, Kathleen Bradley, Elaine Price (for Alison Ball), Frank Greenland, Rebecca McCleary, Cathi Lehn (for Jenita McGowen),

Ex-Officio: Ted Conlin

Absent: Tom Denbow, Claire Posius, Jan Rybka, Jane Howington, Mike Johnson, Patrick Gsellman, Anthony Togliatti, Elaine Marsh, Amy Brennan,

Staff: Kacey Zeiser, Peter Bode, Kevin Kratt

Guests: Jennie Brancho, Rachel Koncin, Katie Evans, Kammeron Hughes, Arrye Rosser

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

B. Stubbs made a motion to approve the minutes from April 21, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by M. Borchers and all were in favor. Motion passed.

### **Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

### **Old Business - City of Akron CSO Support Letter**

J. Grieser thanked the committee for being so quick in their responses to approve the motion for the support letter. She realized the process of voting via email is not the easiest, but she appreciated all the input.

### **New Business – OEPA Request for Letter of Support RE: Gorge Dam Removal**

J. Grieser recently received a new request for a support letter for the Cuyahoga Falls Dam Removal. A letter was drafted by T. Conlin. It was clarified this is also known as the Gorge Dam.

Committee asked how much was needed and what has been given/promised to date? T. Conlin stated that the overall need was \$70 million for the project. The land will provide the match for the project. The project will include the removal of the dam and the removal of the sediment behind the dam, which is the expensive part as there is mild contamination of the sediment.

The letter will be to Ohio EPA and used for when the project seeks funding. **Since the draft letter was not at the meeting for the Committee to review, the vote will happen electronically.** J. Grieser reminded the committee of the process.

1. J. Grieser will send the draft letter to the committee.
2. Committee will review and comment on the draft.
3. J. Grieser will then ask for a motion and a second to approve the letter, after the comment period has ended.
4. Committee will vote to approve the letter.

## **Subcommittee Updates**

### *Governance*

B. Stubbs had no new business to report, however, in the fall we will be taking nominations for the new class of Committee members.

### *Public Outreach*

B. McCleary gave an overview of the subcommittee meeting that happened last month. There is a PowerPoint available for use for any presentations about the AOC. The subcommittee also prioritized a few things like a video, developing other outreach tools, and creating a calendar of events.

**The subcommittee also selected November 18 as the Symposium for the AOC.** J. Grieser has a call to A. Togliatti (Mayor of Independence and member of this Committee) about using a space in his community. Brecksville has also been suggested as a location, using the same space as the Trail's Conference.

### *Strategic Implementation*

Tetra Tech should be getting a signed contract from Ohio EPA soon. The goal will be to finalize the management action list and prioritize the list for funding. F. Greenland believes there will be an upcoming meeting in August for the subcommittee.

The management action list must contain all the actions necessary to remove the Cuyahoga River from the AOC list. It must be complete by the end of this year. The subcommittee will need to lean on the subwatershed groups to say what their priority projects are. Question was raised that not all subwatershed groups are represented and how the SIP committee will handle that, including the areas that do not have structured organizations. J. Goodman responded that CRR is putting the final touches on the fish habitat priority projects plan for the watershed, so some of these projects will be listed and prioritized in this document. It will be complete and submitted by the end of the

month, so the subcommittee can work off of that. B. Stubbs also reminded the group that the governance subcommittee intended that subwatershed coordinators would need to lean on each other and communicate with those not on the Committee to figure out what is needed in these areas.

J. Grieser informed the group that she submitted a proposal to the USFWS for the data gaps.

T. Conlin also reminded the group cost estimates will be key piece of the management actions list, citing the Black River's cost increase from \$15 million as the estimate to \$50 million in reality.

### **OEPA UPDATE**

T. Conlin provided the group with a little background on his experience with the Black River, explaining that it took 3 years to develop the lower Black River Habitat Plan, which then sat on a shelf for a year until a stimulus grant came through and GLNPO awarded the money to the Black River. He emphasized this is why the management action plan is so important for the Cuyahoga to complete, in case there is money floating around that has not been used by other AOCs.

#### *Tetra Tech*

No updates. Contract will hopefully be finalized next week. The goal for this year's contract is the management action list.

#### *Cuyahoga River Restoration*

J. Goodman shared the CRR contract started April 1<sup>st</sup>. P. Bode is working to marry the database. The Habitat Plan is complete (separate from Ohio EPA grant for the AOC) and our Beyond the Bulkhead conceptual plan will also be done by the end of the summer. Team2019.org domain is up and running, which will be used to collect all the collaborations and events for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Generic business cards for the committee members have been printed and will be passed out after the meeting. The Annual Report and fact sheets for some of the subwatersheds (Euclid Creek, Tinkers Creek, West Creek, Mill Creek, and Doan Brook) have also been printed.

CRR also received a grant for impervious surface removal for abandoned parking lots. Trainings will take place in the winter.

### **Announcements pertinent to BUI delisting activities**

- Sub-basins: Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative job posting through West Creek Conservancy
- Resources: Dropbox – Stage 1 Report, Standard AOC Presentation, among many others;
- Great Lakes AOC Presentations - <https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-aocs/2016-aocs-conference-presentations>
- NEORSD will be implementing the first master plan for the Cuyahoga South. Master Plan for the north will have an RFP go out later in the year. F. Greenland asked the group to provide him with any information he may need for this.

## **EVENTS**

- Day in the Life of Euclid Creek (July 16, 9a-2:30p, includes AOC table)

**\*\*Any other announcements or events were asked to be sent to K. Zeiser in the interest of time.\*\***

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

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

**November 18 – AOC Symposium.**

## **Adjourn**

J. Goodman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by P. Davis. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 12:15pm