



## **MINUTES**

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

**October 20, 2016 • 3:30 pm**

**CanalWay Center, Cleveland, OH**

The meeting was called to order at 3:36pm.

J. Grieser thanked the committee for great year of work then asked all in attendance to introduce themselves and give a brief description of which organization they are representing.

Present: Bill Hughes, Becky McCleary, Jenn Grieser, Meiring Borchers, Kathleen Bradley, Howard Simon, Joe Hadley, Frank Greenland, Jennie Brancho (for Babette Gowda), Scott Hardy, Pamela Davis (for Grace Gallucci), Amy Brennan, Kristin Hall (for Jenita McGowen), Joe Gregory, Elaine Marsh, Jacki Zevenbergen, Jane Goodman, Ellen Brown-Armstrong

Absent: Claire Posius, Jan Rybka, Jane Howington, Patrick Gsellman, Anthony Togliatti, Amy Brennan, Bryan Stubbs, Alison Ball

Ex-Officio: Ted Conlin, Phil Hillman

Staff: Kacey Zeiser

Guests: Katie Evans, Lisa Petit, Chris Davis

### **Approval of Minutes of July 14, 2016**

M. Borchers made a motion to approve the minutes from July 14, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by K. Bradley and all were in favor. Motion passed.

### **Public Comment**

B. Hughes provided an overview of the Great Lakes Public Forum hosted by the International Joint Commission. It was attended mostly by Canadian agencies, USEPA, USGS, US FWS. The audience was majority public NGOs and agencies, not a lot of consultants. The interesting part was that each topic/talk was led by one Canada and one US partner. He shared the content was very high level, but there were good discussions, especially the AOC talks, which described how to delist and what to do next once the area is. The First Nation community in Canada was active in the meeting. Question was asked if any tribes in the US are active like this: tribes in Michigan and Wisconsin are.

J. Grieser asked if everyone else ever attends other conferences and events that apply to please share with the group.

T. Conlin brought the photo that TBS shared during the baseball playoff series to share with the group. J. Goodman said that the Cleveland news did a reaction/updated story on that photo. (Link is here: <http://www.newsnet5.com/sports/baseball/indians/cleveland-indians-fans-offended-by-tbs-welcome-to-cleveland-image-showing-burning-river>) J Grieser shared it was good to see reaction to this from other non-water professionals.

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

J. Grieser thanked the committee for being so quick in their responses to approve the motion for the support letter.

## **New Business - Aquahacking**

CWA is taking the lead for bringing this initiative to Cleveland. Currently, they are in the problem identification phase right now talking with other communities around Lake Erie. The “ideation sessions” are an opportunity to identify faced in the Lake Erie watershed. Hackers will come up with solutions for the problems that experts have identified. There are cash prizes for winners. All levels (high school to professionals) will be asked to participate. This will hopefully foster business moving forward from these created solutions. J. Goodman asked the group to think of problems that could be solved by technology, like apps. NASA is supporting the initiative, so there will be experts to help with creation of solutions. B. Hughes said Max Hertzog (CWA employee) explained this at the conference he attended. K. Zeiser then gave an overview of the Aquahacking session she attended at Kent State University. There will be a mini-session at the AOC Symposium.

## **Subcommittee Updates**

### *Governance*

Committee will review applications on October 25. Member asked if it was necessary for current Committee members to refill out their applications. J. Grieser said yes, prefers everyone acknowledges intent to continue by filling out application again, especially because expectations for the Committee is on the front page of application, so it can be reviewed each term.

### *Public Outreach*

Next Meeting is November 10, which will focus on the Symposium. Question was asked if anyone has used the PowerPoint in the Dropbox for any public outreach for city council groups and other city officials? No one has.

B. McCleary thanked CRR for National Public Lands Day partnership at Cuyahoga Falls, where 140+ volunteers planted about 100 trees that day planted at River Front Park and WaterWorks Park, over 11 tons of material pulled from the river by the kayakers in both the City of Munroe Falls and Cuyahoga Fall. B. McCleary said it was a great opportunity to talk about AOC work and objectives, even though it was technically outside the boundaries of the AOC, the connection is that as the river has changed flow because of the dam removal, it is easier to get to lower layers of trash.

Symposium is next month and subcommittee is working hard on that. There was also discussion of creating mini committees for video and formal education (training teachers or tacking on to existing trainings like Project Wet and Project Wild). The leads for the small groups are Becky (education) and Laura (video); please let them know if you want to participate.

### *Strategic Implementation*

Last meeting, K. Kratt gave overview of the Tetra Tech work, which is to prioritize the management action list. We will be meeting again in late November/early December for final review. The Advisory Committee will approve the work outlined on the management action list, which has to be done by the calendar year. Some work will be to fill data gaps. F. Greenland requested the group let him know ASAP what these gaps are so NEORSD can help out at least in their service area. J. Grieser shared that \$160,000 from USFW to do some of this missing data work will be taking off next field season because of contractual work. She also shared that she related to GLNPO the hope that the management action list to be a moving target because of these gaps in data. J. Goodman voiced that we will need to address where/what is not going to meet the criteria at some point,

stating in these areas this is where the criteria needs to change for this HUC or BUI and for these reason. T. Conlin shared he just wrote a document for new targets for Ashtabula Benthos because, before the dredging, the target was barely met, but dredging caused numbers to decrease. He said it is questionable how long will it take to get to target, so he wrote a document to say that they needed a new local target. He explained that this local target may not be easy to get approved. He also shared that US EPA won't rewrite criteria; it's up to the state. F. Greenland asked how did other AOCs accomplish delisting in the absence of concrete data? What is that write up and what angle was taken? For example, with bacteria, there is so much work being done in Akron, Cleveland, Lakewood, Euclid, what else should/could we be called on to do to get this BUI removed?

Group then spent a few minutes discussing the management action list. T. Conlin said management action list will be living document, because we need data for those HUCs without any and then there will be actions as a consequence of finding this data. J. Grieser asked the group to really think hard if the management action will bring delisting. She encouraged the group to not pick projects just based on which watershed you work/live in. The group also discussed how there was great ExOfficio attendance at the last meeting, and how the group needs a better understanding of those relationships, to foster them, and think about them when we are thinking of implementation. The Symposium Keynote Speaker is Melanie Foose of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Michigan has had success delisting being pragmatic and the hope is she will share that experience with us.

Management Action list is due before the end of the year, but there is no Committee meeting on the calendar. Members asked if we needed to vote via email to approve the list. T. Conlin said that was hopefully not necessary. J. Grieser said she will reach out to the central office and see if we can approve this list at the January meeting.

### **OEPA Update**

T. Conlin shared that dredging is supposed to occur, no timeframe has been determined. He mentioned grant projects that encourage reuse of river sediment might be favored.

BUI Removal document update: 10b Public Access and Furnace Run are going through internal review. Aesthetics document is being drafted. Survey was successful from his perspective. Results will be shared at the symposium.

GLNPO folks were here to visit recently. They toured "no regrets projects" in West Creek, Tinker's Creek, and saw Brecksville and Gorge Dams. They questioned how these sub-basin projects were affecting the mainstem quality. They were also curious about the NEORS D spillway project. F. Greenland shared NEORS D is close to moving forward with the project.

Someone asked for clarification of a "No regrets project." T. Conlin said the phrase came from OEPA Central Office. B. Hughes believes it means a project that you don't want to miss the chance to do. J. Goodman shared no regrets, means absolutely things will improve and we know for a fact, like a dam removal.

Question was asked about funding for Brecksville dam. T. Conlin believed there was \$400,000 promised, but will know by the end of the year.

### *Cuyahoga River Restoration*

J. Goodman updated the committee. Financially halfway through the grant period and we have spent about half the grant money. K. Zeiser is handling staffing meetings and the committee and

keeping things organized. Website, interactive map, and homepage have been updated. P. Bode (before he left CRR) was helping K. Kratt with management action list. Stage 1 is now digitized. **J. Goodman to add to website).** We have been supporting Tinker's Creek, Mud Brook, Big Creek and Doan Brook efforts. Yellow Creek is changing their set up and we have been trying to help them update their WAP and integrate delisting. We are starting to think about RiverDay in May, as we have received a grant from Cuyahoga Arts and Culture. OEPA has received the Habitat Plan book and we are working to move forward with the Behind the Bulkhead projects. The AOC Symposium is slated for November 18. We also need to think about having Public Meetings to announce or unveil delisting progress. E-newsletters were released this quarter and press coverage has been great: J. Goodman gave presentations to League of Women Voters, which was Live Cast, WCPN toured with us in the ship channel, Chinese officials want to come back to learn more, and there is a video on Cleveland.com after the anniversary from the site of the fire. Work plan includes a public official's tour or float (land side or river tour). Public Outreach committee to help pull that together. We have tabled at the NEORS Open House and West Creek's Backyard Biodiversity. J. Goodman shared some funding updates: Port of Cleveland received the grant for Irishtown bend and sediment reuse grant. Symposium Sponsorships will go to special fund support the AOC.

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

A. Brennan gave a quick overview of the Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative, which will hopefully allow for better resource sharing in this watershed. There have been 2 new hires, P. Bode in West Creek and Kim Lawson in Chagrin to work across central basin. The collaborative will help with a series of staff requests from the groups involved. Please contact Amy with other questions.

Events: AOC Symposium: November 18 at 8:30a – 3:00p at the Independence Civic Center. J. Grieser stated this is an example of why we ask for other contacts on the application. Please invite your contacts to attend. The focus is to set the stage for the activity we have planned for the next few years. We are also looking for sponsorships and giveaways for the day.

**J. Goodman to add K. Hall, H. Simon, K. Bradley, E. Marsh. T. Conlin, E. Brown-Armstrong to e-news distribution.**

### **Proposed Cuyahoga AOC Committee 2017 Meeting Schedule:**

Jan. 19, Apr. 20, Jul. 20, Oct. 19 (3:30-5p)

Proposed meeting schedule based on this year's schedule. Any problems with the schedule, please let J. Grieser know.

**Update: Some conflicts from members with this proposed schedule.**

**Official meeting schedule:**

**Tuesday, January 17 - 3:30pm - 5:00pm**

**Wednesday, April 19 - 9:00am - 10:30am**

**Thursday, July 20 - 3:30pm - 5:00pm**

**Tuesday, October 17 - 9:00am - 10:30am**

### **Adjourn**

A. Brennan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by H. Simon. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 4:53pm.