



**Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee
Quarterly Meeting
July 24, 2018
NEORS - EMSC**

MINUTES

Present: M. Borchers, P. Gsellman, E. Marsh, B. Hughes, J. Hadley, K. Evans, K. Chapel, H. Simon, F. Greenland, R. Brand, S. Hardy, K. Kratt, E. Hiser, A. Burns, P. Davis (for G. Gallucci,) J. Stoll, P. Bode, B. McCleary, E. Brown-Armstrong, K. Hall (for M. Gray)
Ex Officio: C. Ferguson, C. Wagner, J. Banda
Guests: S. Broski

Meeting was called to order at 9:06am by M. Borchers.

Approval of minutes of April meeting: B. Hughes moved to approve, A. Burns seconded, minutes approved unanimously

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Introductions

Borchers introduced Curt Wagner, our new ODNR representative replacing Phil Hillman.

Old Business

BUI removals – On May 5 the AOC had a press event announcing/celebrating the removal of the first two BUIs – Aesthetics and Public Access.
Management Actions – The management actions list for the aquatic life BUIS was discussed at the last SIP meeting, and Frank will update during his subcommittee update.

Subcommittee Updates

Public Outreach –

Scott Hardy described the May 5th BUI removal celebration event held at Merwins, which went well and had media coverage. Coming events include the June 22 Share the River Ramble, Public Lands day in Cuyahoga Falls, Backyard Bash on August 18. He has put a spreadsheet of events in the Dropbox Public Outreach folder. He's promoting activities via OSU Extension. Social media is getting good hits.

Borchers added that he and other committee members attended the AOC Conference in Sheboygan, thought it was good. Jenn and Jane attended the GLRI Action Plan update public session in Toledo. We're in GLNPO's 2024 delisting "bucket." He referred to Jenn a request from University of Michigan masters students interviewing AOCs re life after delisting.

Strategic Implementation –

Frank Greenland reported that the committee had a meeting on June 27, to which Mark Loomis came. He stressed focusing on key outcomes, indicated that there are dollars for this AOC, for a number of projects, both Legacy Act and management actions, some of which is already in the pipeline. The key with management actions is that implementation has to occur by 2024. He would like to meet with implementers after the meeting to get a status update, which he needs to include in his writeup. Major advances are in the works. He's been working on getting the info on where the projects stand, dollars needed, timelines, etc.

Frank said that the next issue he wants to tackle is beach closing/recreational use. They've been analyzing data on Lake Erie. To remove this any time soon, we would have to go with the exemption for having long term control plans and TMDL, though Tinker's Creek being on the ODNR 303(d) list of streams unsuitable for recreational contact for bacteria levels is problems. But for the beach closing criteria, they need verification of bacteria source. NEORS has DNA testing methodology prepped, now they need to implement it. Though the updated CSO tunnels will reduce CSO amount and frequency, it doesn't take care of the full problem. Defining nonpoint sources might be worthwhile.

Hadley said he'd thought of beach closing having to do with algae creeping from the western basin. Do we need to worry?

The response was that no, our criteria has only to do with bacteria.

Goodman stressed that since the beach closing part can be addressed with the exemptions for having long term control plans and the TMDL, should we still be spending so much attention on that part of it, and shouldn't we instead be focusing on how to address the Tinker's Creek 303(d) situation?

Pam Davis reported that Ohio EPA wrote a nutrient mass balance study regarding home sewage systems, and she has mapped the Tinker's Creek nutrients in the Cuyahoga County portion, but is not sure how much work Summit county is doing?

Frank said we might need to be looking at the TMDL to fill gaps.

Elaine Marsh suggested that, as we tell the story, one goal is tell the public how beach efforts have reduced the public's risk .

Frank suggested that, rather than reaching for zero discharge, it might be more effective to work on other approaches.

Otherwise, we need new tumor sampling. The navigational dredging BUI is being handled between the state and federal agencies. For the algae BUI we need help making the justification for removal of eutrophication.

Governance –

In Bryan Stubbs' absence, Jane reported that the governance committee will be going over the application to discuss membership categories and defining whether the organization or the person is the member for categories where that would apply; the need to have members who represent local governments, not just fill that category with public agencies or quasi-governmental entities.

Davis suggested recruiting representatives from ms4 communities.

Meiring – we'll let the current members know whose terms expire this year, who'll have to reapply.

Ohio EPA Update

Chad Ferguson introduced himself to those who hadn't met him yet. He was chosen to replace Ted because of the overlap with his work on dredge and his eco restoration experience. He attended the AOC conference, saw how Sheboygan made amazing progress with their brownfields, contamination, and that can help with Cuyahoga's BUIs. He'll be working on Cleveland hosting the conference in 2019. Federal and state reps will meet to choose a venue for a September date.

Greenland indicated that NEORS would want to present.

Hall volunteered Cleveland's help on the waste reduction side, they'd manage a zero waste event.

Goodman recommended they coordinate dates around the September Sustainability Summit.

About BUIs – He was in contact with database folks for Tumor/DELTA data, to see what they have and what they don't have, will hand off to fish and wildlife service, hoping to fill gaps.

Jo Ann Banda reported that US Fish and Wildlife can fill in what's needed.

Re the Fish Consumption BUI – Ted sent the request to GLNPO, it came back to Chad, who made revisions with Zawiski, Beth Murphy helped with tech review, they are hoping to get removal approval by the end of September.

Dredging - He doesn't think we'll have a problem getting it removed. We have beneficial uses now, new rules will be out by the end of the year. Contamination doesn't preclude removal, since it can all be used somewhere.

Eutrophication – USGS will be looking at data we have to determine if Mogadore is an outlier or what could be done. The last resort would be to change the AOC boundary in that part of the HUC.

Simon asked: Are we only looking at Mogadore with historical data, or does new algae data apply?

Greenland responded that the guidance is about persistence, and beach occurrences isn't persistent.

Meiring – Kevin Kayle did show that it's not a problem in the lower Cuyahoga. Info from the AOC conference discussed the issue that the removal criteria was based on the original situation that the guidance was based on. In other words, we only have to deal with the original problem, not new ones.

Frank stressed that we have momentum!

Jane gave the quarterly CRR update: The deliverables are on track, as is the subgrant budget through the first grant quarter (April 1 – June 30.) She is preparing the RFP for ship channel behind-the-bulkhead fish habitat design work. Secretariat services for April 24 AOC meeting, June 27 SIP meeting, May 31 and June 14 Outreach meetings. Arranged AOC conference travel reimbursement requests. Attended AOC Conference and GLRI update meeting. Arranged May 5 Press Event, issued releases, promoted event, purchased new podium and literature display equipment.

Made presentations to Peninsula Garden Club, Doan Brook Partnership Board

Exhibited at Zoo – Party for the Planet, and rainy Ramble

Participated in Euclid Creek Spillway discussions, represented AOC on Doan Brook Board

Applied for Alliance for Great Lakes grant (unfunded,) Mud Brook (Stow) riparian planting grant (funded.)

Media -

E-news – April, May, June

News5 interview re algae

Freshwater CLE article

AP News interview

Petkovic/PD story

May 5 TV coverage (WKYC-Ch3)

Special Projects

Working with Great Lakes Brewery and Geis on fish habitat and trail (with Metroparks) along Scranton Peninsula.

New Business

Pat Gsellman updated the committee on Akron's CSO program: It's working well, tunnels making great progress, in rock now, drilling out 100 feet a day, got through downtown, a little behind, looking at putting into service in spring next year. Ahead of schedule on regular treatment. Next year bids out for bio treatment facility. Through public comment step for the second amendment to their consent decree.

Robert Brand reported that students from CWRU and CCBH have been interviewing anglers on fish consumption, knowledge of contamination, cooking preparation. New connection with Catholic Charities to reach out to Bhutanese refugees in Cuyahoga County like Summit Metroparks is doing with immigrant populations overfishing. Their cultures don't have a problem with tumors. Their perception of nature is different, they don't consider the health impacts of industrial contamination. Have needs for more research - updated info, analysis, more outreach hours since there's a lot of night fishing.

Chad – He has no problem getting him their data, but he's heard from his management that the health departments are, or should be, taking the lead.

Brand – There's a great need for education, also to east Europeans. 64% of the people they surveyed don't know about restrictions or recommendations.

Signage needed, other languages. Pictographs with little English.

Frank reported there will be a Beach management conference October 24-25 in Independence. The Euclid Creek tunnel is going online step by step.

Could NEDO host the October 23 meeting? (NOTE: Yes. The October meeting will be held at 9:00am, at Ohio EPA Northeast District Office, 2110 East Aurora Road, Twinsburg, OH 44087.)

Meeting was adjourned at 10:38am (Motion by Greenland, second by Burns.)