



## **MINUTES**

### **Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee Meeting January 17, 2017 3:30 pm Watershed Stewardship Center, Parma, OH**

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Grieser at 3:32 pm.

Present: J. Goodman, B. McCleary, B. Hughes, L. Minnig (for J. Hadley), M. Borchers, J. Grieser, G. Gallucci, P. Gsellman, E. Marsh, J. Rybka, F. Greenland, C. Posius, S. Hardy, H. Simon, A. Brennan, K. Bradley, T. Denbow

New Members: L. Jackson, H. Stark, J. Zevenbergen,

Ex-Officio: R. Brandenburg, T. Conlin, L. Petit, P. Hillman,

Absent: A. Togliatti, A. Ball, J. Howington, E. Brown-Armstrong, J. Gregory, B. Stubbs, P. Henry

Staff: Kacey Zeiser

Guests: J. Jenkins, K. Lawson, P. Davis, R. Brand

### **Welcome**

Chairwoman Grieser gave a welcome and asked those present to introduce themselves.

### **Annual General Elections**

J. Grieser reviewed the protocols for voting. All members abstained from voting for themselves.

J. Grieser read the resolution for the election of the members of the Class of 2017 Area of Concern Advisory Committee.

Ellen Brown Armstrong

Rebecca McCleary

Harry Stark

Claire Posius

Meiring Borchers

Frank Greenland

Jenn Grieser

Joe Hadley

Bill Hughes

Patrick Henry

Bryan Stubbs

Jacquelyn Zevenbergen

Leila Jackson

Pat Gsellman

There was no discussion about the slate of candidates. Motion to elect these members was made by A. Brennan. The motion was unanimously approved after second by H. Simon. Members abstained from voting for themselves.

Next, J. Grieser read the resolution electing the Committee and Subcommittee chairs. There was no discussion. A. Brennan moved to elect the following Chairs:

Chair: J. Grieser

Vice Chair: M. Borchers

Governance: B. Stubbs  
Strategic Implementation: F. Greenland  
Public Outreach: R. McCleary, S. Hardy

Motion was unanimously approved after second by J. Goodman.

A. Brennan then made a motion to adjourn the meeting of annual general elections. K. Bradley seconded. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.

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### **Quarterly Advisory Committee Meeting**

Meeting was called to order at 3:45 pm by Chairwoman Grieser.

### **Approval of Minutes**

J. Grieser asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. E. Marsh commented she was present at the meeting, and her name is listed in both categories. K. Zeiser to make the change. M. Borchers made the motion to approve the minutes with this change, seconded by A. Brennan. All were in favor.

### **Public Comment**

The meeting was opened to public comment. No comments were given. J. Grieser took this time to thank everyone for their hard work over the last year. She thanked the public outreach committee and SIP committees for their work. She especially thanked the Chairs of the committee for their dedication as well as CRR for their work staffing and executing the committee's work.

### **Old Business**

Letters of Support for Summit Metro Parks, Clean Ohio Fund

J. Grieser thanked the committee for their cooperation for the approval of the letter of support for Summit Metro Parks that happened over email. She had to turn down another request because for a letter of support because the request did not come in advance enough to turn the letter around. We require at least 24-48 hours to vote via email. Committee asked who the request was from. J. Grieser said the project was City of Cleveland stormwater retrofit project with GLRI funds.

Aquahacking: United for Lake Erie

Event will happen in May 2-3, 2017. Committee questioned if Cleveland Metroparks is involved. J. Grieser stated CMP will provide mentorship and data depending on the challenge statements.

### **New Business**

Proposed rule changes for public notification of CSO discharges. J. Grieser asked if the committee wants to submit comments as a whole for this rule or do it individually? J. Goodman to put the document on the member's only page. To bring the group up to speed, J. Grieser read the summary of the rule. P. Gsellman shared the City of Akron is prepping comments, which he can share with the committee for reference. His concern is the frequency of public notification. F. Greenland also has an internal group looking at this. NEORS system is larger than Akron's and he believes there must be a good public notification operation in place, but at a reasonable cost. NEORS comments will address this concern. E. Marsh shared her concern is the definition of potential health impacts and that should be added in. H. Simon wondered what our committee's role will be? J. Grieser said that is the question on the table, do we want to draft comment as a committee?

J. Grieser asked if committee thinks we will all have similar enough comments/opinions that we should write one document? B. Hughes believes individuals will have differing enough opinions. P. Davis questioned if comment on CFR is necessary. She wonders if the ruling will help the general public understand and how can we comment to help the public understand? P. Gsellman also believes there are opposing positions in the committee. J. Goodman clarified she believes the rule is more about where and how notification happens. F. Greenland is focused on the education aspect too, saying point source discharges can do better about educating, it is necessary to have targeted statements and not waste the environmental dollars. He also thinks the opinions will be too differing on the committee. K. Bradley brought up the idea of partnering with weather websites and apps that public already checks daily to get the information out.

J. Grieser said she heard a variety of opinions and suggests that the committee takes the time and reviews the proposal. If committee decides to move forward, CRR will help to draft something up. P. Gsellman and F. Greenland to send the comments from their organizations to CRR.

J. Grieser then informed the committee that J. McGowan submitted a resignation from the AOC committee when she changed positions. J. Grieser reminded the group that applications are as individuals not organizations. There is no slot open, it was filled up by new slate of applicants.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

Governance – Subcommittee is scheduled to meet in March to discuss a couple of topics. If committee has any concerns about governance, send to B. Stubbs or K. Zeiser. Communications go to all members. If you want to attend subcommittee meetings, it is up to members. If you want to change subcommittee, let K. Zeiser know.

Public Outreach – B. McCleary reported the Symposium in November was a success. She is happy to have S. Hardy as Vice Chair. They want to get a two-year plan in place for the goals and objectives of the subcommittee as well as get the 2019 celebration conversation going. Project Wet has been scheduled for June 19-21. That committee is meeting in early February with facilitators. R. McCleary asked for any ideas how to get AOC information in to the program. She is also asking everyone to use existing avenues for outreach to include AOC information wherever relevant. Subcommittee meetings will be scheduled soon.

P. Davis shared that she teaches at Cleveland State University and if you need volunteers, to let her know and she can send opportunities on to her students.

J. Grieser added the symposium was a great success and thanked CRR for support and to everyone how showed up or attended and helped out. She shared the positive responses from the survey, but we missed the mark on the displays as there was not enough time for people to browse them and the spacing was cluttered. J. Grieser said there are good comments for CRR and public outreach to use to move forward.

The AOC FB Page updates from E. Brown-Armstrong: 108 likes, increased engagement from symposium. She also requested that people let social media contact at their organizations know about the page and to like, comment, and incorporate us as applicable.

Strategic Implementation – F. Greenland had no update, just waiting for Tetra Tech work to be published.

## **OEPA Update**

T. Conlin reported that OEPA Central Office reviewed management action list. J. Grieser has copy to share with committee. Document is called, "SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT ACTIONS IN THE CUYAHOGA AREA OF CONCERN." T. Conlin gave a brief overview of the origin of the list, explaining it is the new way AOCs are supposed to operate. The management actions are all things necessary for AOC to delist. Last year, this list was mandated for the Cuyahoga AOC. The final list as over 100 projects/plans/assessments. The rating system used included relevance to GLRI funding vs benefit to delisting. T. Conlin emphasized it has to be a living document because there is data missing and projects that might get funded by other sources; he has calls in the next weeks to discuss possible funding. Next steps are uncertain to him because doesn't have experience with this, but it will be main topic of conversation of his meeting next week. He imagines, from this list, there will be a new list sent to GLNPO.

P. Davis asked what the committee's role is in the process, to endorse the document? T. Conlin said he isn't exactly sure either. M. Borchers said that the committee can support this as a living document to OEPA, as our role is to advise. Committee should come up with something to send to OEPA saying we want a review process and ability to comment on the changes that might occur. J. Grieser proposed a method similar to target for delisting support letter. Strategic Implementation Committee could review and then recommend to the full committee what to do. Document will be uploaded to the members only page. Members asked what the expectation is from OEPA. At the moment, there is no expectation, but committee will just handle this situation the same way as the delisting criteria. Members also asked about a timeline. T. Conlin has a GLNPO meeting end of February and would hope the committee has reviewed and submitted a letter by then.

T. Conlin then reviewed Cuyahoga River's status of delisting. See attached document.

Cuyahoga River Restoration: J. Goodman reported CRR is 3/4 of the way through the budget, but have spent a little more on then budgeted originally on materials. There has not yet been a public meeting because we didn't have a delisting issue to meet. She asked the committee to think about the public meeting topic, so we can meet 100% deliverables. CRR may ask the AOC to give us some of the funds raised from the symposium to do the fourth quarter work, if necessary. Instagram account has been started as 'cuyahogariver1.' Latest e-newsletter reached 1499 people; since then the list has grown to 1611. There was a 25% open rate, which is above average for nonprofit. CRR will now man river day. The event on May 20 will unveil river mile signs at Flats East Bank; currently in the process of getting other entities to join the celebration. We have been approached by Jack Johnson's (singer) nonprofit event about getting a booth at his concert at Blossom in June and want to make that a joint activity. CRR will be promoting Woods for Waters at Urban Forestry Conference. Recent grant applications include a grant with Cleveland Metroparks for USFWS funds, and are working on NFWF and LEPF grants. CRR is also working with CUDC for grant. Depave trainings are going on Feb-March. Question about how far river mile signs will stretch. J. Goodman reported just for Ship Channel going on the bulkheads, didn't go further because it wasn't a safety issue.

## **Announcements**

There were no announcements related to BUIs.

## **Events**

Great Lakes AOC Conference will be Wednesday, March 29 - Thursday, March 30, 2017 at Grand Valley State University Eberhard Conference Center, in Grand Rapids, MI. Funding requests due by

Feb 17. K. Zeiser asked committee to submit their requests to her by February 10. As of this meeting, no details on hotels have been posted, but keep checking the AOC conference website. J. Rybka may have a van to use for carpooling. J. Grieser recommended new members attend to put the work of this committee in perspective.

**Cuyahoga AOC Committee 2017 Meeting Schedule:**

New schedule: Comments on last year's meeting schedule lend to rotating days of the week and times this year. Remaining meeting schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, April 19 - 9:00am - 10:30am, Brushwood Pavilion
- Thursday, July 20 - 3:30pm - 5:00pm, CVNP
- Tuesday, October 17 - 9:00am - 10:30am, Notre Dame College

**Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by M. Borchers, seconded by E. Marsh. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:58pm.