



## **MINUTES**

### **Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee Meeting January 21, 2016 4:00 pm Watershed Stewardship Center, Parma, OH**

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Grieser at 4:03pm.

Present: Jennifer Grieser, Meiring Borchers, Bill Hughes, Jane Goodman, Patrick Gsellman, Frank Greenland, Joe Hadley, Howard Simon, Joe Gregory, Ellen Brown-Armstrong, Kathleen Bradley, Jan Rybka, Bryan Stubbs, Pamela Davis (for Grace Gallucci), Becky McCleary, Cathi Lehn (for Jenita McGowan), Claire Posius, Amy Brennan, Elaine Price, Tom Denbow, Babette Gowda  
New Members: Alison Ball, Jane Howington, Anthony Togliatti, Scott Hardy  
Ex-Officio: Ted Conlin  
Absent: Derek Schafer, Bob Gardin, Mike Johnson, Elaine Marsh  
Staff: Kacey Zeiser, Peter Bode  
Guests: Kevin Kratt, Arrye Rosser, Jim Ridge, Nick Turner, Kristin Hall, JoAnn Banda, Terry Robison

### **Quorum**

With 21 of 25 voting members present, a quorum was reached for any actions requiring a vote.

### **Welcome**

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

### **Annual General Elections**

J. Grieser read the resolution for the re-election of these members for the Class of 2016 Area of Concern Advisory Committee.

Howard Simon	Mike Johnson
Kathleen Bradley	Tom Denbow
Amy Brennan	Joe Gregory
Jenita McGowan	Jane Goodman
Jan Rybka	Grace Gallucci

J. Grieser next read the resolution for the election of the new members of the Class of 2016 Area of Concern Advisory Committee.

Scott Hardy	Anthony Togliatti
Jane Howington	Alison Ball

Motion to elect these members was made by B. Hughes. The motion was unanimously approved after second by P. Davis.

Finally, J. Grieser read the resolution electing the subcommittee chairs. J. Rybka moved to elect the following Chairs:

Governance: B. Stubbs

Strategic Implementation: G. Greenland

Public Outreach: R. McCleary

Motion was unanimously approved after second by J. Goodman.

J. Goodman then made a motion to adjourn the meeting. K. Bradley seconded. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:08.

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### **Quarterly Advisory Committee Meeting**

Meeting was called to order at 4:08pm by Chairwoman Grieser.

With 24 of 26 voting members present, a quorum was reached for any actions requiring a vote.

### **Approval of Minutes**

J. Grieser asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. A. Brennan made the motion, which was seconded by B. Stubbs. All were in favor.

### **Public Comment**

The meeting was opened to public comment. No comments were given.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

Governance - B. Stubbs had no updates. The work of this subcommittee was to select the new members of the Advisory Committee elected today.

Public Outreach – B. McCleary had no news to report, as she was just elected to the position. She announced that she intends to get reorganized and to have goals set for 2016. She would like to meet quarterly depending on what the committee must review. She also asked for questions or suggestion or volunteers, of which there were none at the time.

Strategic Implementation - F. Greenland reported the committee met on December 15, 2015. This meeting focused on the Ohio EPA work plan and Tetra Tech's involvement, including what BUI removals we can move forward with, identifying projects/management actions/studies for the rest of the BUIs, and assessing data needs. He announced the meeting Jan. 22nd with the subcommittee to look at Tetra Tech's work to date. Committee questioned what data is missing and is historical data the issue. K. Kratt clarified there is a 10 year rule on data, but the issue is more data gaps – that in some places it just doesn't exist.

J. Grieser reminded Committee members that each of them is supposed to be active on a subcommittee. *She encouraged new members to talk to the chairs to find out more about the work of each subcommittee and then to let K. Zeiser know what you are interested in.*

### **OEPA Update**

T. Conlin updated the Committee on the BUI removal documents he is preparing. He has stalled work on these documents because GLNPO and Ohio EPA have changed the procedure on how to review the documents. They are meeting soon to review this new procedure.

Ducks Unlimited called to inquire about the Pleasant Valley project and asked if the AOC would support them. They also asked if there were more projects on the horizon because they have funding. T. Conlin gave them three projects, Solinski Park , 303 culvert, and Pleasant Valley. They will be asking for a letter of support from AOC committee, which T. Conlin will send to committee for review. A question was raised if the whole group would need to approve letter of support and the answer was yes. J. Goodman moved to authorize T. Conlin, along with the Chair and Vice Chair, to write and provide a letter of support to NOAA for the Ducks Unlimited project. K. Bradley seconded. No opposed or abstaining. All in favor.

T. Conlin also reported that the Committee will get a new document on BUI removal process. There will be a document passed around soon with a summary of the changes. The EPA is going to ask this Committee to adopt or not adopt this document or come up with own regional targets for removing BUIs. T. Conlin reminded the group it can also say it reserves the right at the later date to change these regional targets. CRR will post the summary document on the website when it is available.

Committee asked a question about the GLNPO changes and what the impact will be. T. Conlin announced that GLNPO is going to reorganize. As for the changes for reviewing these BUI documents, T. Conlin said GLNPO scientists will have an internal review, which did not happen before.

### **Cuyahoga River Restoration**

J. Goodman provided a report to the Committee of CRR' work. We are 3 months before the end of the current gap support grant. We have started working on fact sheets for each of the sub watersheds, but need the finished habitat plans in first before we can finalize the fact sheets. P. Bode is taking the lead on the habitat plans (will have it by June). J. Goodman worked on the Mill Creek Watershed Partnership display pieces, a new brochure, and signs (which have gone up throughout the watershed). Grants have been submitted for impervious surface removal; OEEF and Urban Watersheds grant applications are in right now. K. Zeiser is gearing up for the second round of habitat installations this spring and monitoring will begin as soon as the weather breaks. Monitoring will be both 1) are they standing, 2) have they collected floating debris as well as 3) are small fish using them. Presence/absence is what we are looking for. CRR is taking responsibility for the County habitats as well. Safety Task Force Safety card has been finished. CRR is tentatively planning a forest summit in the coming months. Meetings for the Dredge Task Force will come soon. The Cooperative Weed Management Area invasives brochure is also in progress.

### **Tetra Tech**

K. Kratt explained the work they have done so far, which is mostly data focused, sorting through and understanding the data from Ohio EPA and CRR. CRR has done extensive work and Tetra Tech is reviewing it. The management actions list has been updated and Tetra Tech will be doing an in depth explanation of methodology and scoring as reviewed by the SIP committee meeting the next day. Costs still need to be added to the management actions. Finally, they are working on an updated aesthetics survey to help T. Conlin with the aesthetics BUI.

## **Announcements**

### Subwatersheds:

Euclid Creek - Working on habitat plans and planning events to encourage public involvement for the watershed.

TNC - Waiting to hear about the 319 grant, which could add staff on behalf of Lake Erie Central Basin Collaborative.

Tinker's Creek – Received funding for conceptual plans. Seven habitat focused designs were done and currently getting feedback from the public/community. Looking for areas where land can be preserved. B. Gowda is also helping CRR with the CWMA invasives workshops.

West Creek - May be moving forward with preservation of 90 acres next to West Creek. Property has 27 structures on it currently. This is not final yet, but there is a meeting next week to discuss. [Note: NRAC approved funding through Clean Ohio for this parcel, as well as other's within the AOC.]

CMP – Had the design kick off for Acacia Reservation, which includes 10 acres of wetland restoration and ~500 ln. ft. of Euclid Creek main stem as well as tributary daylighting. Construction to begin in fall 2016.

### Events

J. Grieser reminded the Committee of the Model Codes Presentation by Chagrin River Watershed Partners that will take place following this meeting.

Great Lakes AOC Conference travel funding due to K. Zeiser this week. J. Grieser encouraged the Committee to go because last year was really enlightening. It's a two day, one night commitment, March 2-3, 2016 in Dearborn, Michigan.

CRR is accepting the honor of presenting RIVERDAY, May 21, 2016, which will have activities throughout the watershed. It will be a collection of activities done by different organizations, municipalities, groups, not necessarily just in the AOC.

CVNP and Akron League of Women Voters will be having a lyceum lecture on FEBRUARY 26 to talk about the Cuyahoga River. The BioBlitz is May 21, which will be CVNP RiverDay event.

Planning for 2019 – T. Conlin brought up that 2019 is quickly approaching and asked if the group would be interested in finding funding for a celebration video, like he did for the Black River ([videos HERE](#)). Committee seemed to like this idea and would like to explore it further. Deferred to future Public Outreach subcommittee meeting.

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

Dates for this year's meetings will be Apr 21, July TBD, and Oct 20, in the afternoons. July meeting will hopefully be a half day field trip to the Black River. Doodle poll for July date will be coming soon.

### **Adjourn**

A. Brennan motioned to adjourn; F. Greenland seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:13pm.