



MINUTES

Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee Meeting, February 11, 2015 Cleveland Metroparks West Creek Stewardship Center

Meeting called to order 4:15pm

Present-

Members: Jennifer Grieser, Meiring Borchers, Patrick Gsellman, Kevin Kayle, Frank Greenland, Victoria Mills, Derek Schafer, Jenita McGowan, Kathleen Bradley, Bob Gardin, Bryan Stubbs, Elaine Price, Babette Gowda, Meg Plona, Ellen Brown-Armstrong, Maia Peck

Staff: Jane Goodman, Lynn Garrity,

Chairwoman Grieser welcomed the Committee to the West Creek Stewardship Center, called for introductions of attendees, and called the meeting to order.

The January 15, 2015 meeting minutes were approved with no corrections, by unanimous vote.

Operating Procedures

J. Grieser and B. Stubbs provided an overview of the development of the Cuyahoga AOC Advisory Committee operating procedures. The Governance Committee is using the operating procedures drafted by Partners for Clean Streams, the Maumee AOC's local Facilitating Organization, for the Maumee AOC Advisory Committee, as the template to review and revise. The Governance Committee is reviewing for its applicability to the Cuyahoga AOC Committee structure, legal and financial responsibilities and its goal for collaboration among Committee members. The document reminds the body of its purpose as a unified voice around delisting issues, and provides clarity regarding the role of members on the committee, focused on continuity, dedication, and involvement.

Questions arose as to the meaning and appropriateness of the financial section, seeing as how this body does not have a budget or handle money. F. Greenland and J. Goodman gave examples of Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) funding, and Goodman explained that CRR was created with the express purpose of receiving and expending funds Cuyahoga AOC's behalf, and would continue to do so.

The timeline and tasks for the operating procedures are as follows: the Governance Committee will discuss changes with OEPA, make revisions, and submit a recommendation to the full AOC Committee for its review by the end of February; finalize approval and distribute applications by early March for a four-week application period with follow-up review by the Governance Committee, which will then review applications and report back at the April 16 general meeting

Chair Grieser noted that the current Governance Committee is serving as an interim committee until the structure and membership are reviewed and adopted.

Application Process for Appointment of Advisory Committee members

Chair Grieser discussed the need and purpose for all current and potential Committee members to apply to serve on the Advisory Committee. This process will ensure full participation by committee members and their commitment to the mission and responsibilities of the Committee. The Governance Committee will use the Maumee AOC application template and send out to current Committee members. The Governance Committee will also serve as the interim review body of applications for the Advisory Committee. The application will also include determination of organization/entity, alternate representative where applicable, and Sub-Committee participation choices. The application process will move forward before the April general meeting, including nominations of officers. In future years, this process would occur at the January AOC meeting.

E. Price asked what types of organizations is the Advisory Committee looking for. Chair Grieser stated that the Governance Committee has asked CRR to compile a list of present and past members of the RAP Coordinating Committee and their periods of participation to determine any gaps in Committee member representation.

Chair Grieser recognized the need for a public comment period at this and all meetings. This will be a part of each of the Committee's meeting agenda in the future. No public comments were received at this meeting.

Cuyahoga River Restoration (CRR), the local Facilitating Organization, provides notices on the AOC website and through its newsletters on the dates of the public meetings and will post the 2015 dates.

K. Bradley asked how notices of the applications, and for that matter meeting notices, are publicized. Staff responded that they are posted on the website, the facebook page, the Twitter feed, the e-newsletter, and in supplemental emails to the e-news list.

Chair Grieser provided an overview of the proposed sub-committees for the Advisory Committee for 2015. The Sub-Committees were obtained from the AOC Framework Guidance. These include: Governance, Strategic Implementation, Public Outreach and an ad hoc Recruitment/Selection Committee. She remarked that public engagement and outreach are a major role of the Cuyahoga AOC.

As part of the member application process, members can submit their choices for serving on Committees. Chair Grieser asks that each member serve on at least one subcommittee and that the General meetings will serve for reporting on the subcommittees' work.

Discussion was conducted on Ohio Ethics law applicability and the issue that almost everyone currently on the Advisory Committee, except the public members, was either a public official or employee, or represented an organization that receives, or could receive, public monies through grants. Goodman and Stubbs suggested that a conflict of interest policy and disclosure should suffice. Chair Grieser stated that the Governance Committee is working on a conflict of interest policy and using a template from CRR and West Creek Conservancy (WCC) for members. This will be presented at the April 16th General Advisory Committee meeting. CRR will also work to provide webinar links on Ohio Ethics and Sunshine laws for public involvement to Committee members.

L. Garrity provided an overview of the Public Meetings being held on February 25 and 26. The meetings' intent is to widen public involvement among stakeholders within the Cuyahoga AOC. Chair Grieser requested that members who would like to serve as volunteers at the BUI poster stations should contact

L. Garrity. L. Garrity will provide more information on poster content/logistics prior to the meeting for any volunteer committee members. J. McGowan did request that future meeting locations include opportunities for transit-oriented options for participants to attend. Outreach for the public meetings was discussed. CRR will link the notice to the CMP facebook site and CRR also asked Advisory Committee members to post and send out to its member organizations and websites. CRR will pull together oral or written comments it receives at the meetings as a summary report to the Advisory Committee.

Chair Grieser informed the Advisory Committee of the notice for comment from USACE for its Field Sampling Plan for the Navigation Channel. CRR will distribute to members by the end of this week. Send comments back to Chair Grieser or L. Garrity by February 17th and they will compile for a formal submission by the Cuyahoga AOC Committee if feasible.

Travel reimbursement and scholarships are available for the Great Lakes AOC Conference and River Rally through CRR. Any members that wish to attend and take advantage of these should notify Chair Grieser or J. Goodman by February 13 for the AOC Conference and February 19 for River Rally.

CRR Quarterly Update.

J. Goodman provided copies of the OEPA delisting sub-grant quarterly fiscal report and work plan report. The Biennial River Symposium is being tentatively scheduled for October 16, 2015. B. Stubbs made CRR aware of the Kent State Water Symposium on October 15, 2015 and the opportunity to collaborate the two events and its outreach and attendance.

L. Garrity provided an update on current available grants, some of which require Cuyahoga AOC letters of support as part of the application. L. Garrity sent out notification to potential applicants for the AOC Land Acquisition Grant. She has received no notification from any party for grant submission for that grant. No other Committee members notified the Committee at the meeting on potential grant submissions of the grants outlined.

L. Garrity provided an updated implementation project list which will be part of the Stage 2 report. The list is focused largely on habitat-related BUI's. L. Garrity will send this updated list electronically to members and will assist as a guide for the Strategic Implementation Sub-Committee for prioritization and funding proposals toward BUI delisting.

Additional Questions:

Regarding the status of the Progress Report: J. Goodman discussed the change of data methodology requested by OhioEPA. CRR is modifying its methodology and the results in its Progress Report to reflect these changes. CRR and M. Borchers discussed OEPA's desire for consistency of methodology across the various AOC's in Ohio.

B. Stubbs inquired about the role of the Cuyahoga AOC Advisory Committee related to advocacy on issues such as GLRI budget reductions, Executive Orders on open lake disposal, public comment on dredging and other items currently issued. He requested that discussion take place at a future meeting regarding how the Committee will conduct advocacy.

B. Gowda announced that registration is open for the Ohio Stormwater Conference. She also announced the Tinkers Creek Day will be held on October 4, 2015 in Beachwood.

Chair Grieser outlined the 2015 meeting schedule for the Advisory Committee. Will review October 15, 2015 meeting date due to the fact that Kent Sates Water Symposium will be on that day too. All locations for meetings to be determined.

CRR will be supplying a draft Progress Report for Committee member review in the coming week. CRR will also be supplying a draft Stage 2 Update for Advisory Committee review by early March 2015.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm