



**Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee**  
**MINUTES**  
**1.23.2023**  
Virtual

Annual General Elections

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**Welcome & Introductions**

**Attendees:**

Voting Members: Carly Beck, Peter Bode, Robert Brand, Ana Burns, Pamela Davis (alternate for Joe MacDonald), Frank Greenland, Jennifer Grieser, Pat Gsellman, Joe Hadley, Scott Hardy, Bill Hughes, Whitnye Long Jones, Elaine Marsh, Elaine Price, Tom Rayburn, Jordyn Stoll

Ex-Officio/Resource: Amber Bellamy, Hannah Boesinger, Russ Brandenburg, Kristin Hall, Bryan Hinterberger, Leah Medley, Kairsten Nitsch, Dave Ritter, Beth Sparks-Jackson, Justin Telep, Curt Wagner

Guests: Kimberly Brewster-Shefelton, Aidan Hall, Jennifer Heard, Julianne Kurdila, Nichole Lopez, Samantha Martin, Erica Matheny, Bryce Pulley, Megan Smith, Elizabeth Smith, Katie Wells

**Election of Members** – See proposed resolution on page 5. Motion to approve the slate of candidates from Ana Burns, seconded by Elaine Price.

In favor: Carly Beck, Peter Bode, Robert Brand, Ana Burns, Pamela Davis, Frank Greenland, Pat Gsellman, Joe Hadley, Scott Hardy, Bill Hughes, Elaine Marsh, Elaine Price, Tom Rayburn, Jordyn Stoll.

Motion to approve the slate of candidates from Ana Burns, seconded by Elaine Price.

Approved by a majority voting members

**Appointment of Subcommittee Leadership** – See proposed resolution on page 6. In favor: Carly Beck, Peter Bode, Robert Brand, Ana Burns, Pamela Davis (alternate for Joe McDonald), Frank Greenland, Pat Gsellman, Joe Hadley, Scott Hardy, Bill Hughes, Whitnye Long Jones, Julianne Kurdila, Elaine Marsh, Samantha Martin, Erica Matheny, Elaine Price, Bryce Pulley, Megan Smith, Jordyn Stoll, Tom Rayburn, Katie Wells

Motion to approve the slate of candidates from Ana Burns, seconded by Elaine Price.

Approved by a majority of voting members.

**Adjourn**



**Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee**  
**MINUTES**  
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Quarterly Advisory Committee Meeting

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**Attendees:**

Voting Members: Carly Beck, Peter Bode, Robert Brand, Ana Burns, Pamela Davis (alternate for Joe MacDonald), Frank Greenland, Jennifer Grieser, Pat Gsellman, Joe Hadley, Scott Hardy, Jennifer Heard, Bill Hughes, Whitnye Long Jones, Julianne Kurdila, Nichole Lopez, Elaine Marsh, Samantha Martin, Erica Matheny, Elaine Price, Bryce Pulley, Tom Rayburn, Elizabeth Smith, Megan Smith, Jordyn Stoll, Katie Wells

Ex-Officio/Resource: Amber Bellamy, Hannah Boesinger, Russ Brandenburg, Kristin Hall, Bryan Hinterberger, Leah Medley, Kairsten Nitsch, Dave Ritter, Beth Sparks-Jackson, Justin Telep, Curt Wagner

Guests: Kimberly Brewster-Shefelton, Aidan Hall

**Approval of Minutes of October 17, 2022** - Motion to approve by E. Price, seconded by A. Burns. All in favor with no abstentions.

**Public Comment**

None

**Presentation**

None

**Old Business**

- Life after delisting ("Cuyahoga Next") –E. Price (See attachment pg. 7)
  - Autumn 2022 gathered baseline info on how other AOCs are determining life after delisting
  - Survey of AOC members in March
  - After April quarterly meeting will have facilitated session focused on Cuyahoga Next
  - Starting in Summer 2023 take this package and have conversations with other organizations that have interest in the River
  - September, invite reps from interested organizations to have a mini summit

**New Business**

- Newly elected Members short introductions – All New Members
- Review of Advisory Committee Member commitments and requirements – J. Grieser (see attachment pg.8)
  - Conflict of Interest Form to be sent with meeting minutes
  - Signed alternate appointment letter from organization required
  - 75% attendance required at quarterly meetings, attend at least 1 outreach event, serve on 1 subcommittee

- To National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Sustain Our Great Lakes for Cleveland Metroparks – *Crooked River Cooperative Weed Management Area (The Nature Conservancy)* -- J. Grieser
  - Being submitted – to fund a crew of individuals that can treat invasive plants at previously funded GLRI/SOGL project sites (e.g. Summit’s Valley View project)
  - Long term investment
  - AOC Advisory Committee will be voting digitally late January 2023/early February 2023 on letter of support
- Determine locations for 4/17 and 7/17 meeting
  - 4/17 – Cleveland Water Alliance – Magnet building not available. Still need a location (8:30a set-up, 9-10:30a business mtg, 10:45a- TBD facilitated Cuyahoga Next discussion)
  - 7/17 – Brief business meeting with a field trip aspect
    - Gorge Dam, possible field trip. Can potentially combine with 10/17 meeting instead.
  - 10/17 – Himmelright Lodge, Can be a hybrid meeting if desired.

#### **USEPA Great Lakes National Program Office Update – L. Medley**

- GLRI received \$38 million in funding
- Approvals for projects occurring January 2023, March 2023, and May 2023

#### **OLEC Update – H. Boesinger**

- 2023 priorities: Great Lakes Legacy Act projects (Old River Channel, Gorge Dam).
- Fish tumor report complete, in internal review. Next step is sending to USEPA technical resource aide. After that it will be sent to Cuyahoga AOC Advisory Committee. Expected Feb-April 2023.
- February 2023 – March 2023 H. Boesinger to be finalizing draft Beach Closing report.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife has leftover AOC funds for a mussel survey and project in Cuyahoga AOC. Will be conducted in watersheds within the AOC where the Benthos BUI is not meeting. Could support removal of Benthos BUI.
  - 2023 goal is to conduct mussel surveys and historical mussel data. Multiyear project.

#### **Facilitating Organization Update (Cuyahoga SWCD) – K. Nitsch**

- Quarterly Fiscal Report and Semi-Annual Program Report of new grant submitted.
- Major website update adding Project Overviews page
- Potential for contractor to update website
- New social media management system, Hootsuite. Well ahead of reporting requirements for social media.

#### **Subcommittee Updates**

##### **Overview of current subcommittee assignments – K.Nitsch**

- **Governance – E. Price**
  - Also leading Cuyahoga Next
  - Participation! Committee chairs track attendance
- **Public Outreach – S. Hardy**
  - Serve as liaison between AOC AC and members of the public and have a presence at community events
  - Try to further engage AOC community in restoration activities
  - Identify folks who haven’t been as big a part of the conversation – DEI
  - Champion of the River Celebration in November for Argonaut
    - Kick off ongoing support: Example - Stone Lab visit with Sea Grant and Argonaut – week long field trip in the future

- February/March 2023: Next Public Outreach/Education subcommittee meeting
- CSWCD looking for judges to judge AOC poster contest on May 3, 2023 10am-12:30pm
- **Strategic Implementation – F. Greenland**
  - Work with OEPA to drive delisting of the AOC, one BUI at a time.
  - Beach closing very complicated, driving towards document supporting removal
  - Developed a list of MAPs need to be implemented to help with the removal of the BUIs

**Announcements pertinent to BUI delisting activities**

- P. Gsellman – The placement area that is immediately below the Dam, started to do tree clearing. Governor has pledged \$25million towards the local share requirement.
- Vote for the Cuyahoga River in the best urban kayaking spot contest

**Cuyahoga AOC Committee 2023 Quarterly Meeting Schedule** Apr. 17 (TBD), Jul. 17 (TBD), Oct. 16 (Himelright Lodge)

**Adjourn**

## **Board Resolution of Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee**

### **Board Appointments and Reappointments**

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The following resolution is proposed for adoption by the Advisory Committee (the “Committee”) of the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following individuals are hereby elected to the Committee to a term beginning at the Board’s January 23, 2023 and ending December 31, 2025:

**Frank Greenland, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District**

**Jennifer Grieser, Cleveland Metroparks**

**Patrick Gsellman, Environmental Design Group/City of Akron**

**Joe Hadley, NEFCO**

**Jennifer Heard, Water Pollution Control**

**William Hughes, Public Member**

**Julianne Kurdila, Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.**

**Nichole Lopez, Summit Soil & Water Conservation District**

**Elaine Marsh, Summit Metro Parks**

**Samantha Martin, Cleveland Water Alliance**

**Erica Matheny, Tinker’s Creek Watershed Partners**

**Bryce Pulley, City of Cuyahoga Falls**

**Thomas Rayburn, Public Member**

**Elizabeth Smith, Doan Brook Watershed Partnership**

**Megan Smith, City of Akron - Water Supply Bureau**

**Katie Wells, Interlake Maritime Services**

**Board Resolution of Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee**

**Chair Appointments and Reappointments**

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**BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that the following individuals are hereby (re)elected to hold Officer positions of the advisory committee set forth opposite his or her name below to hold office through the first Steering Committee meeting of 2024:**

**Committee Chair: J. Grieser**

**Committee Vice-Chair: B. Hughes**

**Pursuant to this election of Officers, let the AOC Advisory Committee Members recognize the appointment, by the AOC Advisory Committee Chair, of the following members as sub-committee Chairs:**

**Governance Chair: E. Price**

**SIP Chair: F. Greenland**

**Outreach Chair: S. Hardy**