



**Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee**

**MINUTES**

**7.17.2023**

1548 Boston Mills Rd, Peninsula, OH 44264

Quarterly Advisory Committee Meeting (9a-10:30a)

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**Introductions**

**Attendees:**

Voting Members: Carly Beck, Peter Bode, Ana Burns, Pamela Davis (alternate for Joe MacDonald), Frank Greenland, Jennifer Grieser, Pat Gsellman, Joe Hadley, Emily Hamilton (alternate for Samantha Martin), Scott Hardy, Bill Hughes, Julianne Kurdila, Whitney Long Jones, Nichole Lopez, Stephen Love, Erica Matheny, Bryce Pulley, Elaine Price, Mike Sekerek (alternate for Robert Brand), Elizabeth Smith, Megan Smith, Jordyn Stoll

Ex-Officio/Resource: Hannah Boesinger, Russ Brandenburg, Christopher Davis, Ed Kender, Lynn Garrity, Kristin Hall, Leah Medley, Kairsten Nitsch, Julie Olivo, Beth Sparks-Jackson, Justin Telep, Ryan Trimbath

Guests: Laura Bonnell, Paul Trulio (alternate for Elaine Price), Christina Znidarsic (alternate for Ana Burns)

**Approval of Minutes of April 17, 2023**

*Motion to approve by J. Stoll, seconded by A. Burns. Motion passes with all in favor, E. Price abstains.*

**Public Comment**

**Old Business**

- Accessing SharePoint
- Alternate designation forms
- Marketing subgroup met to discuss new marketing strategy

**New Business**

- Vote on providing Letter of Support for BUI 4 Removal
- *Motion to approve by F. Greenland, seconded by P. Davis. Motion passes with all in favor, no abstentions.*
  - H Boesinger explained that response from GLNPO will be 30 days or so after submittal.

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

- GLRI Action plan still in public comment period, external draft estimated 2024
- Great Lakes AOC Conference happening September 12-14, 2023 in Green Bay, WI. Scholarship requests due by 7/21. J. Hall, M. Smith, N. Lopez expressed interest in attending & submitting for scholarship.

**OLEC Update – H. Boesinger**

- Sowinski Park is the second MAP complete.

- K. Nitsch to send out updated MAPs progress report with minutes after meeting.
- Post-monitoring on completed MAPs to occur either Summer 2023 or Summer 2024.
- Ohio AOC Symposium will be held sometime in November with “Officers” of Advisory Committee attending.

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

- Financial overview and reporting
  - Meeting or exceeding grant deliverables
  - So far have utilized 20% of grant dollars with three fiscal quarters remaining in the grant (9 months)
- Quarterly Newsletter
- K. Nitsch announced resignation with last day 7/21/2023 and position to be backfilled by CSWCD by EOY

#### **Subcommittee Updates**

##### Governance – E. Price

- Mid-year survey and new member recruitment
- K. Nitsch and E. Price to synthesize results, responses of personal nature will not be shared but responses to questions about functioning of the Committee will be shared as determined by Governance Subcommittee Chair.
- Cuyahoga Next slowing down, with next engagement activity tentatively scheduled for November with focus on bringing together Cuyahoga River focused entities that haven’t typically integrated in the past.

##### Public Outreach – S. Hardy

- Successfully completed at least a dozen outreach events, presentations, etc.
- Upcoming tabling events
  - Committed: 7/21 5p-8pm, Blazing Paddles, J. Stoll volunteers
  - Committed: 9/23 9am-4:30pm Clean Water Fest, Need volunteers
  - 10/12 Healing our waters conference, walking tour.
- S. Hardy and P. Bode working together to submit a Letter of intent to NOAA Climate Resilience Challenge grant focused on the Story of AOCs in the Lake Erie region.
- Question posed of claiming a “Sister River,” e.g. in Mexico or Chile. Groups working on similar River restoration initiatives.
- BUI 4 Celebration proposed for November in combination with Champion of the River Celebration
- Brand Refresh is getting started soon with assistance from S. Hardy, S. Martin, N. Lopez, E. Matheny
- K. Hall reminds Committee that 1 week minimum needed if requesting a Letter of Support from AOC Committee
- E. Price questioned if there is AOC information posted in NPS (CVNP) visitor and nature centers. NPS does not believe there are dedicated panels to the AOC.

##### Strategic Implementation – F. Greenland

- Last few months have been focused on reviewing the BUI 4 removal document and making recommendations to committee.
- Ready to review and move on to BUI 10 (Beach closings)

#### **Announcements pertinent to BUI delisting activities**

- West Creek Flume construction has started, 1+ year anticipated construction time
- E. 185<sup>th</sup> Spillway progressing, waiting on clearance from the Railroad
- Irishtown Bend (Green Bulkhead) awarded \$60+ million construction contract to Goettle, Inc.
- Gorge Dam and CROC projects will be hosting public meetings in the next 4-9 months

**Presentation on AOC Site Projects – C. Davis (NPS)**

**Adjourn**

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**Site visit to Ritchie Run at Brandywine Golf Course (10:30a-12:00pm)**