



Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee
MINUTES
1.22.2024
Virtual

Annual General Elections (9:00-9:13a)

Welcome

Attendees:

Voting Members: Peter Bode, Jennifer Grieser, Pat Gsellman, Joe Hadley, Scott Hardy, Jennifer Heard, Bill Hughes, Mike Johnson (alt. for Elaine Marsh), Julianne Kurdila, Whitney Long Jones, Stephen Love, Joe MacDonald, Samantha Martin, Erica Matheny, Elaine Price, Bryce Pulley, Thomas Rayburn, Jordyn Stoll, Katie Wells

Ex-Officio/Resource: Sarah Barrow, Hannah Boeseinger, Russell Brandenburg, Maureen Drinkard, Kristin Hall, Steve Holland, Seth Hothem, Ed Kender, Nichole Lopez, Leah Medley, Megan Shaeffer, Beth Sparks-Jackson, Curt Wagner

Guests: Laura Bonnell, Donna Friedman, Laura Gooch, Bruce Kole, Mark Matteson, Mike Sekerak, Justin Telep, Meghan Tinker Paynter, Erin Williams, Christina Znidarsic

Election of Members – See proposed resolutions on page 5. Motion to approve the slate of candidates from B. Hughes, seconded by E. Price.

In favor: P. Bode*, P. Gsellman, J. Hadley, J. Heard, B. Hughes, J. MacDonald*, E. Matheny, E. Price*, B. Pulley, T. Rayburn, J. Stoll*, K. Wells

*Abstaining from their own election.

Approved by majority of voting members.

(Re)Election of Officers – See proposed resolutions on page 6. Motion to approve the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair from E. Price, seconded by P. Gsellman.

In favor: P. Bode, D. Friedman, P. Gsellman, H. Hadley, S. Hardy, J. Heard, W. Long Jones, J. MacDonald, E. Matheny, E. Price, B. Pulley, T. Rayburn, M. Sekerak, J. Stoll, K. Wells, C. Znidarsic

Approved by majority of voting members.

Appointment of Subcommittee Leadership – see proposed resolutions on page 6.

Adjourn



Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee

MINUTES

1.22.2024

Virtual

Quarterly Advisory Committee Meeting (9:14-10:40a)

Attendees:

Voting Members: Peter Bode, Donna Friedman, Jennifer Grieser, Pat Gsellman, Joe Hadley, Scott Hardy, Jennifer Heard, Bill Hughes, Mike Johnson (alt. for Elaine Marsh), Whitnye Long Jones, Julianne Kurdila, Stephen Love, Joe MacDonald, Samantha Martin, Erica Matheny, Elaine Price, Bryce Pulley, Thomas Rayburn, Mike Sekerak, Jordyn Stoll, Meghan Tinker Paynter, Katie Wells, Christina Znidarsic

Ex-Officio/Resource: Sarah Barrow, Hannah Boeseinger, Russell Brandenburg, Maureen Drinkard, Kristin Hall, Steve Holland, Seth Hothem, Ed Kender, Nichole Lopez, Leah Medley, Megan Shaeffer, Beth Sparks-Jackson, Curt Wagner

Guests: Laura Bonnell, Laura Gooch, Bruce Kole, Mark Matteson, Justin Telep, Erin Williams

Approval of Minutes of October 16th, 2023 – Motion to approve by B. Hughes, seconded by J. MacDonald. All in favor with no abstentions.

Public Comment – None.

Presentation

- Outreach & Engagement in the Cuyahoga AOC – W. Long Jones
 - Open discussion on current expectations/methods, suggested improvements, and target audiences.
 - Reference: Cuyahoga AOC Institutional Analysis by Ohio Sea Grant & Stone Lab.

Old Business

- Great Lakes AOC Conference
- Recognition of Retiring and Resigning Members
- Cuyahoga River Next – E. Price, T. Rayburn
 - Serves as an external committee dedicated to planning for life after delisting of the Cuyahoga River.
 - Recap: Cuyahoga Next Summit – Nov. 16th, 2023
 - Review of post-summit survey results = positive feedback and strong indications of desire to continue to collaborate.

New Business

- Newly elected members short introductions – All New Members (C. Znidarsic, M. Tinker Paynter, M. Sekerak, and D. Friedman)
- Review of Advisory Committee Member commitments and requirements – J. Grieser (see att. on pg. 7)
 - Submission Required: Conflict of Interest Form and Signed Alt. Appt. Letter
 - New Member Orientation: TBD

- N. Lopez will coordinate the best date with new members. New members can also reach out to J. Grieser for a one-on-one conversation about the AOC.
- Letter of Support for Facilitating Organization (CSWCD) – GLRI Support Grant 2024-2027
 - Draft application will be submitted Jan. 22nd, 2024. Final submission will be on Mar. 8th, 2024.
 - LOS will be sent for review via email and AOC Adv. Co. will vote digitally before the final due date.

USEPA Great Lakes National Program Office Update – L. Medley

- Continuing resolution extended until Mar. 8th, 2024. Thus, there is no budget for FY24 yet.
- Currently approving projects occurring during the second quarter in FY24, including the Little Cuyahoga River and Memorial Parkway project.

OLEC Update – H. Boesinger

- Recap: BUI #4 Fish Tumors/Deformities Removal Celebration – Nov. 16th, 2023.
- Cooperating with SIP Subcommittee to determine potential gaps within biological BUI sampling plan.
- Lynn Garrity, Lake Erie Program Administrator, to be replaced by Spring 2024.

Facilitating Organization Update (Cuyahoga SWCD) – K. Hall / N. Lopez

- GLRI Support Grant 2022-2024 ending on Mar. 31st. Proposed remaining expenses include, but are not limited to:
 - Third Space Action Lab’s REI Groundwater Training on D, E, & I – All Members
 - 2024 AOC Symposium – Mar. 15th at Happy Days Lodge
 - New branded gear for AOC Advisory Committee members
 - Brand refresh, digital marketing, and new outreach materials
 - New MAPs story map for the website
- GLRI Support Grant 2024-2027 starting on Apr. 1st. Proposed new deliverables include, but are not limited to:
 - Development of a community informed public involvement and engagement strategic plan
 - New website updates/refresh
 - (2) BUI Removals
 - (8) Complete MAPs
 - Continued D, E, & I Training

Subcommittee Updates

Overview of Current Subcommittee Assignments – N. Lopez

Governance – E. Price

- Handles the by-laws and procedures of the committee, plus member applications and recruitment.
- Annual work plan includes recruiting new members (specifically more developers) and annual mid-year member survey.
- Next meeting: Feb. 5th at 1:30p

Public Outreach – S. Hardy

- Guides education, communication, outreach, and engagement efforts on behalf of the AOC.
- CWRU Action Learning proposal for assistance with outreach and engagement for the pending Beach Closings BUI removal.
 - Call for participation from a new member with marketing/communications background.
- Request for proposals for the brand, social media, and marketing refresh was published Jan. 10th, 2024.

- Internal discussions initiated for how to better “tell the story” of AOC restoration via different mediums.
- Next meeting to be scheduled soon.
- Upcoming events:
 - River Rally Conference: May 13-16, 2024
 - Call for any interested member to co-present with J. Grieser on AOC - reply by Feb. 8.
 - Cleveland Waterfront Forum: Feb. 7th, 2024

Strategic Implementation – J. Stoll

- Reviews projects and BUI removal documents related to delisting of the AOC.
- Planning to coordinate with major environmental organizations (e.g. NEORSD, CMP, OEPA) to determine if additional sampling will be required for the biological sampling plan for BUIs #3, #6, and #14.
- Update and development of the MAPs GIS story map currently in progress. Scope of work to be finalized soon and quotes will be requested.
- Next meeting to be scheduled in the spring.

Announcements Pertinent to BUI Delisting Activities – None.

Cuyahoga AOC Committee 2024 Quarterly Meeting Schedule – Apr. 15 (TBD), Jul. 15 (TBD), Oct. 21 (TBD)

- Request for members to volunteer their organizations to host any upcoming meetings and nominate field trips for the meeting on Jul. 15th.

Adjourn

Board Resolution of Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee

Board Appointments and Reappointments

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 22, 2024 meeting and ending December 31, 2026:

Carly Beck, Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority

Peter Bode, Nature Center at Shaker Heights

Donna Friedman, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

Scott Hardy, The Ohio State University/Ohio Sea Grant

Whitnye Long Jones, Organic Connects

Stephen Love, Cleveland Foundation

Joe MacDonald, NOACA

Elaine Price, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission

Mike Sekerak, Cuyahoga County Board of Health

Jordyn Stoll, Trout Unlimited

Meghan Tinker Paynter, Canalway Partners

Christina Znidarsic, Davey Resource Group

Board Resolution of Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee

Chair Appointments and Reappointments

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 2025:

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: J. Stoll

Outreach Chair: S. Hardy

AOC VOTING MEMBER WORK AND RESPONSIBILITIES - *include, but are not limited to:*

- Committing to a two-year term starting in January
- Attending at least 75% of the meetings each year (usually held quarterly) (average ~2 hours/meeting);
- Assisting with at least one outreach/education event each year;
- Participating on at least one work group or subcommittee;
- Actively participating in making recommendations and voting on issues and other Advisory Committee business;
- Staying informed about what is going on in the Cuyahoga AOC, asking questions and requesting information;
- Acting in the best interests of the Cuyahoga AOC and recusing oneself from votes where there is (or may be perceived) a conflict of interest;
- Acting in full compliance with Ohio Ethics Law;
- Interpreting the Cuyahoga AOC's work and values for the community; and,
- Working in good faith with other Advisory Committee members, the Facilitating Organization, and Ohio EPA towards achievement of the agreed-upon common goals and priorities.