



Cuyahoga AOC Advisory Committee Information and Application

due by 5pm on October 31st, 2026.

The Cuyahoga Area of Concern (AOC) Advisory Committee invites you, as an individual or as a representative of your organization, to apply for membership on the Committee.

The Area of Concern includes the lower 46.5 miles of the Cuyahoga River, from the head of the Gorge Dam pool to Lake Erie, all the watersheds that drain to that stretch of the river, and watersheds that drain directly to Lake Erie from Edgewater to, and including, Euclid Creek. Over 75 towns, cities, and villages are located within the Cuyahoga AOC! You can learn more about the AOC at www.cuyahogaoc.org.

The Advisory Committee, in collaboration with the Ohio Lake Erie Commission, the U.S. EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office, and Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, its local Nonprofit Facilitating Organization, helps to steer the course to restore beneficial uses in the Cuyahoga AOC. The Committee performs the crucial task of advising state and federal partners on what projects and actions are needed to provide focused and expedited improvement to the Cuyahoga AOC by identifying strategic priorities, encouraging completion of needed management actions, and serving as the voice of the AOC community.

The Committee comprises organizations and individuals committed to working toward removal of the AOC from the list of Great Lakes waterways required to meet certain goals and to remove certain Beneficial Use Impairments. It is an important liaison with the local AOC community. The Advisory Committee's engagement is critical for ensuring that stakeholders and the public have input in the AOC delisting process.

We encourage those interested in this opportunity to apply for Advisory Committee membership. As you consider applying for membership on the Advisory Committee, please review the enclosed list of expectations and considerations. Selection will be made by a peer review team that will consider applications based on criteria that may include such things as diversity of organizational representation, individual skills or expertise insofar as they may contribute knowledge or resources related to removing beneficial use impairments (BUIs) in the near future, and other criteria designed to create an effective body.

The review team will choose a class of voting members from these applications to serve a two-year term commencing in January 2027 and ending with the first meeting in January 2029. Due to the high level of interest in participation on the Advisory Committee, the wealth of knowledge and resources offered by applicants, and the number of open seats on the Committee, a limited number of applicants will be appointed as voting members, and others will be invited to serve as resource members. Resource members include state and federal agency staff, and others whose participation and contributions are vital to the effectiveness of the Committee's work.

To be considered for membership, please complete the following application form, and submit it along with your employer/organization letter of support (if applicable) by **5pm on October 31st, 2026** to:

Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District
3311 Perkins Ave. | Suite 100 | Cleveland, OH 44114
or email to: info@cuyahogaoc.org

Cuyahoga AOC Advisory Committee

EXPECTATIONS and CONSIDERATIONS

The Cuyahoga AOC Advisory Committee members will:

- Commit to a 2-year term starting in January;
- Attend at least 75% of the full Advisory Committee meetings each year (usually held quarterly, average 2-4 hrs/mtg);
- Assist with at least one outreach/education event each year;
- Participate on at least one work group or subcommittee;
- Actively participate and engage in making recommendations on issues and other Advisory Committee business;
- Stay informed with what is going on in the Cuyahoga AOC, ask questions and request information;
- Act in the best interests of the AOC;
- Sign a Conflict of Interest statement each year and excuse themselves from discussions and votes where there is (or may be perceived) a conflict of interest*;
- Act in full compliance with Ohio Ethics Laws;
- Interpret the Advisory Committee's work and values to others; and
- Work in good faith with other Advisory Committee members, the Facilitating Organization, and Ohio EPA toward achievement of the agreed-upon common goals and priorities.

*Serving as a member of the Advisory Committee does not preclude a member's applying for or receiving any grants or contracts on their own behalf or in their normal course of business.

For more information on the roles and responsibilities of local AOC Advisory Committees, local AOC Facilitating Organizations and Ohio Lake Erie Commission program staff, consult the Framework for Implementing Ohio's Area of Concern Program: Supporting Ohio's Areas of Concern (2023). This document is available on Ohio Lake Erie Commission's website or click [here](#).



Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee 2026 Application Form

Name:		Title:
Company/Organization: <i>(if applicable)</i>		
Preferred Mailing Address:		
City:		State/Zip Code:
Daytime Phone:		Cell Phone:
E-mail:		
If applying as an individual/public member, city of residence:		

Preferred method of contact: ☐ Phone (daytime) ☐ Phone (cell) ☐ Email

1) Please check the category or categories you are applying to represent:

- ☐ Local Government (e.g. counties, cities, special districts or authorities)
- ☐ Business/Industry or representational organization (for-profit companies or organizations)
- ☐ Nonprofit Organizations (e.g. schools, colleges, 501(c)3 organizations, advocacy groups,) or Members of the Public (e.g. residents, landowners, concerned citizens)

2) Please check any skills, experience and interests you would like us to consider. (check all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ finance, accounting
☐ nonprofit experience
☐ policy development
☐ public relations, communications
☐ project management
☐ ecosystem evaluation (e.g. QHEI, ORAM)
☐ biological sampling (e.g. fish, bugs)
☐ sediment and water sampling | ☐ community service
☐ strategic planning
☐ social media
☐ outreach
☐ legal
☐ grant writing
☐ leadership
☐ program evaluation
☐ regulatory, permitting
☐ administration, management | ☐ education, instruction
☐ government relations
☐ technology management
☐ project development
☐ OTHER: _____
☐ OTHER: _____
☐ OTHER: _____ |
|---|---|---|

3) All Advisory Committee Members must serve on at least one subcommittee. Please select which subcommittee you would like to participate in. (Check all that apply).

- ☐ Governance & Recruitment
- ☐ Strategic Implementation
- ☐ Public Outreach

Please provide brief answers to the following questions. (2-4 sentences or a short list)

Please do NOT attach a resume or curriculum vitae. It will not be considered.

Decisions will be based on the answers to the following questions.

4) Describe your strengths and/or areas of expertise and how they would apply to the work of the Cuyahoga AOC Advisory Committee, specifically towards the task of removing Beneficial Use Impairments. Overall, how do you feel the Cuyahoga AOC Advisory Committee would benefit from your involvement?

5) Please list any education, training, or certifications you have that would assist you in serving on the Advisory Committee.

Description:

Received From:

Year Received:

Description:

Received From:

Year Received:

Description:

Received From:

Year Received:

6) Why are you interested in participating on the Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee?

7a) Please list any current volunteer commitments and/or other board(s) or committee(s) you serve on or have served on. *(i.e. business, civic, community, fraternal, profession, recreational, social)*

7b) Please provide a reference including their name, e-mail, and phone number of someone you currently or formerly volunteered or worked with. Please tell us your relationship to the referenced person.

8a) We recognize there may be a rare and unusual circumstance when you may not be able to attend an Advisory Committee or subcommittee meeting. In that event, it is best that you and/or your organization nominates a proxy to serve in your stead, only when necessary. Please indicate your approved proxy's name and contact information:

8b) If applying on behalf of a Local Government, Business/Industry, Academic Institution/Nonprofit Organization, the organization is the member of record, with you as their representative. Therefore, the organization must submit a letter of appointment on behalf of yourself and your proxy listed above. Will your company or organization support your time and commitment to the Cuyahoga AOC Advisory Committee?

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **Not applicable**

Please attach to this application a letter from an officer, on company/organization letterhead, confirming its support of your Advisory Committee membership.

9) Please list any groups, organizations, or businesses with whom you could serve as a community connection on behalf of the Advisory Committee.

10) Please share any other information that you feel may help us better understand your interests and commitment.

11) If you are not selected as a voting member, would you be willing to serve as a resource member on the Advisory Committee, working group, or subcommittee?

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

I certify that all answers and statements on this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that by submitting this form, I am not guaranteed an appointment to the Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee or any of its subcommittees. If not selected at this time, I understand that my application will be maintained for future consideration.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

**THANK YOU FOR APPLYING. Decisions on recommendations to the full Committee will be made and you will be notified by early December.
The full Committee will vote on appointments in January 2027.**

*When submitting by email please save your application file name in the following format:
LastName_FirstName_2027AOCCommittee_ApplicationForm.*

*Please submit complete applications to:
Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District | 3311 Perkins Ave. Suite 100 Cleveland, OH 44114
or by e-mail to info@cuyahogaoc.org*

Thank you for considering service on the Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee.

AOC Nomination & Alternate Letter of Support TEMPLATE

Date , 2026

Ms. Kate Wells
Chair – Governance Committee
Cuyahoga River AOC Advisory Committee
3311 Perkins Ave Suite 100
Cleveland, OH 44114

Dear Ms. Wells:

I am writing to request that **CANDIDATE NAME** serve as the representative of the **ORGANIZATION NAME** on the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern Advisory Committee for the upcoming two-year term commencing in January of 2027.

The **ORGANIZATION NAME** fully supports the important work undertaken by the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern Advisory Committee and is pleased to have a representative of our **agency/organization** serve on the Committee.

Should **CANDIDATE NAME** be elected, and recognizing there may be rare and unusual circumstances when they may not be able to attend an Advisory Committee or subcommittee meeting, this **agency/organization** appoints an Alternate as a proxy to serve in their stead, only when necessary.

I am appointing **ALTERNATE NAME** to serve as this Agency's alternate for the Area of Concern Advisory Committee for the duration of the term of our primary, elected member.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this nomination and feel free to contact me for additional information.

Sincerely,

NAME/TITLE
Contact information