

Ottawa River Coalition Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2024 8:00 am Perry TWP.
Annual Meeting

In attendance:

Joe Gearing, AC Engineer's Office
Adam Haunhorst, LACRPC
Kevin Cox, Perry Township
Beth Seibert, BOACC
Ron Meyer, Sanitary Eng.
Jessica Begonia, City of Lima
Casey Heilman, Allen SWCD
Jacob Prokop, Allen SWCD
Brad Niemeyer, Sanitary Eng.
Nathan Davis, AC Engineer's Office
Marissa Ganzfried, Ohio EPA

Lydia Archambo, Allen SWCD
Russ Decker, Nutrien
Marcus VanMeter, AC Engineer's Office
John Hoffman, Alloway
Megan Hurd, Alloway
Steve Webb, Guardian Energy, Lima
Sherry Bockey, Allen SWCD
Tyler Beemer, Allied Environmental Services Inc
Dakota Clay, City of Lima
Gary Kapoostasy, Blanchard River Watershed Partnership
Grace Brubaker, Ohio EPA

Quorum was met. Chairman, Joe Gearing called the meeting to order at 8:11 am.

Joe Gearing welcomed the group to the January 2024 Annual Meeting. Members introduced themselves.

2023 Ottawa River Coalition Awards

- Joe gearing presented the 2023 Awards to the following:
 - Watershed Impact meeting – Sherry Bockey
 - Watershed Partner Award – Beth Seibert
 - Volunteer of the Year Award – Leslie Riley

Joe Gearing introduced the minutes from November 2024 meeting.

Motion by Kevin Cox to approve the November 2024 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Russ Decker and carried.

Treasurer's Report

Financial Report-

- Russ Decker presented the January 2024 financial report as well as the 2023 annual report summery.
- The balance of our account as of 12/31/23 is \$14,611.87

Motion by Adam Haunhosrt to Approve January treasures report. Motion seconded by Casey Heilman and carried.

- Membership:
 - Allen SWCD
 - Village of Kalida
 - Village of Ada
 - Allen County Engineer's office
 - Hardin SWCD

- City of Lima
- The National Lima and Stone Company
- Allied Environmental Services Inc.
- Alloway
- Cenovus

Member Vote: All in favor of accepting these new members. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee-

- The executive committee met on December 21, 2023. Discussed was the following:
 - Annual meeting (should it stay a breakfast or return to a dinner event)
 - 2023 Awards

Fundraising Committee-

- Russ Decker gave an update on the fundraising event that was most talked about would be a day at Shoonover lake. Food truck samples included in ticket price, a “duck pull” for the kids and a fishing derby of sorts for adults.

Education Updates-

- Lydia Archambo brought up the 2024 Area 1 Envirothon hosted here in Allen County. If you would to sponsor the event reach out to Lydia.
- Lydia Archambo informs the coalition of the grant that was applied for with the Eagles. This is a project called “Tired of Tires” the coalition would like to help cover the cost of disposing of tires properly (This usually comes with a cost). This could turn into a larger event in the future.

Stormwater Committee-

- Lydia Archambo shared that post construction inspections have been underway. The amazing Allen SWCD summer intern turned winter intern Sara Phipps and new hire Jacob Prokop have been conducting those.
- Joe Gearing states that Marcus and the new county intern have been working on a lot of GIS projects, updates to the storm sewer system and 2 stage ditch projects. Joe asks for land owners interested to get involved so possible projects can happen.
- Dakota Clay and Jessica Begonia inform the group of some upcoming city projects

Scholarship Committee-

- Russ Decker celebrates the first year of scholarships to be a success!
 - Sara Phipps
 - Mitchell Kutz
 - Emma Core
- Year two applications will be accepted before you know it!!

Old Business

- 2024 ORC will be saying goodbye to the virtual option.

New Business

Slate of officers

Joe gearing nominates Adam Haunhorst for chairman and Ron Meyer for vice chair. Opening the floor to further nomination.

Motion by Ron Niemeyer to close nominations. Seconded by Adam Haunhorst, motion carried.

Member vote: All in favor of Adam Haunhorst standing as chairman and Ron Meyer as vicechair. Motion carried.

Lydia Archambo Presents now past Chairman Joe Gearing with a “Thank you for the past three years basket”.

Ohio EPA Presentation

- Lydia Archambo welcomed Marissa Ganzfried and Grace Brubaker from the Ohio EPA
- Marissa Ganzfried and Grace Brubaker gave a presentation on what they will be assessing for during the 2024 Water Quality and biological Study here in the Ottawa River.

Motion by Adam Haunhorst to adjourn the January 2024 meeting. Motion seconded by Kevin Cox and carried.
Meeting adjourned at 9:42 AM.

Thank you to “Mama Calla’s” for catering this event with delicious breakfast food!

Minutes transcribed by Lydia Archambo, Executive Director