

**Ottawa River Coalition Meeting Minutes**  
**March 21, 2024 8:00 am Nutrien**  
**General March 2024 Meeting**

*In attendance:*

Joe Gearing, AC Engineer's Office  
Russ Decker, Nutrien  
Marcus VanMeter, AC Engineer's Office  
Megan Hurd, Alloway  
Steve Webb, Guardian Energy  
Dakota Clay, City of Lima  
Ben Schnipke, Guardian Energy  
Lauren Winegardner, Nutrien  
Cory Gonya, Nutrien

Lydia Archambo, Allen SWCD  
Kevin Cox, Perry Township  
Ron Meyer, Sanitary Eng.  
Jessica Begonia, City of Lima  
Chad Reynolds, Allied Environmental Services Inc  
Robert H, Allen SWCD  
Leslie Riley, Tri-Moraine Audubon Society  
Keith Hamblin, Citizen of Allen County

Quorum was met. Treasure Russ Decker called the meeting to order at 8:04 am.

Russ Decker welcomed the group to the March 2024 Meeting and briefly explains the safety/emergency procedures of the building to the group. Members introduced themselves.

Russ Decker introduced the minutes from January 2024 Annual meeting.

*Motion by Joe Gearing to approve the January 2024 meeting minutes upon corrections mentioned. Motion seconded by Cory Gonya and carried.*

### **Treasurer's Report**

#### Financial Report-

- Russ Decker presented the March 2024 financial report.
- The unencumbered funds balance of our account as of 3/1/2024 is \$27,701.27

*Motion by Kevin Cox to Approve March treasures report. Motion seconded by Joe Gearing and carried.*

#### Allen SWCD Executive Director Payment 2023

*Motion by kevin Cox to pay Allen SWCD \$9472.08 for the 2023 Executive Director salary reimbursement. Motion seconded by Megan Hurd and motion carried.*

- Membership:
  - American TWP
  - EMA
  - Trimorane Audubon Society
  - Anne Decker Marketing
  - LACNIP
  - Allen County Commissioners
  - Ohio Energy and Advanced Manufacturing Center

*Motion made by Joe Gearing to allow membership to the above listing. Motion seconded by Dakota Clay and motion carried.*

## **Committee Reports**

### Executive Committee-

- The executive committee met on February 14, 2024. Discussed was the following:
  - March meeting agenda

### 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.
- A meeting will take place with the city to discuss permits needed for the day of.
- ORC is hoping to get various groups to sponsor and man the different activities.
- A RIVER DAY committee will be created and please get ahold of Lydia to let her know that you would like to be a part of said committee.
- The River day committee will be meeting April 19, 2024 at 9:00am at the Perry twp. building

### Education Updates-

- Lydia Archambo mentioned the earth month is next month and we are very busy
- Lydia Archambo mentioned the Ottawa River Clean up with me April 20<sup>th</sup> and it will be a drive through event through the central service building on Collett Street.

### Dump Site Grant Opportunities-

- Jessica Begonia informs the group of a possible ODNR funding opportunity to use with dump sites throughout the county. The main information needed for this grant is GIS coordinates of the dumpsites located within the river. Jessica suggests using the SECLICKFIX app the city utilizes to gather some information throughout the year and during the ORCU day. Lydia Archambo says that her summer interns while in the river for Dry weather outfall monitoring can use there GIS collection system to mark them as well.
- The ORC expresses that this could be a great new project to undertake that will give the coalition a direction to point their funds to. This dump site idea will pair nicely with the “tired of Tires” project ORC has already had in the works.

### Stormwater Committee-

- Lydia Archambo shared that the Ohio EPA is underway and due April 1<sup>st</sup> so her time will be focused on that
- Joe Gearing states that the Bluelick and 65 Wetland has a complete date of May 30<sup>th</sup>. Changes to the SMSR are in progress and be on the look out for the public hearing date for those. Misc. projects are happening throughout the county.
- Dakota Clay updates everyone on the West street bridge as it will begin updates on April 1<sup>st</sup>. the City’s flood plain Regs are being updated and the last hearing is March 25, 2024. Kirk has been working on the H2Ohio improvements along the Ottawa River Corridor.

### Scholarship Committee-

- Russ Decker says to be on the lookout for a committee meeting date as we need to get the applications out soon!

### **Old Business**

#### New Officer Swear in

Chairman – Adam Haunhorst

Vice Chair – Ron Meyer

#### Annual Awards

Watershed Partner – Beth Siebert

Volunteer of the Year – Leslie Riley

Watershed Impact – Sherry Bockey

### **New Business**

- May 16 2024 meeting will be at Cenovus

#### Member reports

- Kevin Cox – Perry TWP Pancake day is May 4<sup>th</sup>!
- Keith Hamblin – Appreciation for the Coalition. Concern for water flow. Excited about school field trip with Lydia Archambo
- Chad Reynolds – happy to be a member
- Robert Hutchinson – interns coming soon at Allen SWCD, lots of projects staying busy, just wrapped up CTC and 725 people were in attendance
- Megan Hurd – Projects galore at Alloway. New logo! Summer intern search is on!
- Cory Gonya – NPDES permit for Nutrien was updated.
- Jessica begonia – City Mayor spring clean up events are coming up in May and June. Dumpsters will be placed at certain locations in the city for residents to come and unload any trash. April will bring the “walking of the wards” this is an event where the mayor will walk the different wards to look at different issues that need addressed.
- Ron Meyer – Shawnee Treatment Plant updates starting soon. Lots of smaller projects keeping them busy.
- Russ Decker – Please Help out with the River Day committees as that is really what keeps this coalition going and their great causes to focus on.
- Lydia Archambo – SO happy to see everyone today! Please grab a snack on your way out and can’t wait to see you all again!

*Motion by Kevin Cox to adjourn the January 2024 meeting. Motion seconded by Robert Hutchinson and carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 AM.*

Minutes transcribed by Lydia Archambo, Executive Director

