**Ottawa River Coalition Meeting Minutes**

**September 19, 2024 8:00 am City of Lima**

**General September 2024 Meeting**

*In attendance:*

Joe Gearing, AC Engineer’s Office Lydia Archambo, Allen SWCD Russ Decker, Nutrien Kevin Cox, Perry Township Marcus VanMeter, AC Engineer’s Office Ron Meyer, Sanitary Eng. Dakota Clay, City of Lima Melinda DeLaRosa, ASWCD

Chap Reynolds, Allied Science John Hoffman, Alloway

Kieth Hamblen, Lima Christian Beth Seibert, ACBOCC

John Schnider, LACNIP Sara Weekley, City of Lima

Sharita Smith, City of Lima

Quorum was met. Chairman Adam Haunhorst called the meeting to order at 8:04 am.

Adam Haunhorst welcomed the group to the September 2024 Meeting.

Mayor Smith presentation

* Mid-year update
	+ “Better Together Plan”
	+ Mayors NextGen
	+ Lima Community Aquatic Park Groundbreaking
	+ Lima Fitness Court Ribbon cutting

Adam Haunhorst introduced the minutes from May 2024 Annual meeting.

*Motion by Russ Decker to approve the July 2024 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Dakota Clay and carried.*

**Treasurer’s Report**

Financial Report-

* Russ Decker presented the September 2024 financial report.

*Motion by Joe Gearing to Approve July treasures report. Motion seconded by John Hoffman and carried.*

* Membership:
	+ Allen County Sanitary Engineer
	+ Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission
	+ Johnny Appleseed Metro Park Dist.

*Motion by Joe Gearing to approve membership. Motion seconded by Beth Seibert and motion carried.*

**Committee Reports**

Executive Committee-

* The executive committee met on August 22, 2024 – Adam Haunhorst
	+ We discussed the Fish Fry and sign up sheets.

Fundraising Committee -Russ Decker

* We are in good shape for the fish fry! 17 silent auction items have been donated

 Community Relations- Lydia Archambo

* Cenovus is introducing a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAP) this is to engage in the committee and gain better relationships. I was asked to be on this CAP and the first meeting was last night. I look forward to participating!
* Lydia proposed the she would like to update the signs on the boardwalk from 2015, I will work with Anne Decker to see what we can do to update those signs and report back the coalition..
* A very popular community engagement currently are “Storybook walks” Lydia thinks it would be great to work with rotary club, city of lima and the park districts to get a story walk focusing on water quality on the boardwalk. I would like to reach out to boy scouts looking for eagle scout projects (Beth stated to “remember girl scouts look for projects as well!) and see all would go into this idea.
	+ The coalition gave the “GO” to do some research and report back
	+ Russ Decker suggests working closely with rotary club and see if there is some funding available as well
* The fair went very well our display looked great and flyers were picked up !!

Stormwater Committee-

* + Joe Gearing (County)
		- the Bluelick and 65 Wetland has seeding soon
		- two stage ditch plans coming out soon
		- Bridge updates
		- Petition ditches
		- Site plan reviews
		- Lima mall project
		- PNG projects
	+ Lydia Archambo
		- Ohio EPA is finishing up their field work here. Lydia was able to go out to a site just outside of the MS4 and work with the OhioEPA. They let me know that they are running behind in processing data so the goal is still 2025 release date but may get pushed back to 2026.
	+ Dakota Clay (city)
		- West street bridge is looking to be open end of September
		- Central Ave project will start work in January

Scholarship Committee-

* We have our two winners! They are thrilled! Emma Core and Riley Ibaugh! CONGRATS

Clean up

* Many ideas how best to tackle cataloging the river arose the two we will be using are…
	+ Working with our partners to use drones to capture data quickly
	+ In areas of fuller coverage or where volunteers can access, volunteers can walk the edge of the river and peer in for sites.
* The collation would like to contract the removal of sites out if possible but for smaller site we will use simple manpower of volunteers.

**New Business**

* Next meeting: November 21, 2024 – Cenovus
* Survey to be sent out about annual meeting preferences
* Antarctica Adventure – John Hoffman
	+ John presented his amazing time on a photography expedition to Antarctica.

Member reports

* Adam Haunhorst – Approved wetland Permit for Auglaize River
* Lydia Archambo – website updates are coming, and they look great!
* Kevin Cox – Perry Alumni Baseball game Saturday 21 at 5:00 all welcome! Perry All Class Reunion taking place October 12th at 2:00-6:00.
* Ron Meyer – Shawnee Treatment Plant Plan Project going strong. 10-15 homes have been converted to the county system and no longer have broken septic systems
* John H – final reports of projects are coming out soon
* Sara Weekley – City of Lima has signed a 3-year contract for riverbank maintenance and part of that agreement is controlled burns of foliage. SOQ issuing for basin model studies are taking place.

*Motion by* Jessica Begonia *to adjourn the September 2024 meeting. Motion seconded by Kevin Cox* *and carried.*

Minutes transcribed by Lydia Archambo, Executive Director