**Ottawa River Coalition Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2022, 8:00am**

**Hybrid Meeting**

*In attendance:*

Joe Gearing, AC Engineer’s Office Travis Fillhart, AC EMA

Lydia Archambo, Allen SWCD Jessica Begonia, Alloway, online

Jim Morrisey, City of Lima Public Works Dept. Adam Haunhorst, LACRPC

Cory Gonya, Nutrien, online Kevin Cox, Perry Township Trustees

Lesley Riley, TriMoraine Audubon Society/ONU Paul Basinger, American Township, online

Amber Emmons, Ohio State Extension, onlineKimberly Stiles, Allen Water District, online

 Paige Garrabrant, Ohio State Extension, online Haley Belisle, Ottawa River Coalition

Chairman, Joe Gearing called the meeting to order at 8:01 am.

Joe welcomed the group to the Hybrid November Meeting. In-person and online members introduced themselves.

Executive Director, Haley Belisle stated that Cenovus Energy had sent in their member along with a gold sponsorship. *Motion by Kevin Cox to approve the membership. Motion seconded by Joe Gearing. The Coalition voted to approve Cenovus’s membership.*

Belisle introduced the meeting minutes from September 22, 2022. There were no requests for additions or corrections to the minutes. *Motion by Jim Morrisey to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2022 meeting.Motion seconded by Kevin Cox and carried.*

# Treasurer’s Report

November Financial Report – Executive Director, Haley Belisle presented the November Financial Report, outlining receipts, expenses and account balances since 9/01/2022. The report included income from membership dues, sponsorships, and donations. Expenses included liability insurance. *Motion by Kevin Cox to approve the November Financial Report. Motion seconded by Adam Haunhorst.*

# Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Joe Gearing reported on their October 20 meeting where the Nominating Committee and Annual Meeting were discussed.

* Hybrid meetings will continue for convenience of members.
* The annual meeting has been a dinner in the past, which is costly. Possible alternatives were discussed including a breakfast at a member’s location. Belisle will send a questionnaire to members about their preference and include signups for committees and a question about the best time for regular board meetings.
* The nominating committee is accepting nominations for the board.

Community Relations Committee – Lydia Archambo provided an update on education and.community outreach events. They had a “watershed parachute” at the Girl Scouts’ Girls Go STEM event to demonstrate how a water shed works. Some interest has been expressed in adult education programs. They will schedule programs when the weather warms up. During Stormwater Awareness Week, 2,120 students were given stormwater booklets. They hope to incorporate different books for different grades every year. The Stormwater Fun Run on October 22 was a success. Milkweed collection ended 10/31. A number of people dropped off milkweed pods and a many have asked to be given seeds to plant.

Stream Monitoring Committee

Corey Gonya provided a regulatory update. The Lake Erie algal bloom was worse than expected in 2022 and no one is sure why. The severity ranked 6.8 on the NOAA scale; a 4-5.5 had been projected.

Stormwater Committee

* Jim Morrisey gave an update on City of Lima projects. They are transitioning out of construction season, getting ready for snow plowing and leaf pickup. They met with ODOT about watermilfoil in the Ottawa River downtown. They are going to get ODNR and Extension involved in the summer and see if a solution can be found. Belisle stated that watermilfoil has spread as far as Elida.
* Lydia Archambo spoke of urban stormwater initiatives served by Allen SWCD. Allen Soil and Water District has secured a winter intern for 2023. A second intern is being sought. Archambo, Belisle and Riley attended Water Management Association of Ohio conference. Archambo and Belisle attended Urban Forestry Conference. Belisle did educational program for Allen Lima Leadership in the Ottawa River in October and is working on municipal employee training.
* Joe Gearing gave an update on Allen County Engineer projects. Archambo and Belisle are updating the Stormwater Management Plan. H2Oho projects are underway. The county has made improvements on GIS and is working on stormsewer design for townships.

Watershed Committee

* Maumee TMDL Coalition – The Maumee TMDL is in a drafting process through the end of December. A webinar is planned for November.
* The final draft for Cranberry Creek in Allen and Putnam counties is in the Ohio EPA’s hands. They are waiting on info on Allen/Putnam county home sewage treatment systems. It should be ready for review in a few weeks.

Scholarship Committee

 No update. A meeting will be held soon.

Fundraising Committee

Belisle will gather committee to discuss the Good Friday Fish Fry and lay out committee goals.

# New Business

# Member and Partner Reports

* Tri-Moraine Audubon Society – Leslie Riley provided an update. They are wrapping up their field trip season and will begin again in spring.
* Perry Township – Kevin Cox stated that a new Holiday Inn Express is under construction in Perry Township, and their crews are working in the cemeteries to level monuments.
* EMA – Travis Fillhart stated that EMA has a new employee, Jared Gesler, who will be working on planning and exercises.
* Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission – Adam Haunhorst stated that Regional Planning is looking for a new executive director.
* Alloway – Jessica Begonia stated that Alloway is participating in the Tiffin Drone Conference on December 2 where they are hoping to recruit two drone pilots.
* Allen Water District – Kimberly Stiles stated that the Allen Water District is wrapping up a new water tower at Rudolph Foods in Westminster and that people in Harrod and Lafayette are beginning to connect to the new water lines in those villages.

*Motion by Kevin Cox to adjourn the November meeting. Motion seconded by Jim Morrisey.* Meeting adjourned at 9:02 AM.

Minutes transcribed by Anne Decker