

Ottawa River Coalition Meeting Minutes May 26, 2022 Hybrid Meeting 8:00 am

In attendance:

Beth Seibert, Allen County Commissioners
Teresa Adams, Allen SWCD
Jarrod Wehinger, Allen SWCD
MariCait Gillespie, Allen SWCD
Karsen Keith, Allen SWCD
Patrick Beam, Beam Designs LLC
Tyler Black, JAMPD
Cory Gonya, Nutrien
Clint Schroeder, OSU Extension Allen County
Haley Belisle, Ottawa River Coalition

Joe Gearing, AC Engineer's Office
Lydia Archambo, Allen SWCD
Abby Buettner, Allen SWCD
Ethan Grant, Allen SWCD
Jessica Begonia, Alloway
Jim Morrissey, City of Lima Public Works
Adam Haunhorst, LACRPC
Boden Fisher, Ohio Department of Agriculture
Eric Broughton, Tri-Moraine Audubon Society

Chairman, Joe Gearing called the meeting to order at 8:03 am.

Joe welcomed the group to the Hybrid May Meeting. Online members introduced themselves.

Executive Director, Haley Belisle read from the list of 2022 memberships to be approved which included American Township, Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District, Alloway, Allen County Engineer's Office, and Guardian Lima. *Motion by Jim Morrissey to approve the list of 2022 memberships. Motion seconded by Cory Gonya. The Coalition voted to approve the list of 2022 memberships.*

Joe introduced the meeting minutes from January 20, 2022. There were no requests for additions or corrections to the minutes. *Motion by Tyler Black to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2022 meeting. Motion seconded by Clint Schroeder and carried.*

Treasurer's Report

May Financial Report – Executive Director, Haley Belisle presented the May Financial Report, outlining receipts, expenses and account balances. The report included a large portion of Good Friday Fish Fry income and expenses. The report will be updated to reflect separations in membership dues. *Motion by Jim Morrissey to approve the May Financial Report as corrected. Motion seconded by Beth Seibert and carried.*

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Joe Gearing reported on their February 17 meeting where this agenda was prepared and plans were made for the March virtual meeting.

- Good Friday Fish Fry Update – The Committee provided an update on the April 15 Good Friday Fish Fry event. The fish meal saw some changes this year as shortages led us to using Hake instead of Alaskan pollock. With the increasing price of fish and realistic limit to the price of a meal ticket- the GFFF event is being considered a community outreach event and not a single source of annual fundraising. While the event can still allow options for revenue, the Committee suggests that we look for other annual fundraising options. The Coalition reviewed a GFFF financial report which showed the current income/expenses of the event.
- Fundraising – Joe provided an update on the Executive Committee's ideas on future fundraising options including a raffle or another meal event.

Community Relations Committee – Lydia Archambo provided an update on education events and community outreach events. She has had several classroom events, including the Survival in the Stream activity created with JAMPD. Adopt-a-Roadway continues to remain popular as there have been numerous clean-up events over the summer. Lydia provided an update on the Ottawa River Cleanup event. Turn-out was lower compared to previous years, but the event went very smoothly and helped create community interest in keeping our river clean!

Stream Monitoring Committee – Cory Gonya provided a regulatory update. Cory spoke on House Bill 175 which looks to deregulate certain ephemeral water features. This was signed in April and has an effective date of July 21, 2022.

Stormwater Committee

- Jim Morrisey gave an update on City of Lima projects. They are currently preparing for the new roundabout project and the Rotary Pavilion downtown. Lima recently hosted Maumee TMDL stakeholder discussions. The City of Lima recently purchased a new vacuum truck which will help clean and protect our stormwater infrastructure.
- Haley Belisle and Lydia Archambo spoke of urban stormwater initiatives served by Allen SWCD. Annual MS4 reporting was finalized on April 1. Several outreach events took place over the last couple of months including those with Ohio Northern University and Tri-Moraine Audubon Society. Interns have arrived at ASWCD and summer field work has begun with storm drain marking and dry-weather outfall monitoring.
- Joe Gearing gave an update on Allen County Engineer projects. ACE has bridge projects ongoing and is advancing with the Baughman Ditch project. ACE has been able to secure grant funds to advance some of their projects. Wapak Road realignment project is currently out-to-bid. Ditch maintenance/weed spraying will start soon.

Watershed Committee

- Maumee TMDL Coalition – Ottawa River Coalition has joined the Maumee TMDL Coalition under the umbrella of Allen County's stakeholder involvement. Haley Belisle shared an infographic with the group showing Ohio EPA's projected timeline for the TMDL. OEPA continues to work on the Preliminary Modeling Results of the TMDL and has pushed back the projected completion of the PMR to July 2022.

New Business

Member and Partner Reports

- OSU Extension – Clint Schroeder provided an update and provided dates for demonstration events. There is a Conservation Field Day on July 14th in Spencerville. There will be a drainage tile installation demonstration on August 9th at OSU Lima.
- Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District – Tyler Black provided an update on JAMPD's 50th anniversary celebration on June 25th. There will be festivities all day, kicking off with a fish derby in the morning. Nashville Crush will be playing from 6p-8p. Playgrounds at Kendrick Woods and Ottawa Metro Park are being updated. Restrooms are being replaced at Heritage Park.
- Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission – Adam Haunhorst provided an update and spoke of the upcoming FEMA updates to the floodplain. ODNR has constructed draft floodplain regulations. LACRPC will be looking to review and update regulations for the County.

- Ohio Department of Agriculture – Boden Fisher provided an update on the ODA Watershed Program. The regional watershed planning teams have been meeting regularly to continue the program. Draft documents for watershed plans looking for the Coalition’s input will be underway soon.
- Tri-Moraine Audubon Society – Eric Broughton provided an update. The TMAS hosted several field trips in May. There will be a break over summer with programs scheduled in September.
- Alloway – Jessica Begonia provided an update. Alloway staff Jessica Begonia and John Hoffman recently presented their research findings at the Ohio Stormwater Conference. Alloway recently conducted field research using their EnviroGo trailer to look at the effectiveness of nutrient trapping in cascading waterways. Alloway is looking for additional field sites to conduct research.
- Allen Soil and Water Conservation District – Jarrod Wehinger provided an update on recent manure complaints in the county. There will be a manure toolbar demonstration day in July.
- Beam Designs LLC – Patrick Beam provided an update on Rotary’s Greater Lima Region Park and Amphitheater project and RTA parking lot project.

Motion by Clint Schroeder to adjourn the May meeting. Motion seconded by Jim Morrisey and carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:21 AM. The next meeting of the Ottawa River Coalition is Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 8:00 AM.

Minutes transcribed by Haley Belisle, Executive Director.