

Ottawa River Coalition Meeting Minutes July 21, 2022 Virtual Meeting 8:00 am

In attendance:

Joe Gearing, AC Engineer's Office

Travis Fillhart, AC EMA

Casey Heilman, Allen SWCD

Abby Buettner, Allen SWCD

Ethan Grant, Allen SWCD

Jessica Begonia, Alloway

Mike Elwood, Hardin SWCD

Adam Haunhorst, LACRPC

Courtney Krieger, OSU Extension Allen County

Kevin Cox, Perry Township Trustees

Interns, AC Engineer's Office

Teresa Adams, Allen SWCD

Lydia Archambo, Allen SWCD

MariCait Gillespie, Allen SWCD

Karsen Keith, Allen SWCD

Patrick Beam, Beam Designs LLC

John Schneider, LACNIP

Cory Gonya, Nutrien

Rachel Cochran, OSU Extension Allen County

Haley Belisle, Ottawa River Coalition

Chairman, Joe Gearing called the meeting to order at 8:02 am.

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

Executive Director, Haley Belisle read from the list of 2022 memberships to be approved which included Nutrien, Allen County Public Health Dept, and OSU Extension Allen County. *Motion by Kevin Cox to approve the list of 2022 memberships. Motion seconded by Mike Elwood. The Coalition voted to approve the list of 2022 memberships.*

Joe introduced the meeting minutes from March 24, 2022. There were no requests for additions or corrections to the minutes. *Motion by Mike Elwood to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2022 meeting. Motion seconded by Adam Haunhorst and carried.*

Joe introduced the meeting minutes from May 26, 2022. There were no requests for additions or corrections to the minutes. *Motion by Kevin Cox to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2022 meeting. Motion seconded by Adam Haunhorst and carried.*

Treasurer's Report

July Financial Report – Executive Director, Haley Belisle presented the July Financial Report, outlining receipts, expenses and account balances since 5/01/2022. The report included income from GFFF meals and silent auction. Expenses included expenses with GFFF meals and supplies. *Motion by Kevin Cox to approve the July Financial Report. Motion seconded by Mike Elwood and carried.*

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Joe Gearing reported on their June 16 meeting where this agenda was prepared and plans were made for the July hybrid meeting.

- Fundraising Update – Executive Committee updated the group on fundraising discussions. We are looking at adding a fundraising opportunity that would be approximately 6 months after the GFFF. The Committee will be looking into this further and are open to suggestions. The Coalition has had good feedback regarding a River Walk/Run.

Community Relations Committee – Lydia Archambo provided an update on education events and community outreach events. Lydia and ASWCD interns held a multi-day education event with Girl Scouts. One of the days focused on macroinvertebrate collection and identification. ASWCD and interns also attended the Johnny Appleseed 50th Anniversary Celebration where people of all ages examined macroinvertebrates and learned about the Ottawa River.

Stream Monitoring Committee – Cory Gonya provided a regulatory update. Cory spoke on the Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Forecast that was recently released by NOAA (both immediate and seasonal forecast). The Seasonal Forecast predicts bloom severity to be 3.5 with a potential range of 2 – 4 (scale of 10). Today is the effective date of House Bill 175 that de-regulates ephemeral water features in Ohio.

Stormwater Committee

- Haley Belisle and Lydia Archambo spoke of urban stormwater initiatives served by Allen SWCD. Allen County is undergoing an inspection with Ohio EPA regarding Minimum Control Measure 3: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program. The program is subject to regular auditing that will help further updates with the stormwater program. ASWCD interns are finishing up summer projects. New rain barrels have arrived at ASWCD office.
- Joe Gearing gave an update on Allen County Engineer projects. The new ariel and contour maps are finished and will be available soon. ACE has recently finished a project along Batey & East in American Township. ACE has been busy with plan approval and H2Ohio/Grant projects.

Watershed Committee

- Maumee TMDL Coalition – Ottawa River Coalition has joined the Maumee TMDL Coalition under the umbrella of Allen County's stakeholder involvement. Brad Niemeyer will represent the County in stakeholder updates.

Special Presentation

ASWCD interns presented on summer projects which included storm drain marking, dry-weather outfall monitoring, education events, illicit discharge investigations, and display updates. They were able to shadow several different departments at ASWCD and spent a day with Allen County Engineers. They collected data on over 425 catch basins and 171 outfalls.

New Business

Member and Partner Reports

- Beam Designs – Pat Beam provided an update. They have been working with 3-4 properties along Sugar Creek as they monitor erosion.
- LACNIP – John Schneider provided an update as Neighborhood Association's gardens have been doing well this summer.
- Perry Township – Kevin Cox provided an update as a new road program is starting and Holiday Inn Express is under construction.
- Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission – Adam Haunhorst provided an update. FEMA maps continue to be updated. Regulation updates continue to move forward and will be open to public comment.

- Nutrien – Cory Gonya provided an update as Nutrien has a project that will reduce nitrous oxide emissions. The new technology installed guarantees a 90% reduction which results in an annual 285,000 tons per year reduction Co2 equivalent.
- Alloway – Jessica Begonia provided an update as Alloway has new drone sampling technology and will be partnering with several entities including City of Dayton to trial this new service.

Motion by Kevin Cox to adjourn the July meeting. Motion seconded by Mike Elwood and carried.
Meeting adjourned at 9:09 AM. The next meeting of the Ottawa River Coalition is Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 8:00 AM.

Minutes transcribed by Haley Belisle, Executive Director

