

Ottawa River Coalition Meeting Minutes Sept 22, 2022 Hybrid Meeting 8:00 am

In attendance:

Beth Seibert, Allen County Commissioners
Travis Fillhart, AC EMA
Brad Niemeyer, AC Sanitary Engineer
Lydia Archambo, Allen SWCD
Megan Hurd, Alloway
Tyler Black, JAMPD
Cory Gonya, Nutrien
Haley Belisle, Ottawa River Coalition

Joe Gearing, AC Engineer's Office
Jared Gesler, AC EMA
Albert Suniga, Allen SWCD
Jessica Begonia, Alloway
Jim Morrissey, Lima Public Works
Adam Haunhorst, LACRPC
Kevin Cox, Perry Township Trustees

Chairman, Joe Gearing called the meeting to order at 8:04 am.

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

Executive Director, Haley Belisle read from the list of 2022 memberships to be approved. *Motion by Jim Morrissey to approve the list of 2022 memberships. Motion seconded by Adam Haunhorst. The Coalition voted to approve the list of 2022 memberships.*

Joe introduced the meeting minutes from July 21, 2022. There were no requests for additions or corrections to the minutes. *Motion by Kevin Cox to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2022 meeting. Motion seconded by Tyler Black and carried.*

Treasurer's Report

Sept Financial Report – Executive Director, Haley Belisle presented the September Financial Report, outlining receipts, expenses and account balances since 7/01/2022. The report included income from membership dues, sponsorships, and donation from Nutrien. Expenses included meeting supplies and GFFF kayak. *Motion by Kevin Cox to approve the September Financial Report. Motion seconded by Cory Gonya and carried.*

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Joe Gearing reported on their August 25 meeting where this agenda was prepared and plans were made for the September 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.
- Fundraising Committee – The group discussed the necessity of a committee dedicated to fundraising, especially as we evolve and expand our fundraising events. *Motion by Cory Gonya to establish a Fundraising Committee. Motion seconded by Jessica Begonia and carried. The Coalition voted to establish the Fundraising Committee.*

- Membership Dues – The Executive Committee has decided to keep annual membership dues at the same rate of \$100 for the upcoming 2023 calendar year. *Motion by Adam Haunhorst to approve annual membership dues. Motion seconded by Tyler Black and carried.*

Community Relations Committee – Lydia Archambo provided an update on education events and community outreach events. Lydia noted that there has been increased interest in education activities and Adopt-A-Roadway participation. She has had several groups get into the stream to conduct a Stream Assessment and collect macroinvertebrates. Milkweed pod collection has begun and will continue until October 31st. Stormwater Awareness Week will take place October 16-22nd and ASWCD has activity booklets to distribute to local 3rd graders.

Stream Monitoring Committee – Cory Gonya provided a regulatory update. The Lake Erie algal bloom has not been too severe this year, which is on track with the 2022 projections with NOAA. Ohio EPA virtual Compliance Conference is coming up in early October. Cory spoke on the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) ruling. On January 24, 2022, the Supreme Court agreed to review Sackett v. EPA, a long-running dispute regarding whether certain wetlands are “waters of the United States” (WOTUS) subject to protection under the Clean Water Act (CWA). Hearings are set to take place in October. The Clean Watershed Needs Survey has been sent by OEPA to help influence state funding with USEPA. Joe Gearing provided an update as H2Ohio advances the two-stage ditch program. This is available through the County Engineer’s and Soil and Water Conservation District.

Stormwater Committee

- Jim Morrissey gave an update on City of Lima projects. The downtown square roundabout project has been completed. The Rotary Pavilion is also coming along downtown. Schoonover Lake water levels have become more stable and will soon be dredged. Many of the season’s projects have wrapped up and the City will look toward basin repairs.
- Haley Belisle and Lydia Archambo spoke of urban stormwater initiatives served by Allen SWCD. ASWCD is working on “intern wrap up” to finish projects started with the summer interns including dry-weather outfall monitoring in Dug Run. Ohio EPA is finishing their audit into MCM 3: IDDE. ASWCD will be conducting annual training for municipal employees.
- Joe Gearing gave an update on Allen County Engineer projects. ACE has received additional \$1.3 million for wetland creation with the Baughman Ditch project. ACE will be looking for other areas in the county that could be helped with H2Ohio funds.

Watershed Committee

- Maumee TMDL Coalition – Ottawa River Coalition has joined the Maumee TMDL Coalition under the umbrella of Allen County’s stakeholder involvement. OEPA plans to be drafting the TMDL through December and plans to hold a webinar update in November.

Special Presentation

- Jessica Begonia with Alloway presented “Innovate Approach to Agricultural Storm Water Runoff Sampling”. This was presented at the 2022 Ohio Stormwater Conference. EnviroGo trailers were recently deployed at the Defiance County Agricultural Cascades as part of a nutrient monitoring study. EnviroGo explores innovative ways to collect grab samples, composite samples, monitor and record weather using a mobile sampling platform with net zero energy usage. Cascades is a farm stormwater management technology used to reduce pollutants, especially nitrogen and phosphorus, to our waterways. The pollutants are

discharged during a storm even whereby some of the fertilizer runs off. By going through a series of ponds with grass ways in between them, solids are able to settle. As the water moves from one pond to the next over the grass, nutrients are absorbed by the plants vs going to the stream or river. This is one of many methods farmers are using to reduce pollutants. The nutrient monitoring study provided a great example of the many ways the EnviroGo trailer can help with mobile sampling while also providing new data on the efficacy of this design of cascading waterway.

New Business

Member and Partner Reports

- Allen SWCD – Haley Belisle provided an update. ASWCD will have their open house/annual meeting/board election event on September 6th.
- Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District – Tyler Black provided an update on JAMPD's 50th anniversary year. Upcoming events include the WWII reenactment.
- Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission – Adam Haunhorst provided an update and spoke of the upcoming FEMA updates to the floodplain. Floodplain regulation updates are scheduled to be completed by December.

Motion by Kevin Cox to adjourn the September meeting. Motion seconded by Jim Morrisey and carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:32 AM. The next meeting of the Ottawa River Coalition is Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 8:00 AM.

Minutes transcribed by Haley Belisle, Executive Director

