

Ottawa River Coalition Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2018 Husky Lima Refining Co., 1150 S. Metcalf Street, Lima 8:00 am

In attendance:

Brett Allerding, ODOT

Eric Markley, Lima Utilities Dept

Jack Wolfcale, Guardian Lima

Beth Seibert, Ottawa River Coalition

Mike Elwood, Hardin SWCD

Joe Gearing, Lima Public Works Dept

Volker Jeschonnek, Tri-Moraine Audubon Society

Ross Gibson, Allen SWCD

Sophie Finlayson-Schueler, LACRPC

Steve Aldrich, Husky Lima Refinery

Gary Vonderembse, Husky Lima Refinery

LD Pierce, Husky Lima Refinery

John Schneider, LACNIP

Tyler Black, JAMPD

Kevin Cox, Perry Township

Steve Webb, Guardian Lima

John Hoffman, Alloway

Carol Bertrand, Tri-Moraine Audubon Society

Henry Rodriguez, Lima Public Works Dept

Nathan Davis, Allen Co Engineer's Office

Ryan Wenzinger, Allen SWCD

Anne Decker, Anne Decker Marketing

Heather Rutz, Husky Lima Refinery

Matt Elkins, Husky Lima Refinery

Chairman John Hoffman brought the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 am. Self-introductions were made around the room.

Heather Rutz, Communications Coordinator with Husky Lima Refinery welcomed the group and spoke of Husky's large company and global presence. The eighty year old company has its origins in Wyoming and employs 5,000. The Lima refinery was established in 1886 by JD Rockefeller and is the oldest continuously operating refinery in the US. Husky purchased the Lima refinery in 2007 for \$1.9 million. The Lima refinery provides for 30% of the gas consumption in Ohio. There are approx. 1,000 people on this site every day. 480 acres of the industrial complex is owned by Husky. Gary Vonderembse, Environmental Manager at Husky Lima Refinery gave an overview of their water reuse project, also referred to as the crude oil flexibility project. Their challenge has been that heavy crude oil has a higher sulfur content and the associated selenium threatens their permitted discharges to the Ottawa River. So they are deep-well injecting the selenium and currently installing a system to return the 4 million gallon/day treated wastewater to the boiler water supply – giving them 95% recapture. Their overall goal is to be environmentally friendly and reduce costs. The Lima Refinery was designed and built to process light, sweet crude. So they have had to upgrade their metallurgy and equipment to process sour crude. Of all the refineries Husky operates, the Lima Refinery as it discharges to the Ottawa River has one of the most restrictive selenium discharge limits at 12 ppb. The water reuse system and their permits with Ohio EPA still allow them to discharge to the Ottawa River. In the question and answer exchange the following information was also shared:

- Deep well injection can be performed at the rate of 200 gallons per minute.
- The deep wells are 3,200 feet deep and have been modeled to contain the waste for over 10,000 years. Cap formations over it keep the waste there. (Matt Elkins)
- They spend considerable time and effort in reading and understanding the regulations for deep well injection and this governance has not changed. Potential changes seem to be aimed at following the regulations and enforcing penalties on those that don't. (LD Pierce)
- Currently discharging 3,400-5,000 gallons/minute waste water to the river now.
- Construction on the water reuse project will be completed this calendar year.
- In response to a question about challenges to creating the deep wells in regard to our geologic conditions, Matt Elkins responded that it went smooth and they did take steps in

the first stages to protect groundwater by cementing and sealing in that area. LD Pierce added that a cement bond log was all passed by the State of Ohio. They pressurize the well casing and measure the bond. The flex force casing is sealed to the rock formation. It is not a standard cement, rather a weird highly specialized formulation that was brought in by a third party contractor.

The Chairman thanks Husky for their presentation and hosting the meeting today. The Chairman asked for additions to the agenda and received none.

Coalition Coordinator presented the minutes of the March meeting for approval, but realized in doing so that she had omitted some of the member and partner reports. The Chairman asked her to correct them and present for approval at the July meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer, Mike Elwood presented the financial report, outlining the receipts, expenses and account balances since the March report. *Motion by Kevin Cox to approve the May 2018 Financial Report. Motion seconded by Nathan Davis and carried.* Beth Seibert reported that the 2017 Form 990 has been filed with the IRS and the subsequent annual charitable organization registration with the Ohio Attorney General. These documents are maintained in her office and are available for viewing by appointment.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – John Hoffman reviewed the Good Friday Fish Fry Fundraiser report with the group. He invited any suggestions for improvement on this annual event. John also thanked everyone for their contributions and assistance in making the event a success.

Community Relations Committee

- John Schneider reported that nearly 500 volunteers came out to participate in the 25th annual Ottawa River Cleanup.
- John Hoffman reminded the group of the work that was done late last year to update the Coalition's website. He encouraged the members and partners to submit pictures, stories, and other content to enrich the body of information. He plans to use it more at meetings as a relational and connective tool. Anne Decker reflected that not much has been done to update the website in the past two months and noted that she did take pictures at both the fish fry and river cleanup. Carol Bertrand talked about how one segment of the watershed that is missing is the role of wildlife and habitat – life along the river, plants animals, birds, flora and fauna. She introduced local Audubon member Volker Jeschonnek, who has an amazing collection of pictures to share on this subject. John encouraged members and partners to be in the habit of submitting, as the website can be an important communication tool for the organization. Brett Allarding asked if the meetings were open to the public and John Hoffman responded that they are. Brett questioned if the public knew that. Beth Seibert noted that our meetings are posted in the Lima News calendar.

Stream Monitoring Committee

- Beth Seibert gave the regulatory update for Cory Gonya regarding the recent release by Ohio EPA of the 2018 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report and the 2018 Nutrient Mass Balance Study for Ohio's Rivers. Both reports are required updated by Ohio every two years. Cory asked Beth to pass on that the results show water quality is impaired but continues to improve, especially in smaller watersheds. Cory also wants Coalition members to know that the 2018 Ohio Sport Fish Consumption Advisory has been

released and reflects overall good news for Ohio. In the Maumee River from Perrysburg to Lake Erie channel catfish had been previously listed as one meal per two months and was upgraded to one meal per month.

- Joe Gearing reported that Ohio EPA had recently released the new Construction General Permit with emphasis on better treatment of sediment. Sites two acres and larger now require larger sediment basins. OEPA will be auditing local municipal stormwater programs, focusing on their/our ability to take corrective actions and enforce them.
- Carol Bertrand asked if we knew anything on the federal dollars being appropriated to Lake Erie and no one had a response for her.

Lowhead Dam Committee – Beth Seibert reported that she is still waiting on a response from the Allen County Prosecutor’s Office regarding who has legal ownership of the east side of the Allentown lowhead dam. We have to know who gives us permission for removal of the structure.

Stormwater Committee

- Eric Markley reported on the construction of the equalization basin at Simmons Field. They have broken ground and will remove the soil all the way to the bedrock. They will have to excavate to a 50 foot depth to be able to anchor into good bedrock. The project is the size of a football field. They are actually three years ahead of the consent decree start – and by that date the project should be completed and in operation.
- Joe Gearing gave an update on the City of Lima Stormwater projects. They have started construction on the Elm Street Grade Separation and Shoefly projects. This will be a fairly lengthy project but a considerable transportation infrastructure improvement will result. They are also working on an alley project in the combined sewer area where they have had repeated flooding. The alley is being vacated and replaced with a swale and dry detention. It will take three weeks to construct. They are engaged in a GIS project to update their mapping and plan to make it publicly available. Lima is continuing to offer a tree planting rebate through Allen SWCD. Joe also announced a July stormwater training workshop in Lima on post construction best management practice design and maintenance.
- Beth Seibert reported on activities for the Allen County Urban Stormwater Program. Allen SWCD has hired new staff: Casey Heilman as their Community Outreach Coordinator and Danial Maltsbarger as their Urban Stormwater Technician. Both are to start their jobs in the next two weeks. Their two summer interns are present today and began their ten week internship almost two weeks ago. Their workload will emphasize dry weather outfall monitoring in stream channels and storm drain marking. Nathan Davis announced that Douglass Degen is retiring at the end of July. He plans to teach full-time at ONU in the engineering college.

Watershed Committee – Beth Seibert reminded the group that she is still taking reservations for the Blanchard River Demonstration Farms Tour on July 22.

Old Business

Steve Webb of Guardian Lima reported on their obligation to completing deeds of conservation easement on their two stream/wetland mitigation projects that resulted when the ethanol plant was built. They have now entered into agreements with the Board of Allen County Commissioners to secure easements through the Allen County Drainage Maintenance Program. Ohio EPA and US Army Corps of Engineers have both accepted the terms of the agreement. Steve said that Guardian believes that they have now met all obligations. They are thankful to the Allen County

Engineer's Office in bringing them over the goal line. Nathan Davis spoke of how the agencies basically compromised because, on the Sugar Creek property, full landowner permission could not be gained. So the best case was to accept the perpetual drainage maintenance agreement as the conservation easement.

New Business

Beth Seibert presented Perry Township's 2018 voting membership renewal for approval. *Motion by Eric Markley and seconded by Carol Bertrand to approve the Perry Township 2018 voting membership. Motion carried.*

Member and Partner Reports

- Carol Bertrand spoke of a prairie restoration project at OSU Lima – corner of Mumaugh and Reservoir Roads. This is the third year since it was established. Tri-Moraine Audubon Society sponsored the project's signage through the Wright Memorial Fund. Carol also reflected on Regional Transit Authority's financial struggles and how the public does not truly understand their value to our community. Kevin Cox voiced his agreement and told the group how in trying to understand RTA, their services and ridership he took his grandson to ride the bus system one day recently. The experience did much to change his perception especially with the thought that the buses mostly drive around empty.
- Nathan Davis reported that the winter had been rough on roadways. So the County will be out chip sealing all potholes. With the recent sales tax defeat paving will be limited as well as a few small bridge replacements this year.
- Tyler Black reported on a few of their feature projects. The Lauer Historical Farm will have its open house on August 12th from 1-5 pm. This 1930s-1940s themed farm features many reserve-able venues. They are also overseeing the installation of 3.5 miles of canal tow path north of Spencerville. This will be a crushed stone path 10' wide. It has connections to the Buckeye Trail and North Scenic Trail.
- Kevin Cox spoke of the Township hosting a June cleanup event where residents can dispose of trash at three locations. Road work will consist of crack sealing and patch-fix using their durapatch machine. Kevin says it holds better than cold mix. He is also pleased to announce the construction of an Aldis in their Township on the north side of the old Kmart.
- John Hoffman offered ORC members a discounted rate to attend a June set of statistical workshops at Alloway. He also spoke of his recent trip to Malawi South Africa with a Water For People Impact Tour. There is incredible work being done to bring water to communities through wells and hand pumps. 75% of their population are subsistence farmers. Minimum wage there is approx. \$34/month. The trip gave him a new sense of water availability and usage.

Motion to adjourn by Nathan Davis. Motion seconded by Henry Rodriguez and carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:40 am. The next meeting of the Ottawa River Coalition is set for Thursday, July 26th 8:00 am at the Allen County Sanitary Engineering Dept.

Minutes transcribed by Beth Seibert