

Ottawa River Coalition Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2023 8:00 am Perry TWP Building

In attendance:

Joe Gearing, AC Engineer's Office
Jim Morrissey, City of Lima Public Works
Jeff Gopp, Allen SWCD
Mitchell Kutz, Allen SWCD Intern
Kevin Cox, Perry Township
John Schnider, LACNIP
Marcus Vanmeter, AC Engineer's Office
Leslie Riley, Tri-Moraine Audubon Society

Lydia Archambo, Allen SWCD
Adam Haunhorst, LACRPC
Sara Phipps, Allen SWCD Intern
Russ Decker, Nutrien
Marcy Bolek, Alloway (Online)
Whitney H. (?) -
Matt Elling, AC Health Dept. (Online)

Quorum was met. Chairman, Joe Gearing called the meeting to order at 8:07 am.

Joe Gearing welcomed the group to the July 2023 Meeting. Members introduced themselves.

Joe Gearing introduced the minutes from March 16, 2023 and May 25, 2023 meeting.

Motion by Russ Decker to approve the March 16, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Kevin Cox and carried.

Motion by Jim Morrissey to approve the May 25, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Leslie Riley and carried.

Treasurer's Report

May Financial Report-

- Treasurer Jim Morrissey presented the July 2023 Financial Report. \$5,000 grant has now been added to ORC account. ORC is now a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

Motion by Adam Haunhorst to approve the July 2023 Financial Report. Motion seconded by Kevin Cox and carried.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee-

- Executive Director Lydia Archambo reported on their June 28, 2023 meeting where discussion of meeting planning and explanation of executive Director duties took place.

Fundraising Committee-

- Russ Decker mentioned the next fundraising committee will take place September 15th at 9:00am in the Perry Township building. The hope is to install multiple fundraisers throughout the year to give people multiple chances to donate and see the amazing things their funds are going towards. Ideas include; 5K, auction, Earth Day collaboration, etc.

Education Updates-

- Lydia Archambo provided an update on education and community outreach events. Noting Three (3) local school days she participated in in the last month. These school days include:
 - Rhodology Summer camp
 - YMCA field trip to Allen SWCD

-City of Lima Grow NextGen Camp field trip to Allen SWCD

- Lydia Archambo asked the commission for their opinion and support in creating a "Simple solutions" pamphlet. In the past Beth Seibert helped create and pass out flyers promoting single BMP practices at various events and Lydia Archambo would like to combine some of these practice into a single trifold, have them printed and pass them out at the fair and other ORC events. Lydia also expresses that by adding the Allen SWCD Logo and the City of Lima logo it can be cost shared by all parties.
 - Adam Haunhost suggests reaching out to regional Planning as they sometimes do printing for partners.
 - Russ Decker and Kevin Cox express that this would be great for future fundraising events and suggest the printing of 1000 pamphlets

Motion by Russ Decker to print 1000 "Simple Solution" pamphlets. Motion seconded by Kevin Cox and carried.

Stream Monitoring Committee-

- Russ Decker informs the commission of the ruling of the Supreme court on waters of the United States. Stating that the Supreme court ruled the EPA over stepped on their definition of the waters of the United States.

Stormwater Committee-

- Jim Morrissey also gave an update on City of Lima projects including:
 - The amphitheater's first weekend of admission will be the first weekend in August
 - Spring Street Project continues
 - Spencerville Road Project is complete
- Jeff Gopp explains the Allen SWCD interns have completed their dry-weather outfall monitoring in Pike Run, Lost Creek, and most of their section within the Little Ottawa. As well as collected about 450 city storm drains points and about 370 county points.
- Joe Gearing explains that the new Sediment Control Regulations are being worked on as well as new design manuals.
- Joe Gearing announces that A.C.E. is continuing to work on the accommodations for the P&G expansion.

Watershed Committee-

Maumee TMDL Coalition-

- Joe Gearing gives an update on the Maumee Watershed TMDL. Now in effect everyone should read over to see how they play a part in the new TMDL.

Scholarship Committee-

- Russ Decker gave an update on the progress of the Beth Siebert Scholarship fund, stating that there is about \$10,000 in the account. The next meeting will take place July 28th at 9:00am at the Perry Township

Building. The winners will be decided at this upcoming meeting. Russ expresses a huge thank you to Leslie Riley for writing up and creating the application document.

Old Business

- Jim Morrissey informs everyone on the City of Lima's plan to pull some of the dams and allow water flow throughout the city. As one was already pulled it did result in some Eurasian Milfoil being spread down stream into some sections. Jim expresses that there has been some recent chemical testing on this invasive species done by the state and hopes that a solution is found soon. Joe Gearing hopes that this choice does not affect the upcoming OEPA investigation.

New Business

- Leslie Riley encourages others to sign up for Tri-Moraine Audubon Society membership.
- Kevin Cox expresses his happiness to have everyone in Perry today and that Perry Township is always willing to help.
- Lydia Archambo explains that Anna Cotterman (Allen SWCD H2Ohio Tech) has left Allen SWCD. She is now at the historical farm in Wood County going back to her roots as a history loving farm manager.
- Adam Haunhorst invites everyone interested to attend the flood plain regulation discussion today at the Board of Allen County Commissioners Office from 2:00-3:00pm
- Joe Gearing would like everyone to know that tar and chipping is taking place around the county and to please bear with them as they complete this project.
- Marcy Bolek mentions that Alloway has started drone sampling and is very excited to move forward with this new technique.

Motion by Jim Morrissey to adjourn the July meeting. Motion seconded by Kevin Cox and carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM. The next meeting of the Ottawa River Coalition is Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 8:00 AM.

Minutes transcribed by Lydia Archambo, Executive Director