

Ottawa River Coalition Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2023 8:00 am Allen SWCD

In attendance:

Joe Gearing, AC Engineer's Office
Adam Haunhorst, LACRPC
Kevin Cox, Perry Township
Matt Elling, AC Health Dept. (Online)
Mikee Elwood, Hardin SWCD
Cory Gonya, Nutrien (online)
Tom Burger, AC EMA (online)
Represented, Elida-WWTP (online)

Lydia Archambo, Allen SWCD
Russ Decker, Nutrien
Marcus VanMeter, AC Engineer's Office
Dakota Clay, City of Lima
Beth Seibert, BOACC (online)
Kirk Niemeyer, City of Lima
Jessica Begonia, City of Lima

Quorum was met. Chairman, Joe Gearing called the meeting to order at 8:05 am.

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

Joe Gearing introduced the minutes from July 20, 2023 meeting.

*Motion by Kevin Cox to approve the July 21, 2023 meeting minutes upon grammatical corrections presented.
Motion seconded by Russ Decker and carried.*

Treasurer's Report

September Financial Report-

- Joe Gearing presented the September 2023 Financial Report. With a balance of \$15,149.32
- Jim Morrisey has left the City of Lima and ORC to go to the private sector and we are currently looking for a new treasurer.

Motion by Mikee Elwood to approve the September 2023 Financial Report. Motion seconded by Adam Haunhorst and carried.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee-

- Adam Haunhorst and Joe Gearing met with Jim Morrisey in August to discuss the transferring of the treasures supplies.
- Joe Gearing and Lydia Archambo Met August 30th, 2023 to discuss agenda for this (September) meeting. a large topic was push to engage our members to give updates on their organization and departments to inform he coalition of updates/news.

Fundraising Committee-

- Russ Decker suggested that Lydia Archambo email the date of the upcoming fundraising meeting to all members in hopes to engage the coalition and raise attendance numbers. Lydia Agreed to do so. 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. Bringing back the educational component to the fundraising is a huge goal for the committee and coalition.

- Russ Decker expressed a need for a “Goal” for both amount of money that is needed to be raised as well as what those funds are going to in terms of a project.
 - Addition as of 9/27/2023 during the writing of these minutes the date of the next Fundraising Committee meeting is November 3rd, 2023, at the Perry Township building at 9:00am.

Education Updates-

- Lydia Archambo provided an update on education and community outreach events including North Middle School “survival in the Stream” day and she is excited about many upcoming events.
- Lydia Archambo announced that the 2024 Area 1 Envirothon will be taking place in Allen County at the OSU Lima/Rhodes State college campus and that she is a large part of helping to coordinate and set up the event. The Envirothon is a national high school science competition where teams of five (two per high school) compete in 5 environmental tests (aquatics, soils, forestry, wildlife, topic of the year). The competition has different levels, the first being your area competition. We are a part of area 1 which encompasses most of northwest Ohio. The next level (for the top winners) is the state level, followed by nationals. The last year Allen County hosted was 1993. Every year the Envirothon asks for sponsors for the event and Lydia’s hope today was to plant the idea that ORC could be a sponsor for the event and hopes to include a booth or some sort of literature the day of to the students. Explaining what ORC is. The Coalition is excited to hear more and hopefully help in some way.
- Lydia Archambo gave an update that a majority of the “Simple Solution” pamphlets were picked up at the fair. The coalition expressed excitement that they were well received. Talk of printing more in the future took place.
 - Russ Decker reminded everyone that in the future if we are to print more we should look into Apollo Career Center for printing as is would be a great learning experience for the students.

Stream Monitoring Committee-

- Cory Gonya presented an update for the “Waters of the United States”. Giving background events on what led up to this case. The biggest note is wetlands must have a continuous surface connection to bodies that are “waters of the United States” in their own right.

Stormwater Committee-

- Dakota Clay also gave an update on City of Lima projects including:
 - Catalpa and Holmes project designs
 - Inserting new catch basin tie-ins through out the city
- Discussion of the lowhead dam doors being closed and what concerns does that bring forth for the upcoming Ohio EPA inspection.
- Joe Gearing explains that the new Sediment Control Regulations are being worked on as well as new design manuals.
- Joe Gearing noted we do have new flood Plan Regulations
- The Allen County Engineer are working on some two stage ditches as well as many other projects going out for bid. Wetlands being constructed throughout county with H2Ohio funds.
- Joe Gearing noted that OSU is adding an irrigation pond to their campus as part of their regenerative project.
- Lydia Archambo announces that the updated Stormwater Management Plan was passed in a BOACC resolution and submitted to the Ohio EPA. Lydia has also asked each township (Perry, Bath, Shawnee, and American) as well as The Village of Elida to pass the SWMP in a similar resolution and she has received all those resolutions as well.

- Lydia Archambo notes an algal bloom and fish kill that took place at the Industrial Drive retention pond. She is currently still investigating it with ALPLA (who reported the incident) and hopes to have a cause and solution soon.

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. There are some appealing being written by many organizations as well with the new ruling of the “Waters of the United States” some may press charges.

Scholarship Committee-

- Russ Decker gave an update on the progress of the Beth Siebert Scholarship winners. We awarded three students with scholarships. Two (2) students with \$1,500.00 and one (1) with \$2,000.00 scholarship!

Old Business

New Business

- Joe Gearing expressed ORC is currently looking for members to host upcoming meetings. Russ Decker Suggests to send out a poll to members to schedule the next few meetings and Lydia Archambo plans to put that suggestion to action.
- Kevin Cox expresses his happiness to see everyone and that he thinks we are all doing good work.
- Jessica Begonia announced that some “Behind the Scenes” episodes will to streaming on the City of Lima’s YouTube channel as well as GTV. Focusing on different departments including Utilities. A large part of that will be highlighting their upcoming solar panel that will directly help power the Water Treatment Plant. Funded through a grant. Jessica also noted that once a locking issue is solved for their new kayak kiosk is solved they hope to make a splash in the news with that.
- Kirk Niemeyer mentioned they are working on an H2Ohio applications for pine street and Elizabeth. They reached out to nature conservancy and were hoping to learn more about the project. They have liked what they have heard, and this is great news as they are a group of environmentalists.
- Cory Gonya added that Ohio EPA issued there final TMDL and the deadline is coming up in later September and lawsuits most likely will follow.
- Joe Gearing mentions that for the time being he will serve as treasurer until a new one is found.
- Lydia Archambo received the bill for the ORC insurance for \$1,395.00 per the bylaws because of the amount of the payment she is in need of a motion to pay this bill.

Motion made by Kevin Cox to pay the \$1,395.00 West End Liability Insurance bill. Russ Decker seconded, and motion carried.

Motion by Kevin Cox to adjourn the September meeting. Motion seconded by Adam Haunhorst and carried.
Meeting adjourned at 9:31 AM. The next meeting of the Ottawa River Coalition is Thursday, November 16th at 8:00 AM location to be determined.

Minutes transcribed by Lydia Archambo, Executive Director