

Ottawa River Coalition Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2023 8:00 am LACNIP

In attendance:

Joe Gearing, AC Engineer's Office
Adam Haunhorst, LACRPC
Kevin Cox, Perry Township
Beth Seibert, BOACC (online)
Boden Fisher, Ohio Dept. Ag.
Tim Williams, City of Lima

Lydia Archambo, Allen SWCD
Russ Decker, Nutrien
Marcus VanMeter, AC Engineer's Office
Denise James, LACNIP
Keith Hamblen, Allen County Carvery Bible/ Lima Christian Academy
Rom Meyer, Sanitary Eng.

Quorum was met. Chairman, Joe Gearing called the meeting to order at 8:06 am.

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

Joe Gearing introduced the minutes from September, 2023 meeting.

Motion by Russ Decker to approve the November 2023 meeting minutes upon grammatical corrections presented. Motion seconded by Adam Haunhorst and carried.

Treasurer's Report

Financial Report-

- Joe Gearing presented the November 2023 Financial Report. With a balance of \$13,244.37
- Lydia Archambo noted that the amendments made to the 2020, 2021, and 2022 Form 990's will be complete this week and available for viewing at the Allen SWCD office by appointment with Lydia.
- Russ Decker has been nominated by Joe Gearing to step into the treasures position. Due to this not being the end of a term and Joe nominating Russ Decker for the position, all that is needed is a member vote.
- Membership:
 - Allen SWCD
 - Village of Elida
 - Allen County Sanitary Engineer
 - American TWP.
 - City of Lima Engineering Dept.
 - LACRPC
 - Allen County Public Health

Member Vote: All in favor of Russ Decker stepping

into the treasure position. None opposed.

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

Motion by Kevin Cox to accept the members above. Motion seconded by Beth Seibert and carried.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee-

- The executive committee met on October 18, 2023. Discussed was the following:
 - Annual meeting (should it stay a breakfast or return to a dinner event)
 - Slate of officers
 - Beth Seibert has asked to no longer be the card name holder for the ORC and we have decided to get a debit card instead of finding a new credit card. this is due to the fact that the executive committee feels that no one person should have to give his/her credit to the organization

Fundraising Committee-

- Russ Decker gave an update on the November 3rd fundraising meeting held at Perry TWP. Lots of ideas were brainstormed with the good turn out of people. It was brought up that we should look at fundraising as two pots of money. One being yearly expenses of the ORC (Executive Director position, insurance, etc.) and the other is special projects (Dam removal, 9-element plan). This will make it easier for the organization because once we have a special project in mind we can go to our supporters and ask for donations for that project.
- The fundraising event that was most talked about would be a day at Shoonover lake. Food truck samples included in ticket price, a “duck pull” for the kids and a fishing derby of sorts for adults.
- Joe Gearing brought up his idea of using special project funds to create a 9-element plan.

Education Updates-

- Lydia Archambo mentioned the many different schools and clubs she was able to work with over the past two months (STEAM on the Quad, Allen Lima Leadership, North Middle School, Etc.)
- Stormwater Awareness week was Oct 1-7. Lydia created and printed “Bugs I the stream with Allen the frog coloring books) all 2nd graders in the county and city received these books.
- Lydia was asked to speak at an MS4 Illicit Discharge Conference being put on here in Lima she will be touching on how interns play a huge role in the Dry-weather outfall monitoring process.

Stream Monitoring Committee-

- Lydia Archambo stated that she has had confirmation with her contacts at the Ohio EPA that they will be in Allen County in the Ottawa River in 2024 collecting data for their 2025 study.

Stormwater Committee-

- Lydia Archambo relayed information given to her by Dakota Clay at the City of Lima including:
 - Leaf pickup has begun throughout the city this week. I’m assuming things are going according to plan since I haven’t heard otherwise.
 - We are currently in the planning and early design phases for some work along the Ottawa river corridor. Kirk has more information on the topic, but nothing has been proposed as far as I know.
 - Everything for Various Stormwater Improvements Project has been completed. This project added several basins on Idlewild, Loretta, and a few other locations to improve drainage. It also included the restoration of the Melrose detention basin near Robb Avenue and the improvements to the patio of the Sertoma shelter by the Skate pond in Faurot Park.
 - We are wrapping up the streetscape project on Spring Street
- Joe Gearing states that Marcus and the new county intern have been working on a lot of GIS projects, he is hoping the break tile on the wetland project here soon to connect the wetland to the ditch, and 2 stage ditches through out the county.
- Lydia Archambo informs the coalition that Allen SWCD has hired a new Stormwater Technician (Jacob) and once he starts he will be taking over PCBMP, good housekeeping, and half of illicit discharge. Once started we will be starting to conduct facilities checks.

- Beth Seibert reminds the group that in less than two years we need to implement a water quality improvement practice per our MS4 requirements. This is something that the coalition would be a great group to bounce ideas off.
- With many great resources for good practice funding Lydia suggests that if links are given to her she would ask Anne Decker to create a tab on the ORC website as a “Farmer resource” tab. This would allow these farmers to compare different programs, find new ones, and learn about the different concept. Russ suggests we reach out to Nic at OSU extension and invite him to meetings and solidify that partnership with Extension.

Watershed Committee-

- Regional Watershed Plans Update-
 - Boden Fisher gave a presentation on Area 1 updates. This presentation touched on agriculture, drainage, water modeling (chemical make-up), and other land use.
 - The Regional Watershed Plan is a goal of creating a report by bringing together stakeholders and create an over all view of the watershed and its noticeable problems. The regions were created by taking in many factors one of the largest being land use.
 - All members present found this presentation extremely beneficial. Boden has given the ORC permission to send it out to all members and welcomes any questions you may have. Lydia Archambo will be sending out links to the presentation with Boden’s email if questions arise.
- Due to the presentation file being too large to attach to an email, please copy the following link into google to access Boden’s presentation: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Rg_0-FcW7-ax99-UrdwRQQfu-4ANuFuY/edit?usp=sharing&oid=109898289172961886149&rtpof=true&sd=true

Scholarship Committee-

- Lydia Archambo noted that all scholarship funds reached winners schools accounts!

Old Business

- Thank you to all who have signed up to host meetings. If you would like to host a general meeting please reach out to Lydia.
- Insurance payment was made
- Simple solution invoice to Soil and Water was paid

New Business

- With the Annual Meeting being the next time, the committee will meet as a whole Joe Gearing will be stepping down as Chairman after serving his consecutive three years. With that, Joe nominates Adam Haunhorst (current Vice chair) to take his place, as well as nominates Ron Meyer for vice chair. The slate of officer vote will take place at the January Annual meeting.
- In 2024 the Executive Committee plans to do away with the Virtual option for meetings. This is because we would like members to attend in person and reconnect as we did pre-covid.
- Denise James shared that there will be an expo at the sing center and it should be a great event. She is participating in an adopt a family for Christmas program, as well as a school uniform giveaway.
- Tim Williams informed the group that there are four projects the Water Treatment plant is currently working on.

- Floating solar panels
- New water filters
- Metzger road pump station
- Computer upgrade
- Kevin Cox mentioned that He and the Perry TWP. Revitalization group is looking for funding options and is looking forward to sharing ideas. He has been working with the Historical Society locating family grave sites for living relatives. Kevin has also been working with Joe Gearing on watershed retention
- Adam Haunhorst let everyone know that is floodplain time of year.
- Boden Fisher updated everyone that H2Ohio is open for enrolment and two billboards will be coming to Lima.
- Joe Gearing stated the Breeze Road bridge will open soon as Conon bridge opened last month.
- Keith Hamblen a member of Allen County Calvary Bible and Lima Christian Academy wanted the coalition to know that he has found some tires in the river and would like to make sure the right people are informed to get those removed. He is proud of the progress the Ottawa River has made and wants to ensure that is stays happy and beautiful. Keith also was curious of ways to help ensure flow within the river all year. Denise informed Keith of the SeeClickFix app for the City of Lima and to put the tire locations into the data base.
- Lydia Archambo thanked the Coalition for making her transition into executive Director smooth and wishes everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. She can not wait to see everyone again real soon.

Motion by Kevin Cox to adjourn the September meeting. Motion seconded by Adam Haunhorst and carried.
Meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Minutes transcribed by Lydia Archambo, Executive Director