**Ottawa River Coalition Meeting Minutes**

**January 16, 2025 8:00 am Perry TWP**

**2025 Annual Meeting**

*In attendance:*

Joe Gearing, AC Engineer’s Office Lydia Archambo, Allen SWCD Russ Decker, Nutrien Marcus VanMeter, AC Engineer’s Office Ron Meyer, Sanitary Eng. Dakota Clay, City of Lima Melinda DeLaRosa, ASWCD Chad Reynolds, Allied Science Megan Hurd, Alloway Adam Haunhorst, Regional Planning

Matt Elkins, Cenovus Jessica Begonia, City of Lima

Alex Fields, Village of Ada Brad Niemeyer, sanitary eng

Radek Bolek, Alloway Anne Decker, Anne Decker Marketing

Justin McBride, ODA Sara Weekly, City of Lima

Kevin Cox, Perry Twp. Greg Kessen, Perry Twp.

Casey Heilman, Allen SWCD Beth Siebert, BOACC

Nathan Davis, AC Engineer’s Office

Adam Haunhorst welcomed the group to the 2025 Annual Meeting.

Adam Haunhorst introduced the minutes from November 2024 Annual meeting.

*Motion by Kevin Cox to approve the November 2024 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Megan Hurd and carried.*

Election of Officers: All Current Officers have expressed willingness to continue in their positions

*Motion made by Kevin Cox to reelect all three officers, Motions seconded by Joe Gearing and motion carried.*

**Treasurer’s Report**

Financial Report-

* Russ Decker presented the January 2025/end of 2024 financial report.
* Motion needed to pay Allen SWCD for the 2024 work performed by Lydia Archambo as the Executive director

*Motion by Adam Haunhorst to Approve Executive Director Payment, Motion seconded by Kevin Cox and carried.*

*Motion by Joe Gearing to Approve treasures report. Motion seconded by Kevin Cox and carried.*

* Membership:
  + Anne Decker Marketing
  + Nutrien
  + Allen Water District
  + Allen Co. Sanitary
  + Village of Ada
  + Alloway
  + Tri-Moraine
  + Allen County Engineers
  + National Lime and Stone

**New Business**

* + Presentation by Justin McBride (ODA)
    - “ODA Structural Programs for water quality”
    - Focus of physical structures
    - Be on the lookout for a possible water quality bond on a future ballet
* 2025 awards:
  + 2025 Watershed Improvement Award:  Jessica Begonia
  + 2025 Member Organization of the Year: Anne Decker Marketing
  + 2025 Outstanding Watershed Partner: Joe Gearing
* Chamber membership renewal

*Motion made by Russ Decker to renew are chamber membership. Motion seconded by Joe Gearing and motion carried.*

* Secret Surprise – Lydia Archambo
  + The ORC has won a 2024 City of Lima Stormwater Superstar Award for it’s Tired of Tires initiative!

**Committee Reports**

Executive Committee-

* The executive committee met in December – Adam Haunhorst
  + We discussed the Fish Fry and Annual Meeting

Fundraising Committee -Russ Decker

* We are in good shape for the fish fry!
* We are going to have ticket, and placemat sponsors this year so if you are award of a sponsor send them our way!

Tired of Tires – Lydia Archambo

* Look out for cleanup days in 2025

Passports – Lydia Archambo

* The Blanchard River Partnership that Lydia is a part of is creating and “watershed Passport” to visit different parts of the watershed and collect stamps. Lydia would like to bring this idea to the Ottawa River Watershed. Russ had the idea for business to sponsor stamps at the different locations. The Coalition expressed their excitement for this project.

Stormwater Committee-

* + Joe Gearing (County)
    - Updating the County SMESCR
    - 2 stage ditch projects
    - Figuring out how to take advantage of more funding
  + Dakota Clay (city)
    - Central Ave project will start work in January
    - Catalpa and homes project updates will start in 2025
    - Lima Community Aquatics project

**Old Business**

* Website Updates – Lydia Archambo
  + The new updated website is up! Check it Out!
* Museum – Lydia Archambo
  + I will meet with the Allen County museum in Jul to discuss a possible collaboration!

*Motion by* Joe Gearing *to adjourn the November 2024 meeting. Motion seconded by Russ Decker* *and carried.*

Thanks To Mama Cella’s (Cory) for catering our meal!

Next meeting will be March 20, 2025 at EMA (2000 North West Street).

Minutes transcribed by Lydia Archambo, Executive Director