



OHIO COASTAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tom Denbow, Chair
Dr. Robert Heath, Vice Chair

Mission: To advise the Director of ODNR on the Ohio Coastal Management Program and to promote, protect, enhance, and encourage the wise use of Lake Erie's coastal resources and its watershed.



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Meeting Minutes Thursday, May 9, 2013

Meeting Location: Avon Isle Park, 37080 Detroit Road, Avon, Ohio

Council Present: Ed Herdendorf, Don Donaldson, Vince Urbanski, Bob Heath, Tom Denbow, Joe Hayberger, George Goudreau, Leslie Korenko, David Spotts, Tom Szabo, John Willey

ODNR Staff Present: Deputy Director Karl Gebhardt, Scudder Mackey, Laurie Cleaver, Steve Holland, Amy Plunkett, Gene Wright, Virginia Bahs

Partner Staff Present: Ed Crawford (DSWR, Findlay), Sarah Orlando (Ohio Sea Grant)

Public Present: Ron Eicholt, Lake Erie Charter Boat Association

Quorum today – of 10 people out of 18

10:03 am - Call to Order by Chair, Tom Denbow

Meeting called to order by Tom Denbow and everyone present introduced themselves. There are several members excused today but there is enough for a quorum. Tom Briefly discussed housekeeping items.

10:05 am – Approval of February Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Joe Hayberger to approve the February meeting minutes, seconded by Leslie Korenko. Unanimously approved and motion carried.

10:06 am - Presentation from Avon Parks & Recreation Department Director Diane

Parks and Recreation Department took over ownership of the building a year and ½ ago. Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday is now booked for June. It was built in the 1920's by Anna Roth and was used for dances and other events. In the mid-to-late 1920's, Sunday dancing was outlawed in Elyria and Lorain so everyone came to Avon Isle through 1960. In the 1950's, Charlie Chaplin movies were played for a nickel. In the 1960's the building was used for bingo

and boxing matches. The City of Avon purchased the property in 1997 and until 2003 it was used for dance classes, pom pom and baton classes. The building is an official Ohio historical site.

10:30 am – Nearshore Assessment Presentation – Dr. Christine Mayer, Univ. of Toledo

(Attached)

Chief Mackey discussed the meeting held at OCM with University of Toledo, Division of Wildlife, OCM staff and Ohio EPA a few weeks back. They developed QAGI with a series of parameters. How might this be incorporated into OCM's technical assistance and guidance? When a reapplication site visit occurs, can some of the QAGI analysis and some of the parameters be incorporated when site reports are given back to coastal property owners? We need to build a strong linkage with the partners involved with this project and incorporate into the day to day work. With the shoreline alterations that have occurred over the past few decades, the problems will not be fixed or will not return to the pre-natural condition anytime soon. The cumulative benefits will start making a difference through small steps and over time. This is a tremendous opportunity to work through the council, with the Division of Wildlife and Ohio EPA to make Lake Erie better. Chief Mackey asked the council for their input and guidance and asked what specific information needs to be incorporated into OCM's guidance materials. Mr. Denbow stated this theme falls directly with the workgroup themes. Mr. Goudreau stated OCM needs a long-range-plan and these are the steps to follow so that a non-technical person can understand.

Laurie will send a copy of Dr. Mayer's presentation to council members in pdf format.

Chief Mackey said that Jason put together a flier that included fish pictures. This will help identify the individual species and associate the different types of habitat. People can look at it and understand what types of species that will benefit based on the structures. This needs to be incorporated into the guidance materials and design manual. This will not only enhance fish habitats, but overall will promote fisheries and tourism.

11:45 am - Office of Coastal Management (OCM) Quarterly Updates (attached)

Updates given by Steve Holland

There have been several successful Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) grants that have been processed to help acquire some significant lakefront properties in Lake County. The project is a good example of a strong partnership between federal, state, and local government as well as non-profit and for-profit corporations. Lake County put together some

exceptional applications that ranked highest in all the Great Lakes areas. There were a total of three grants that Lake Metroparks was awarded for this project.

OCM also applied and received a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant for a wetland conservation project.

Under the FY12 competition, the Ohio Coastal Management Program forwarded the Metroparks of the Toledo Area - Maumee AOC-Oak Openings Habitat Corridor application to NOAA for funding consideration. The project was selected and will receive funding in the amount of \$212,000.

Steve said that with respect to the University of Toledo study, a significant number of structures that OCM permits and reviews are offshore break waters, which serve to break up the wave energy offshore while preserving a more natural shoreline. With regard to an earlier suggestion, OCM staff frequently points shoreline property owners and consultants to Pennsylvania Sea Grant's shoreline vegetation guide. It tells which native plants species will be most effective in preventing erosion.

OCM will soon be distributing the new public access tributaries guide, which is a companion to the Lake Erie Public Access Guidebook. These are currently 45,000 copies shipped to Sandusky and will be available for distribution within the next few weeks. Mr. Denbow asked if the original Lake Erie Public Access Guide will be reprinted. Chief Mackey said there is a possibility to print a revised version. Gene Wright and Brian George discovered more sites. It's possible it will be more like a field guide and could be linked to smart phone apps. If the council has suggestions or ideas, let Chief Mackey know. Tom Szabo said John Benning has used QR codes to tie into chart diagrams and park information. He said this may be a good template for OCM. Link this to an online page that has detailed information.

Steve discussed the Coastal Non-point program, which is a partnership of the Coastal Management Program but managed by Division of Soil and Water Resources. There are 3 major areas for Ohio to address to get full approval of the program: 1.) Local roads BMPs, which is out of the state's authority since the state cannot require local governments to utilize BMP's. It has to be voluntary and acceptable for everyone involved. Soil and Water will talk to ODOT and see how this could be accomplished. 2.) There is a dams project currently underway. This is implementing a habitat component into the safety inspection side of ODNR's regulation of dams throughout the state. 3.) Home sewage rules that would satisfy U.S. EPA and NOAA's criteria for home septic tanks. There are proposed rules through the Department of Health and if all goes well, it will satisfy NOAA's requirements. It is hopeful to have the Coastal Non-point Program fully approved by the end of 2014.

Mr. Spotts asked for an update of the Ashtabula project with ODOT. Steve explained OCM is working out the last remaining details with ODOT on issuing the shore structure permit and submerged lands lease. Chief Mackey discussed the vegetation issue and how it falls in line with today's presentation of fish habitat.

Mr. Spotts stated there is a barge in Ashtabula County located on the shoreline. The adjacent homeowners are trying to prevent it from being removed because it will impact the shoreline. ODNR has no jurisdiction over its removal. Chief Mackey said authorities are very limited. There was a field team sent there who provided technical guidance. Corps of Engineers would potentially have the authority over this project.

Chief Mackey explained OCM has been involved with LEEDCo and offshore wind power. There is a barge onsite and they are drilling test holes to obtain good geo technical analysis to gain information. OCM will be reviewing and issuing the submerged land leases. There was a meeting last week and approximately 50 people were brought in to explore various issues with fabrication and constructability. OCM offered guidance and general lease information. The site is 7 miles north-northwest from the City of Cleveland.

Chief Mackey said OCM just submitted the NOAA budget for the next cycle. Impacts from sequestration will be a 5.9% reduction and OCM will be receiving \$1.65 million. There will be some impact but not as much as other agencies.

12:03 pm – Public Comment Period

No public comment

12:03 pm – Lunch

David Spotts left

12:29 pm – Coastal Partner's Updates

Ed Crawford from the Division of Soil and Water Resources gave his update (attached to the end of the OCM quarterly update).

12:29 pm – Local Community Updates

Mr. John Willey said Sandusky County is in the midst of finalizing an update of their comprehensive plan. Along the Sandusky River, there have been more floodplain development permit requests. A portion along the Sandusky River is part of the coastal zone. Fremont is in the middle of the fishing season. **Mr. Tom Szabo** didn't have any updates. **Ms. Leslie Korenko** said the Village of Kelleys Island has been trying to get estimates to replace sections of their

water intake pipe, which is located about 250 feet offshore by the big marina. Walleye and smallmouth fishing is in full swing. **Mr. George Goudreau** didn't have any updates. **Joe Hayberger** said everything is peachy☺. **Dr. Bob Heath** said the Ohio Coastal Resources Management Project, founded by Edith Chase, has decided their job is complete and decided to disband. This group has been an important source of independent information. Edith has been an advocate of Lake Erie and the coastal management program for many years.

12:41 pm – Motion

A motion was made by Leslie Korenko to send a letter of appreciation to Ms. Edith Chase, seconded by Ed Herdendorf. Unanimously approved and motion carried.

Mr. Dan Donaldson said they have been working on a lot of projects upstream. Activities include BMPs for stormwater, reducing sedimentation in the Chagrin, 319 sedimentation projects, and adjustments to sea lamprey treatment. The lamprey continues to be a concern as they feed on sportfish. ODNR just released some lake trout for the first time in years. **Mr. Vince Urbanski** discussed an article in *The Plain Dealer* about the Eastlake coal-fired power plant. Plans to convert it to a gas-powered plant have fallen through. The watershed partners are keeping an eye on the property. This could be a potential public access site someday. He said he looks forward to another successful steelhead fishing season. This brings a lot of revenue into Lake County. **Dr. Ed Herdendorf** explained he's been working at Stone Lab with an office in the research building. The new water quality lab is complete and has been funded by EPA. A Toledo student, and former Stone Lab student, Dr. Justin Chaffin, will be the research coordinator. Mr. Herdendorf recently published a paper that has been accepted by the Ohio Journal of Science on the Holocene development of Lake Erie, the period of post glaciers. The University has been approached by Miller Boat Line to put together an island guide. **Mr. John Hageman** could not attend the meeting but an update is attached. Mr. David Spotts sent an update on SR 531 Meyers to Nenivah Roads. He spoke to the project manager and the schedule is: August 2013 – the bid is awarded for the contractor and the work will start 4-6 weeks after bid is awarded (September – October 2013) at lakefront with stone work. The widening of SR 531 road with the new drain pipe probably will not begin until spring 2014.

12:57 pm - Council Business

Executive Committee Report

There was an Executive Committee meeting held on April 30 with all workgroup chairs present with the exception of Ms. Bihn. She was appointed after the committee met. Mr. Denbow explained he would like to call the committee together earlier next time and possibly give

specific assignments to the workgroups. Chief Mackey explained the importance of conveying a positive message of OCM and building public support.

Workgroup Reports

Outreach & Education (Written report attached)

Mr. Szabo, Outreach and Education Workgroup Chair, said their meeting was very productive. It took a good deal of time to go through the various items Debi and Brenda are currently working on. One thing that came out of their meeting is OCM is looking for guidance from the council for referrals or recommendations from organizations that may be interested in hearing from OCM. Chief Mackey elaborated by saying he would like to gain a different image of the coastal program from constituents and land owners and move from a regulatory image and begin incorporating the habitat work the office handles. We are not just a regulatory program and not an enemy of coastal property owners. It is important to use this information as an outreach opportunity.

Adaptive Management

Mr. Willey said their meeting was good and that the word resiliency came up a lot. The group discussed trying to establish a variety of scenarios, what groups and issues to focus on and which stakeholders would be included. Chief Mackey asked how can the workgroups and/or council help landowners adapt to change. There are types of management strategies that could be incorporated. He said he hadn't had a chance to send the group fundamental information on adaptive management but will try to do so soon. It would be a good idea to have information on extreme events such as Superstorm Sandy in OCM's guidance materials. This would help people be prepared and think about planning for high water levels and how this impacts the lake shore. OCM has been building better connections with both state and local emergency management agencies. The council could also help with those connections. Mr. Donaldson said there are USDA dollars for Superstorm Sandy damages – talk to your local soil and water districts.

Habitat

Workgroup Chair Mr. Donaldson said they had a teleconference call and discussed Jason's work and much of what was talked about in today's presentation with Dr. Mayer. They discussed habitat and encouraging that in structures. The focus needs to be on habitat when structures are designed or discussed.

Regulatory (written report attached)

Mr. Urbanski said the regulatory workgroup met but the meeting mostly consisted of organizational structure. Discussed how to assist Chief Mackey with his review of the OCM

regulatory program, some of the hurdles OCM is facing, and ways to better streamline. There are limitations with the ongoing legal action. Another meeting with the regulatory workgroup will be scheduled.

Mr. Goudreau said maybe the focus should be on something that could improve legislation. It's difficult without knowing what the process is. The council has many contacts but it's difficult to get through bureaucracy. Chief Mackey explained OCM has to build a case in order for changes to the regulatory program to take place. OCM needs to be able to have faster turn-around times, which will also allow better customer service. In the past, it has been an issue where it takes a long time to get through the processes. How can this process be streamlined? Some of these are fundamental changes that require change in ORC and Administrative Code. Need to convince the administration the changes are necessary and that there are some processes that will allow staff to do their jobs more effectively, efficiently and focus on resource protection and management. The regulatory workgroup, and overall council, can provide feedback from the coastal constituents with some of their issues. What are some aspects of the coastal program that need to be addressed, modified and/or improved? When these changes are made, the council can convey the changes occurred and be OCM's voice.

Dr. Herdendorf discussed the AG's office and the issue of trust land and private land. He suggested someone from the AG's office attend a council meeting. The coastal landowners would like clarification as to where the boundary is. Until this is determined, it's difficult to do the things needed.

1:35 pm – Old Business

A letter of support for the Detroit Waste Water District Federal NPDES permit was sent, but was received too late for a quick turn-around time for the department to respond. In the future, an internal letter would be drafted as a template so the director's office would have something to work from. OCM will work on whatever is needed in the future.

1:40 – New Business

The next Coastal Resources Advisory Council meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday August 8 with the location to be determined. There were some potential locations discussed and Laurie will look into them.

Mr. Urbanski suggested compiling a list of presentations and sending a call for presentations to local universities and colleges. There is a list of research that is currently taking place in the Lake Erie basin that many people are unaware of. Chief Mackey agreed and would like to see the future presentations directly related to specific workgroup topics.

1:48 pm – Adjourn

A motion was made by Joe Hayberger to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ed Herdendorf. Unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Final - approved at 8/15/13 meeting