



Minutes of the  
Environmental Affairs Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday, September 7, 2016  
Lake House 6:30 P.M.

Chair Larson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

I. Roll Call & Quorum

**Present:** Erica Larson, Rita George, Erin McDevitt-Frantz, Marty Patton, Christine Raymond, Kip Sekulic, and Terry Wyrock, citizen members.

Mike McCormick (Applied Specialties) and Tom Sulzer (PolyOne), industry members.

**Absent:** Melinda Rutledge, citizen member and Matt Mesaros (Ford), Lisa Spencer (Lubrizol Corp.), and Scott Cameron (NRG), industry members.

II. Unfinished Business

a. **Absences**

**Excused Absence Review:** Chair Larson made a motion to excuse the absences of Board members for the month of June 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sulzer. All Board members voted yes. Motion passed.

b. **Meeting Minutes**

**Approval of Minutes:** Mrs. Raymond made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for the month of June 2016. The motion was seconded by Mrs. George. All Board members voted yes. Motion passed.

c. **2016 Overview**

Chair Larson reported on activities and events the Board has completed to date. After the summer break in 2015, the task of the Board was to create a brand. A new logo was approved and Board members were assigned with creating new materials. A stand for the banner and table cloth identifying EAAB was ordered and received; brochures about the EAAB and PIPE were created along with a bookmark with information regarding Energy Efficiency.

The Board participated and sponsored the following events: Planting an Urban Garden in partnership with the Avon Lake Community Garden was held at the Avon Lake Public Library; a guest speaker from The Ohio State University Stone Lab addressed the Board and members of

the community; a garlic mustard pull was conducted in conjunction with the Lorain County Pride Day; the Board hosted a Leave No Trace workshop at Weiss Field; and the Board participated in the Avon Lake Waterfest.

**d. Waterfest Update**

Chair Larson reported on Waterfest. Mayor Zilka manned EAAB's table. Unfortunately, the event closed early due to weather. Individuals who stopped by the table and made a pledge on how they could help the environment received a reusable bag and notebook.

**e. Overview of Ohio Sea Grant's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Lake Erie Day**

Kip Sekulic and Terry Wyrock attended the Ohio Sea Grant's 9th Annual Lake Erie Day on August 29th. Mr. Sekulic reported on the event which was held on Gibraltar Island off South Bass and Put-in-Bay Islands. The Ohio Sea Grant has laboratories on the island and scientists work throughout the summer on various projects. Currently, their main focus is the algae blooms in Lake Erie. They went out into Lake Erie with a group and collected water samples, lowered filters in the water to see what is in the lake, and gathered material from the bottom of the lake, such as May Fly larvae. Also, a net behind the boat caught various fish, such as goby, perch, walleye, and white perch. Mr. Wyrock stated that white perch is an invasive species that has become a food source for game fish.

Mr. Sekulic reported on a woman referred to as the "Snake Lady," who has conducted extensive research on the water snakes in Lake Erie. Through her efforts, the water snakes have been brought back from possible extinction. She demonstrated how the baby snakes are injected with a tagging device. The device tracks the snakes and allows for mapping their location.

Mr. Sekulic stated that the main focus of Stone Lab is on the blue green algae or cyanobacteria. Algae enter the lake from the Maumee River. Fifty percent of the phosphorus from the Maumee River is derived from farm land and animal waste. A hand held meter was designed to detect cyano toxins. Methods to remove the nitrogen and phosphorus from animal waste through the digestion process are being developed. An app for smart phones is available to farmers which uses satellite communications to determine what parts of the farm land may or may not need fertilizer. Then farmers can test their fields to determine if there is adequate fertilizer.

Mr. Wyrock stated that there are two types of algae, cyanobacteria and plant life algae. Cyanobacteria are hazardous to everyone's health in addition to animal and water life. Plant life algae are beneficial and part of plankton, which is the food source of water life. A method to prevent fertilizer from getting into the river is to distribute the fertilizer in the winter when the land is hard. This method is called no-til farming. However, if a heavy rain occurs, the fertilizer could run off into the river. Another method in consideration is to inject fertilizer directly into the soil.

Mr. Sekulic stated that Stone Lab collects water samples and uses drones and satellites to monitor the color of the water to determine how much algae is present. In addition, they use solar panels for power and closely monitored all electricity produced.

### III. Reports from Committees/Groups

#### a. City Council and the Environmental Committee

In Mr. Shondel's absence, Chair Larson read the following report:

- Deer Report – The Public Works Department picked up 36 deer carcass through the month of August. In 2015, the total through August was 55.
- Nuisance wildlife sightings have occurred in Avon Lake, such as coyotes, fox, raccoons, and skunks. Discussions with ODNR and US Department of Agriculture were conducted to determine a course of action. The Mayor and City Council decided to establish a coyote/nuisance wildlife hotline at 440-930-4126. Residents are asked to report any sightings.

**b. City Administration** – None.

**c. Industry Updates**

Applied Specialties – None.

PolyOne – Mr. Sulzer reported that PolyOne has begun a lighting project in a warehouse at the facility to switch from halo lighting to LED. This is a large capital project with other locations planned. The project will phase out all halo lighting and last approximately three years.

#### d. Research/Investigative Groups

PIPE – Public Works Director Reitz requested the PIPE subcommittee create a flyer titled "Lake Erie Starts Here". The topic will inform the public about raw sewage getting into the lake and the need to separate the sewer system. Mr. Reitz hopes to bring awareness to the community on the current sewer separation projects.

Waste & Recycling – none.

Health Study – none.

Energy Efficiency – none.

Chair Larson requested all Board members review the webpage of their subcommittee on the City's website prior to the next meeting of the Board. She suggested if the goal has been achieved, to consider a new one based on the subcommittee's mission.

### IV. New Business

#### a. Upcoming Events

- Big Trucks – September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Safety Center.

- Homecoming – October 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> at Avon Lake High School.

A signup sheet for volunteers to attend was distributed. Chair Larson reviewed the events.

- West Shore FACT - Faith Communities Together for frack awareness will have a meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at the Unitarian Church in Rocky River. This group is comprised of religious groups interested in environmental initiatives. Avon Lake was invited to attend. For more information, go to [westshorefact.org](http://westshorefact.org).

The Board discussed the need for recycling containers to be available at community events, such as the Summer Market and Waterfest. Chair Larson reported that the City of Bay Village has a Green Team of volunteers who attend community events and coordinate all recycling at the events. After discussions, the Board decided to focus on recycling at community events, the parks, schools, and City pool.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully yours,

Valerie E. Rosmarin, Clerk