

Maumee AOC Advisory Committee (MAAC) Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2015 1:00pm – 2:45pm

Ohio EPA Northwest District Office, 347 N. Dunbridge Rd Bowling Green

Attendance (Voting Members): John Kusnier (Chair), Jenny Carter-Cornell, Tim Bollin (Vice-Chair) by phone, Tara Baranowski, Sandy Bihn, Tim Schetter; (Ex-Officio): Joann Banda, Cherie Blair, Matt Horvat, Terry Healie (phone), Archie Lundsey; (Facilitating Org): Kris Patterson; (Others): Mike Libben

Minutes

- **Welcome** and introductions for everyone present and on the phone.
- **(VOTE) Review Agenda/Approve Minutes:** John Kusnier, Committee Chair, noted that the June minutes from both half day sessions were available for review. Tara Baranowski made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Jim Carter seconded, and the motion passed. Kris Patterson will post the minutes for the public record on www.MaumeeRAP.org.
- **Chair's Report:** John reminded the group to complete their Ethics training online and let Kris know when you have completed it.
- **(VOTE) Endorse BUI Removal Letter of Support:** John presented the Letter of Support from the MAAC and Cherie presented the supporting documentation from Ohio EPA. The committee briefly discussed the BUI Removal. Jim Carter moved to provide the letter of support from the MAAC; Tim Schetter seconded and motion carried. Cherie will include the letter in the BUI Removal package that goes through Ohio EPA management to US EPA.
- **(VOTE) Approve BUI Target Letter to Ohio EPA:** Kris presented the BUI Target letter that she prepared, based on the June meetings and decisions of the MAAC. Jim moved for approval of the letter and recommended sending it to Ohio EPA. Tara seconded the motion and the motion carried
- **Ohio EPA Report:** Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA Maumee AOC Coordinator, gave updates from Ohio EPA. This committee should expect a revision to the BUI target document within a month or so. A few BUIs are being tweaked, some just needed refinement and one needed revision. Ohio EPA will consider our comments while the revision is being finished. No further revisions or updates to the targets are planned; any future changes or deviations would be explained in a delisting or removal document and/or handled with a local target. Ohio EPA is working to re-negotiate the funding from US EPA for Ohio's AOC program for the next five years (hopefully). In the meantime a gap grant is proposed to run from October to April 2016. In this gap grant, Cherie proposed that the agency may be able to provide assistance for technical support to three priorities: developing BUI 14: Wildlife Habitat target, developing the process & guidelines for approving AOC's Management Actions list and guidance for the Fish & Wildlife Habitat Restoration Plans. This would not be creating these plans for AOCs but for the guidance and technical support needed to guide the committee's development of these three priorities. Cherie noted that US EPA and other federal agencies sampled in this AOC for Summer 2015. She will provide more updates as available.

- **Facilitating Organization's Report:** Kris briefly reported that the Ohio EPA AOC Operating Support grant is almost expended. It ends Sept. 15th. She is waiting for a decision from Ohio EPA on the gap grant funding. The final updates to the DMDS Version 2 continue; it should be released as a significant upgrade later this year. The MAAC will be able to use it when reviewing current statuses of the BUIs, as a whole AOC as well as by watershed. The next version will include some additional charting tools to look at statuses and trends. She encouraged partners to continue updating and adding projects to the DMDS.
- **Discuss MAAC and AOC needs:** Kris & Cherie asked the committee again to consider their immediate needs, or those needs for the Maumee AOC, within the next 2-3 years so that those needs can be identified in either the state's or the facilitating organization's requests for funding from US EPA. The committee didn't identify any new needs or specific tasks but generally re-confirmed the general needs identified previously and noted that it would take time to really figure out what they need as they move through the next steps of the process.
- **Discuss Guidelines for Letters of Support & Endorsement:** Kris and John explained the need for further discussion and consideration of how the committee would like to handle requests for letters of support (general ones versus AOC or BUI specific ones) and letters of endorsement, if required by funding agencies again. The groups discussed these different scenarios and decided that they would like to consider each request. The committee can review/vote between meetings if necessary so that can consider them in a timely manner. The committee recognized that all requests may not be applicable to the work of the committee but they could decide that on a case-by-case basis. Kris is encouraged to let partners know to allow sufficient time for these requests. If endorsement is required in the future, the committee will come up with a review and evaluation process, which may involve a sub-committee, and widely distribute the call for endorsements letters.
- **Set Future Meeting Frequency, Dates, Times, Agendas and Locations:** John asked the committee how often they wanted to meet next year. The group anticipates meeting in October and December this year and then bi-monthly next year beginning in February. No dates were set as the committee chooses to use Doodle polls to gauge people's best availability and recognizing that standing meeting dates are a challenge for some variable schedules and travel commitments.
- **Announcements:** Sandy Bihn announced the Maumee Bay Watershed Festival on Sept. 27th.
- **Public Comments:** None.
- **Adjourn:** Jim Carter made a motion to adjourn, Tim Schetter seconded it, motioned carried.