



PARTNERING FOR CLEAN STREAMS

## Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

October 18, 2017 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Mannik and Smith Group, 1800 Indian Wood Circle, Maumee OH

Conference Call # 614-387-7405

### MINUTES

- **Welcome, Overview of Agenda:** John Kusnier, Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. The attendees were as follows: Daryl Dwyer, Matt Kovach, Sally Gladwell, John Kusnier, Melanie Coulter, Tim Schetter, Cherie Blair, Lynn Garrity, Cassie Lovall, Nick Bohland, Josh Miller, Jeff Schaeffer, Henry Streby
- **Vote to Approve Minutes:** Jim made a motion to approve the August minutes as written; Sally seconded. The Chair tabled the vote. The Committee did not have a quorum.
- **2018-19 MAAC Voting Membership:** Kris Patterson reviewed the general timeline for publishing and receiving applications for the 2018-2019 voting members. All but three of the current terms are expiring so many members are encouraged to re-apply and/or help recruit new volunteers. Advisory and Ex Officio members do not have to apply; just let Kris or Cherie know if you are interested in serving in those capacities. Kris will be looking for volunteers to help review applications in December so let her know if you are available.
- **Updates from BUI Sub-Committees**
  - BUI 3a & 14a: Josh Miller updated the group that their committee has met several times and is spending a lot of time gathering and analyzing data. They are only focusing on the watersheds that will not be re-sampled. This narrows the focus considerably. They have combined the teams with BUI 6 because the BUIs are so related and use essentially the same data set. They are looking for more near-stream habitat data, such as QHEI, and into other data sets/mapping tools that USGS has, in particular one pertaining to fish that may be relevant and able to extrapolate to this region. They are also working on descriptions and talking points of their process and the AOC/BUIs in non-AOC language that is more appealing to the general public.
  - BUI 6: Cassie Lovall added to Josh's update. They will meet again in December, hopefully with Ohio EPA staff that can explain the data sets in detail and to work on planning their workshops for next year. She is going on leave soon and is looking for someone else to lead the sub-committee. For now, Josh will work to support it as they combine their efforts.
  - BUI 8 & 11: John Kusnier updated the group that their team has met twice and will continue working on determining the scope of an assessment tool and/or surveys and data compilation & review. The group has been working on getting their "arms around the issues" and understand the more targeted, narrow focus through the BUI targets.
  - BUI 14b: Tim Schetter said the team has reached out to partners for updates to potential projects and to solicit any newer projects. They are reviewing and cleaning up the previous projects list and gathering more information. They are now including projects that weren't on the MAAC-approved habitat projects list (or funded with AOC moneys) but could have ancillary wildlife benefit. They plan to have a proposed list of projects for BUI14b to present at the next meeting. There was some discussion about keeping the focus on meaningful habitat projects &

- projects with benefits to multiple BUIs. There was also some discussion of the DMDS and what projects were included there (and flagged as MAAC recommended ones) and if a map could be presented that showed the distribution of the habitat projects.
- Cherie asked the sub-committees to be formulating what they need for assistance from a contractor. Ohio EPA plans to hire a contractor to assist with steps towards BUI removal, such as mapping, research, identifying projects, etc. Some previously identified mapping and corrections to the Tetra Tech report were brought up again. Cherie will attend meetings or reach out to the sub-committees to get any more direct requests soon.
- **Ohio EPA Report (Cherie)**
  - Cherie clarified the status of BUI 13. No BUI removal package is necessary because the status was previously listed as unknown, which US EPA did not list as impaired. Once data was collected and the proper target for the assessment unit was defined, this target was determined, by Ohio EPA, to be not impaired. Since the status went from undefined to defined, US EPA does not require a removal package. This status determination procedure is similar to what has been used in the past for the Maumee and other Ohio AOCs.
  - Cherie will continue to prepare the next update to MAP/EP list with new projects and changes to projects.
  - Ohio EPA has completed the biological and water quality assessments in five of the six HUC-10s in the AOC. Results are expected late this winter or next spring. Cherie will share those as soon as they are available.
  - Ohio EPA prepared an update to *Delisting Guidance and Restoration Targets for Ohio Areas of Concern (v.3.0)* and requested comments (before this meeting). Minimal comments were received. A final version is expected in the next month or so.
  - In November, Ohio EPA's AOC Program staff and agency management will have another AOC program meeting with US EPA and other federal agencies. There will be discussion of each AOC including the progress being made, planning for the upcoming year, discussion of what help was needed from others (particularly federal agencies) and suggestions for what the locals should/could do to expedite the BUI removal progress. Cherie intends to share the current and proposed MAP lists, BUI team work and perhaps get additional assistance from federal partners to accomplish some recommended actions.
  - Cherie provided a list of the approved NPS-IS plans and where they can be downloaded from Ohio EPA's website. She also listed the other Maumee AOC watersheds that plans will be developed as funding is released (some have just been awarded in sub-awards, while others will be developed later under a state-led contract).
- **Facilitating Organization's Report (Kris)**
  - Kris highlighted the many outreach activities PCS has led for the MAAC, including numerous small cleanups, AOC newsletter, AOC social media, and Clean Your Streams Day. For CYS Day, 910 volunteers removed 23,458 pounds of trash, tires, and large debris. PCS is working on the data compilation, submittal, and in looking deeper into persistent and/or egregious issues.
  - Kris updated the committee on the support grant status. The budget is 99% spent at the end of September and it has been extended at the same level of funding until March 2018. Some deliverables were revised or modified, based on Cherie's input, and other deliverables have been achieved, exceeded, or on track (many are ongoing support tasks).



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- Kris reminded everyone to sign up for MAAC newsletter and follow on social media @MaumeeAOC
- **Update on MAP project(s)** Various lead Project Coordinators briefly updated the committee on management action projects. A project at Cullen Park for re-using of dredge sediments may create in water wetlands. The Mannik and Smith Group is working with the Army Corp and the City of Toledo on feasibility and engineering plans. Several properties in the Oak Openings area have been acquired and plans for restoration are being developed. Restoration & acquisition work is underway at the Toussaint Wildlife area (through many funding sources) and the third phase is better defined now. Ducks Unlimited reported that they anticipate more work can be accomplished for less funding now and they will be obtaining drone footage as work progresses. A feasibility study is underway for the PENN 7 project and Ohio EPA has worked with NOAA to facilitate funding under the Great Lakes Commission/NOAA partnership for engineering and design. An RFP for the work is anticipated soon.
- **Partner Reports:** USGS reported that they are leveraging scientific support for the AOCs to develop some tools that could be useful in this AOC. One specifically is nicknamed MALMR and is an online assessment & mapping tool for the lower Maumee River nearshore and instream areas, with a focus on improving in stream fish habitat. There is also another USGS tool focused on fish species that may be useful to review and use side-by-side. Jeff also explained a new approach from the science community on looking at ecological connections, and what breaks them, called circuitscape. This may be a tool to consider. Lynn Garrity, with ODNR, also let everyone know that coastal management grants are due Friday. She also inquired if projects from the NPS-IS will be incorporated onto the MAP list too? Cherie responded that if the project fit the AOC program it could be added, if the MAAC proposes it. Projects won't automatically be added.
- Kris will send out a Doodle poll to set up the next meeting in December.
- No public comments received.
- Adjourned early.