
Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

December 14, 2017 9:30am – 11:30am

Fallen Timbers Battlefield Indoor Shelter 4949 Jerome Road, Maumee (not the mall or the monument)

Conference Call # (563) 999-2090 See email for webinar option

MINUTES

Attendees: John Kusnier, Sally Gladwell, Jenny Carter Cornell, Jim Carter, Tim Schetter, Julia Gehring, Paul Hotz, Melanie Coulter, Kari Gerwin, Mike Pniewski, Deanna Bobak, Joey Sink-Oiler, Nick Bohland, Leah Medley, Josh Miller, Henry Streby, Russ Terry, Debra Millsap, Kris Patterson

- **Welcome, Overview of Agenda:** John Kusnier, Chair, briefly went over the agenda, asked for introductions, and welcomed everyone.
- **VOTE to Approve Minutes:** The October minutes had been distributed and reviewed. Sally Gladwell made a motion to approve and Jim Carter seconded. The motion passed.
- **Update on 2018-19 MAAC Voting Membership:** Kris Patterson, reviewed the timeline for applications for next year's MAAC and noted that 12 applications were received, including some new interest. She asked for volunteers to help review applications.
- **Information from Federal/State AOC Program Review meeting:** Cherie Blair & Leah Medley, US EPA, presented information together on the direction of the AOC program and status of some BUIs in the Maumee AOC. Leah noted that US EPA met their goal for number of BUIs removed this year across all US AOCs. Leah also noted that the nearest term, or priority AOCs, will receive the funding and support from the federal agencies before any longer term (or further from delisting) AOCs. In addition, final management action lists must be approved by US EPA for BUIs for an AOC to receive funding. Leah explained that US EPA has developed a tiered system for distributing the funding. Capacity funding will continue, assessment funding can be in addition to capacity funding, and GLLA and time critical projects will be funded before longer term projects. New GLRI funded projects will need to develop plans for operations and maintenance, although details are still being worked out. The Maumee AOC has been making incremental progress. BUI 1 is projected for removal in late 2018, once more data is received and evaluated. BUI 6 target has some new conditions for contaminated sediments, in specific areas within the AOC and new beneficial use rule language is being developed within the state of Ohio. For BUI 8, data is showing the mainstem Maumee dissolved oxygen target has been met.
- **Updates from BUI Sub-Committees**
 - BUI 3a & 14a & BUI 6: Josh Miller updated the group on their progress. His team (and Cassie's) have been collaborating to plan a workshop to engage more stakeholders in identifying potential projects using a variety of supplemental data sets (online mapping, databases, models, etc). They are holding a pre-workshop planning session; if interested in helping, let Josh know.
 - BUI 8 & 11: John Kusnier summarized their progress. They are in a holding pattern and have asked for support from the Ohio EPA contractor, when one is available. For both algae and aesthetics, there are no substantial data sets or detailed records going back for decades to look at changes, trends, causes/sources, over the last 30 years in the AOC. They have some ideas on resources to dig into and agencies to ask but they are still working to better focus in on ways to measure these BUIs and to determine when the targets have been met.
 - BUI 14b: Tim Schetter summarized this BUI target, the teams past process for identifying projects and that the team revisited the project list and identified some new projects to meet the acreage target. The project lead for one project revised the acreage and so the total acreage fell short by 8 acres. This was not the team's intention, as this change was made after they forwarded the list. The

committee questioned how this would be handled, since the BUI target is a very specific acreage target. Cherie said that project adjustments are continually being made as needed and that those additional acres needed may be made up by other projects. Leah reminded the group that the final lists are not set in stone. The list can be revisited, with good justification, if needed in the future. The lists are also not final until US EPA approves it, which does not mean they are funding them all at that time. Cherie agreed to include a placeholder project to be determined in the future, but specifically included on the list, of at least 10 acres (or whatever ends up being needed to meet the target). Cherie stressed that US EPA will not fund projects without a final list and that Ohio EPA and US EPA had agreed to breaking this BUI into two lists (14a and 14b) and that 14b would be eligible for funding if the committee voted to approve it. There are many projects already on the 14b list that were previously approved by the committee and Ohio EPA (and are awaiting funding) but it is not considered a final, complete list yet.

- The BUI14b list was amended and the new projects only were presented for a vote.
- **VOTE** on final Recommended MAP list for BUI 14b: The new projects on the amended 14b list were presented for a vote. Paul Hotz made the motion. Jenny Carter-Cornell seconded. There were 8 votes for and TNC abstained. The motion passed. Cherie will prepare the list for her management and Ohio EPA will send the list they approve to US EPA.
- **US EPA Report:** Leah Medley noted that US EPA is currently operating under a continued resolution until December 22. They continue as if they have \$300 million at this time so they are funding some projects. The House & Senate have currently proposed \$300 million in the budget but that isn't final. She reminded the group of the US EPA AOC conference scheduled for May 16 & 17th in Wisconsin. Cherie noted that the day before is pre-conference tours that people may want to plan for and she hopes a large group of Maumee AOC representatives will go. Great Lakes Commission has travel scholarships available.
- **Ohio EPA Report** (Cherie)
 - Cherie will prepare the updated version of MAP/EP list and the BUI 14b list and send to her management. Ohio EPA sampled about two-thirds of the AOC this past summer and is still processing and reviewing the data. She will share it as soon as she can. Ohio EPA secured AOC funding for NPS-IS Habitat Plans & consultant support and has hired Tetra Tech (with Mannik and Smith Group as a sub) to assist the other partners preparing maps for plans, to complete seven plans, and to compile the plans for the AOC this year. Ohio EPA prepared a new *Delisting Guidance and Restoration Targets for Ohio Areas of Concern (v.3.0)*, which will be posted online at Ohio EPA's website soon.
- **Facilitating Organization's Report:** Kris Patterson reported on Partners for Clean Streams activities in supporting the MAAC. PCS continues the outreach activities, such as leading and preparing additional small cleanups, newsletter, website and social media. PCS also provides admin support for applications, meetings, overall planning for grant progress & future funding and activities. There will be a Doodle poll for next full committee meeting in February and Kris reminded everyone to sign up for MAAC newsletter and follow on social media @MaumeeAOC.
- **MAP Reports** (Lead Project Coordinators)
 - Update on Projects: TNC provided a brief update on some projects. Based on the preliminary design for the Bettinger property project, additional funding will be needed. TNC is in the early planning stages of a project on Carter Historic Farm. They have had no response from Turtle Creek landowner so they are looking for other similar properties.
 - Lucas County SWCD shared that they had a project funded out of the previously approved 9-Element plan for Heldman. It is an ag project that will focus on nitrogen & sediment reduction. It was funded out of extra money from Ohio EPA at the end of the year. Lucas County Engineers

shared that the Herr Road 2-stage ditch and habitat restoration project is moving along. Plans are approved and an RFP issued. It should be under construction in the fall of 2018 and be done in about a year. Metroparks noted that Howard Marsh, Phase 1, construction is done. The pumps aren't online yet but should be soon.

- All funded NPS-IS Habitat Plans are underway but there isn't much to share yet.
- **Partner Reports** (varies): none
- **Public Comments & Adjourn:** No public comments received.