



PARTNERING FOR CLEAN STREAMS

Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

August 11th, 2016 2:00pm – 4:00pm

UT Lake Erie Center

6200 Bayshore Rd

Conference Call # [614-387-7405](tel:614-387-7405)

MINUTES

- **Welcome & Introductions** (Kris) Kris Patterson invited people to introduce themselves.
Attendance: Tara Baronowski, Tim Bollin, Daryl Dwyer, Jenny Carter-Cornell, Sally Gladwell, John Kusnier, Tim Walters, Paul Hotz, Terry Shankland, Patekka Bannister, Jim Carter, Melanie Coulter, Tim Schetter, Joann Banda (phone), Cherie Blair, Kurt Erichsen, Bryan Hinterberger, Cassie Lovall, Joey Sink-Oiler, Nick Bohland, Archie Lunsey (phone), Ted Smith (phone), Michael Weintraub, Kris Patterson, Diane Shankland (guest), Bill Carlson (phone)
- **Review Agenda/Approve Minutes** (John, Chair) John reviewed the agenda and asked for a motion on the June 9th minutes. Terry made a motion to accept the minutes as written and Tim Bollin seconded the motion. The motion passed with no objections.
- **Working Meeting Update: Review Potential Management Action Lists by BUI** (Cherie)
 - Cherie summarized the Working Group sessions held in June & reviewed the worksheets that were compiled during those sessions. The group went through the summary worksheets BUI by BUI after clarifying why the BUI14b were included in both this packet and as a separate voting item. The worksheets also include projects that are already underway to document that those are projects to follow and that may lead to other Evaluation and/or Management projects in the future or are projects necessary to allow the MAAC to make decisions about the BUI status. Ted Smith, US EPA, and Bryan Hinterberger, US ACE, both stressed their agencies willingness to quickly consider projects recommended by the MAAC. Ted Smith encouraged the MAAC to move quickly to capture the opportunity for near term funding and showing progress.
 - The group discussed the short list of potentially immediately implementable projects and made two clarifications. The first is that it is a sub-set of the complete workbooks on each BUI but not a complete list of projects necessary for BUI removal. The group physically separated the list from the comprehensive packet of each BUI-by-BUI list to make it clear that this was a separate list, and separate action. The second clarification was that the text for BUIb, under the Project/Action column, be re-worded to state: "Fund identified wildlife habitat projects approved by the MAAC." This was to make it clear that the MAAC would approve BUI14b projects as a separate list and through specific action. Additional projects may be recommended as necessary in the future. Jenny put forward a motion to forward all the immediately implementable evaluation and management action projects identified with the request that the agencies report back what will be funded at the next meeting. Daryl seconded the motion. Discussion is noted above. The motion passed. Kris will submit the short list of projects to Ohio EPA for their acceptance and request that they provide feedback regularly to the MAAC. Ohio EPA would be the agency to request (or not) financial or resource support from other agencies or funding for projects endorsed by the MAAC.
 - Additions for the worksheets? Daryl Dwyer asked if the MAAC would see an advantage to the University doing more frequent monitoring of beach closings and other studies to look at

algae to assist with BUI removal. The MAAC briefly discussed some specifics around those targets and that data wasn't necessarily the limiting factor.

- **VOTE: BUI 14b: Wildlife Habitat Target** (Tim Schetter)
 - Tim Schetter explained the challenges of developing this proposed target. After several iterations of targets from the sub-committee and much dialogue between US EPA, Ohio EPA, and the sub-committee, a new recommendation has been developed. Tim explained that this is not the sub-committee's preferred result but that it recognizes the limitations of funding and other resources and the narrow focus of the AOC program. In short the target accept the state's calculation based on the NLCD 2011 of 3,427 acres but recognizes that this target can be achieved in either terrestrial or wetland acres through restoration, and enhancement, (which both may include acquisition) within the sub-regions (i.e. focus areas) defined by the MAAC: Coastal and Oak Openings. Progress is expected in the rest of the AOC, including the agricultural regions and previously defined Riverine Connectivity Sub-region, through the creation of habitat restoration plans using the 9-Element Non-Point Source Watershed Implementation Strategy template & guidance. See the draft BUIb target attachment for more detail.
 - The MAAC discussed the concerns the sub-committee had and questioned again why the number of acres couldn't be set higher given how significantly impacted this region is for habitat. To capture some of these concerns the MAAC would like to see some language added to rationale that reflects their concerns and that goals for habitat restoration and preservation in this region go well beyond the minimal work under the AOC program. The MAAC requested to see the target written up in the proper format and with the rationale included and would vote electronically between meetings.
 - To try to move forward more efficiently the group decided to vote specifically on the number of acres, separate from the whole target. Tim Schetter made a motion to accept the target of 3427 acres of restoration or enhancement of either terrestrial or wetland in the Oak Openings & Coastal sub-regions. Daryl seconded and the motion passed.
 - Note: After the meeting, the MAAC voting members reviewed the target in the usual format with the rationale and made a few revisions. The voting members reviewed a second revision, Melanie made a motion to accept the attached version, Daryl seconded, Sandy abstained, and ten other members voted yes electronically. Kris submitted the recommended BUI14b target to Ohio EPA for their acceptance and it was accepted.

- **VOTE: BUI 14 Wildlife Habitat Projects**
 - Kris and Cherie reviewed the proposed projects that the BUI14b sub-committee compiled with the MAAC. These are in line with the proposed target and assuming that is approved by Ohio EPA, Cherie strongly recommending providing Ohio EPA with the high priority projects co-currently with the target approval. The group discussed the process that the sub-committee used to compile the projects and if these include acquisition. It was clarified that some projects include acquisition and that the development of the habitat restoration plans would be included as a projects, separate from the target but supported by the target rationale. Sally made a motion to recommend the Level 1 projects and then to prioritize the Level 2 projects that include acquisition. Tim Bollin seconded and the motion passed. Kris will re-order and highlight the Priority 2 projects that include acquisition before submitting the list to Ohio EPA. Additional projects will need to be identified in the future to meet the proposed target.

- **Ohio EPA Report** (Cherie)

- Update on Tetra Tech contract and their assistance: Cherie explained that the Tetra Tech contract was delayed until July but that Ohio EPA has met with Tetra Tech twice now to define their scope of work. The work will be completed by mid-December. Tetra Tech will primarily work with the two sub-committees on BUIs 3, 6, and 14a to help develop weighted metrics, evaluate and compile data, and rank & evaluate potential projects.
- Cherie reported that she is setting up the Sub-committees & they will begin meeting soon.
- Updates on Ohio EPA activities in the AOC: Ohio EPA will be releasing an RFP to support developing 9-Element NPS WIS soon.
- Updates on other agencies' activities in the AOC: FWS is still working on their contaminants of emerging concern, doing sampling in the Maumee River.

- **Facilitating Organization's Report (Kris)**
 - Activities since last meeting: Supporting meetings and website & social media. Held a successful Sandpiper water quality cruise with multiple speakers highlighting the work & the challenges in the Maumee AOC, especially the lower Maumee and its tributaries. People were very interested. More people wanted to come than could board so we should do this again next year and add specialized tours for other audiences.
 - Planning for 2016 outreach activities: Future Sandpiper cruises, considering an established outreach campaign that other partners here are looking into (so we can share resources and a common message), and will hold additional CYS 365 and/or Get the Lead Out programs. The committee briefly discussed the Summit and confirmed an interest in holding it again in Dec, with the date to be chosen based on availability of a location. A meeting would also be held in December and is currently scheduled for the day of the Summit.
 - SEP funds update: TMACOG is almost done with their project & will bill us afterwards. Sandpiper cruise is the only other expense pending.

- **Announcements and/or Updates from Ex Officio & Resource Members (open floor)**

Limnotech is developing a sediment reuse plan for Cullin Park. US EPA has a Great Lakes basin-wide effort involving 5 agencies in looking at land use and contaminants, including in the Maumee watershed. TMACOG is working on several projects including a Sources and Amounts project with Lucas County & the City of Toledo. TMACOG is specifically focusing on septic contributions and upstream phosphorus loading. TMACOG is going to re-advertise their job a bit differently and hopes to hire this year. Terry SHankland commented that Michigan's communities have a lot of septic tanks that should be considered inputs into Ohio waters.
- **Public Comments (open floor):** Terry Shankland commented that people are in and on the river and fishing too, especially the Ottawa, and don't know there are issues. The signs aren't posted or aren't clear and people don't head them. What should we do about that? Some discussion ensued about who is responsible for making those notices and there are only signs (not mailings, or alerts or other forms of communication). Discussion also came up about the MAAC considering this for outreach and education but that it would be challenging to reach that audience in a better way.

- **Future Meeting Frequency, Dates, Times (Kris)**
 - Bimonthly mtgs at 2pm on the following dates: October 13th, December 8th (may be combined with the Summit) Locations TBD
 - Additional Management Action Development Sub-Committee Meetings will be scheduled as needed

- **Adjourn meeting:** Terry motioned to adjourn. Tim seconded. The motion passed.