
Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

October 28, 2015 2:00pm – 3:30pm

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

MINUTES

Attendees via conference call: John Kusnier, Tim Schetter, Tara Baranowski, Sandy Bihn, Jenny Carter – Cornell, Tim Bollin, Jim Carter, Terry Shankland, Bill Buri, Mike Libben, JoAnn Banda, Matt Horvat, Josh Miller, Jeff Schaffer, Cherie Blair, Kris Patterson

- **Welcome:** Everyone on the call introduced themselves.
- **Review Agenda/Approve Minutes:** The agenda was reviewed and no changes made. Terry Shankland made the motion to approve the minutes with minor changes as discussed. Tim Schetter seconded & the minutes were approved with minor changes as soon as there was a quorum on the call.
- **Discussion of Application Process & Timeline for new committee members:** The application process was outlined with dates proposed and accepted for the timing of publishing applications, reviewing applications, and accepting new members prior to the end of the year. The remaining committee members (those with 2-year terms) will serve as the selection committee, with secretarial support from Kris. Minor changes were recommended for the application format & questions. Cherie and Kris will make the changes and Kris will publish the application and promote the opportunity to seek new voting members. Cherie will contact federal and state agency representatives and confirm their continued participation and solicit new participation as Resource and/or Ex-Officio members.
- **Summit Format, Agenda, Date Discussion:** The committee discussed the Summit format & agenda and made very few changes. Fewer presenters may be needed this year while more time is spent on updating the public on the work of the Committee over the last year and the future direction for the Committee. John, Cherie, and Kris will finalize the Summit agenda and plan the logistics for the location & speakers. The dates proposed are Dec. 2, 3, 10 at one of the Metropark's facilities.
- **Maumee AOC Annual Report For SF15 Submitted** (provided): See the enclosed written report that was distributed via email to the Committee. Cherie summarized the report verbally on the call.
- **Ohio EPA Report** (Provided): See the enclosed written report. Cherie summarized the report during the call.
- **Facilitating Organization's Report** (Provided): See the enclosed written report. Kris summarized the report during the call.
- **Future Meeting Frequency, Dates, Times:** John, as Chair, solicited feedback from the Committee on the 2016 meeting frequency. The Committee agreed to continue meeting bi-monthly starting in February but will determine the specific dates with the full Committee in 2016 so that new members feedback is included. Cherie and Kris offered to hold a New Member Orientation in January if needed. In addition, a sub-committee working group will continue working on BUI 14,
- **Public Comments:** None.
- **Adjourn**

Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

Facilitating Organization's Update

Update

- **Facilitating Organization's Report** (Kris)
 - Status update on current Ohio EPA grant(s), activities, monies remaining, extension(s) – existing grant closed Sept 15th, all money was spent out. Final reports were submitted. Highlights of activities in the last 2 months:
 - Planning for Clean Your Streams Day – 971 volunteers, 13,528 pounds removed
 - Drafting new layout and content for more robust MaumeeRAP.org website and updating the current page
 - Participating in meetings and discussions related to the AOC, funding opportunities, & to the programmatic changes; responding to requests for proposals to continue support the AOC & the committee
 - Support activities for the MAAC
 - Maumee AOC Data Management and Delisting System (DMDS) Version 2 to be released soon
 - Grant was closed out; all money spent & final reports submitted.
 - Updated data & targets, new charting module
 - Ohio EPA is validating the data & statuses prior to release.
 - Future AOC Support Grants
 - Supplemental Grant (July to Sept 2015) – expended and closed out.
 - Gap Grant (extension Sept 16 – Feb 29, 2016) – this differs from what was proposed
 - 3 Year Support Grant (April 2016 to March 2019?) – will be expected to propose projects and support activities soon (whenever Ohio EPA asks for a proposal).



John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Craig W. Butler, Director

Maumee AOC Coordinator Update for the Maumee AOC Advisory Committee August 27 to October 28, 2015

- The **BUI 12 removal package** with input from US EPA-GLNPO, Ohio EPA, and MAAC was finalized including supporting documentation and comments from MAAC and public. After routing through the Ohio EPA Director it was sent to US EPA-GLNPO for concurrence. US EPA's acceptance letter was received on Sept 23, 2015. CONGRATS on our first BUI removal!
- As I have mentioned in the past, US FWS and US EPA have been collecting various data in the Ottawa River. They collected whole body fish for **fish tissue analysis** this summer/fall. When it was determined that they did not have the funds to analyze the fish, Ohio EPA agreed to incur this cost. Because the sample size and locations were fairly robust through the DO NOT EAT advisory zone, it is expected that the status of the consumption advisory will be able to be evaluated. The hope is the DO NOT EAT advisory may be able to be reduced. Results are not expected until Fall 2016, and any determination of the consumption advisory will not be made until Winter 2016. New advisories are issued the last day in February each year.
- Starting in 2016, several federal agencies are planning a **Great Lakes wide sampling event** focusing on different issues each year. In 2016 it is anticipated that the focus will be on pesticides. The Maumee River is expected to be one of the focus streams for Lake Erie. In late September I conducted field recon for sampling locations with US FWS.
- Based on the Annex 4 recommendations, 40% reduction goals for phosphorus, Domestic Action Plans and other initiatives, Ohio EPA is re-evaluating which watersheds will be sampled in the coming years under its Basin Study Program. I am highly encouraging that sampling be conducted in the watersheds of the Maumee AOC due to the age of some of our data and their location in the Western Basin. It may be possible to have most of the **AOC comprehensively sampled** in the next few years. I will keep you posted.
- I gave a presentation regarding Ohio AOCs at the **Ohio Watershed Leaders Conference** at Camp Miakonda on Sept. 11, 2015.
- At the last meeting the MAAC discussed **next steps**; however there was an uncertainty as to what Ohio EPA could do/fund. Shortly after the last meeting, I prepared a request (these were noted in the annual report under item 2) as to how the MAAC would like to proceed and what assistance was needed. Now that Ohio EPA has been awarded the funding, we are working to determine if this request is possible. I hope to have a determination (and a contract to begin [fingers-crossed]) before the end of 2016.
 - Create local target for BUI 14: Wildlife Habitat
 - Define what is needed on Management Actions List
 - Begin creation of Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Restoration Plans (using existing plans and new projects; projects highlighted should be based on need for restoration of BUI 3, 6 and the new local target for BUI 14)
 - Begin creation of Management Actions List

FY 2015 Annual Report Maumee AOC

(Prepared by Kristina Patterson, Executive Director, Partners for Clean Streams and
Cherie Blair, Maumee AOC Coordinator, Ohio EPA Northwest District Office)

COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

1. AOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A. Accomplishments of the Maumee AOC Advisory Committee (MAAC)

- i. Establishment of a new Committee via an application and selection process coordinated by the Facilitating Organization (Partners for Clean Streams (PCS))
- ii. Selected committee members & officers, developed and adopted operating procedures, reviewed/adopted BUI Restoration Targets
- iii. Reviewed and endorsed two projects to be potentially funded with existing Maumee AOC Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) funding; final decision resided with PCS Board of Directors (one project was funded in Summer 2015)

B. MAAC Meeting dates

- i. February 27, 2015 (initial meeting)
- ii. April 16, 2015
- iii. June 2, 2015 (1/2 day session: BUI target review)
- iv. June 4, 2015 (1/2 day session: BUI target review)
- v. MAAC intends to meet bi-monthly for FY 2016, instead of the recommended quarterly meeting schedule

2. AOC OUTREACH EVENTS AND ATTENDANCE ESTIMATES

A. Web Site, Social Media and E-newsletter

- i. Website
 - a. Re-launched MaumeeRAP.org website with basic information
 - b. Complete redesign of a robust, multi-function website with more information is in progress, expected Winter 2015
- ii. Facebook and Twitter
 - a. Established accounts and began regularly distributing information
- ii. E-newsletter
 - a. There is not a Maumee AOC specific newsletter, however AOC issues have been promoted and shared in the PCS e-newsletter monthly (12 issues)

B. Storm Drain Marking (various dates throughout Summer 2014)

- i. 490 Storm Drains were stenciled/marked
- ii. 915 homes received educational door hangers
- iii. Partnered with Lucas Co Engineers Office on some events

C. Get the Lead Out (various dates throughout Summer 2014)

- i. 44 volunteers, totaling 89 volunteer hours with 3 outings
- ii. Averaging 3-5 pounds of lead per year & lots of line, all of which is recycled or reused
- iii. 2 miles along the Maumee River between Perrysburg and Maumee

D. 18th Annual Clean Your Streams Day (Sept., 20, 2014)

- i. 1,109 volunteers, 61 sites
- ii. 16,978 pounds of trash, including 126 tires which were recycled

E. Maumee AOC Summit (Dec. 4, 2014)

- i. 46 people attended
- ii. Focus was on the AOC Programmatic Changes and path forward, including explanation of Framework Document, Facilitating Organization, MAAC establishment

- F. 13th Annual Youth Patch Workshop** (March 8, 2015)
 - i. 70 Youth, 24 Adults
 - ii. 8 stations focused on water and pollution reduction opportunities
 - iii. Each participant received a bag of take-home educational activities, including Maumee RAP brochures & Give Water A Hand tip cards
- G. Global Youth Service Day** (April 18, 2015)
 - i. 134 youth and 35 adults
 - ii. Stenciled 587 drains
 - iii. Distributed 1575 educational door hangers
 - iv. Conducted in 8 communities in AOC to increase awareness of proper use of storm drains
- H. Grants secured by PCS to further Outreach Events & Aesthetics Activities within the AOC**
 - i. *Ohio EPA Litter Grant (July 2014 – June 2015) (\$7,515)*
 - a. Purchase supplies for Clean Your Streams Day & Stream 365
 - ii. *National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (July 2014 – Sept 2015) (\$6,000)*
 - a. Purchase materials for Get the Lead Out, Fishing Line Recycling Bins, Public Education and Outreach materials
 - iii. *Toledo Community Foundation (Jan 2014 – Sept 2015) (\$17,000)*
 - a. Support for Clean Your Streams, Get the Lead Out, Stream 365
- I. Misc. Outreach Events**
 - i. Designed & printed a new AOC display for use at fairs, festivals, and other events
 - ii. Maumee AOC Project signage was designed and installed at National Museum of the Great Lakes, Toledo Botanical Garden, The University of Toledo and Camp Miakonda.
 - iii. Helped to plan US EPA AOC Conference at The University of Toledo (March 11-12, 2015). PCS, Ohio EPA and other Maumee AOC partners presented in breakout sessions and PCS hosted a pre-conference evening reception.

3. IMPLEMENTATION AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

A. Data Management and Delisting System (DMDS)

(Winter 2013-Fall 2015)(US EPA via Ohio EPA \$200,000)

- i. DMDS is a comprehensive, interactive, mapping, searchable, web-based tool that provides community-wide support for watershed planning for all of the Maumee AOC watersheds, with an emphasis on AOC Program Targets, Status and Data.
- ii. Purpose was to develop an information management system that would:
 - a. Provide electronic tracking of the management actions, as well as other projects and their status, including completed or active projects, funding status and potential projects that will address BUIs;
 - b. Has a web-based presentation of the information for stakeholders to review analytical data and projects, make inquiries about status or the location of projects, see a graphical representation of the AOC/BUI status, and;
 - c. Co-located visual representation of the status of impairments and projects provides valuable tools for setting priorities for targeting BUI removal.
 - d. The DMDS is expected to become an integral decision-making tool for setting priorities for critical management actions that will help achieve the goal of removing BUIs.
- iii. Custom designed and coded system that is unique to the Maumee AOC, but could be replicated in other AOCs or watersheds
- iv. Public launch of DMDS v.1.0 in December 2014
- v. Expect launch of enhanced DMDS v. 2.0 in Fall 2015

B. Maumee Corps

(Summer 2013-Summer 2015) (US EPA via NOAA GLRI \$800,000)

- i. This project supports a long-term goal established in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan to protect and restore habitat. More specifically, the Maumee Corps' work resulted in long-term outcomes that brought the Maumee Area of Concern closer to delisting two Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs): the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat (BUI #14) and Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations (BUI #3).
- ii. Acres treated: 2309.6 (Goal was 1000)
- iii. Acres restored: 878 (Goal of 250)
- iv. Workers hired: 35 (Goal was 20, including Part-time, full time and seasonal)
- v. 37,000 hours of work in the Oak Openings region (Swan Creek and Ottawa River watershed)

1. A FEW PHOTOS (WITH CAPTIONS) FROM EVENTS DURING THE PREVIOUS YEAR

- a. See below

CURRENT STATUS OF BUIs (SUMMARY TABLE)

- 1. The current status of BUIs in the Maumee AOC is based on the *Delisting Guidance and BUI Restoration Targets for Ohio Areas of Concern* (May 2014). These were determined by the DMDS v.1.0. Minor changes at the assessment unit level are expected with the release of DMDS v. 2.0 in the Fall of 2015 due to minor changes to the targets and additional data being available.

Some data gaps have been identified, as well as those assessment units that have data that does not meet the threshold of 10 years or newer. A detailed list of data needs was provided to Ohio EPA in Spring 2016. This list will be updated with the release of DMDS v.2.0.

An overview of the status of the BUIs is presented in the table below.

Beneficial Use Impairment	Whole AOC
BUI 1: Restriction on fish and wildlife consumption	Impaired
BUI 2: Tainting of fish and wildlife flavor	Not Impaired
BUI 3: Degradation on fish and wildlife populations	Impaired
BUI 4: Fish tumors or other deformities	Impaired
BUI 5: Bird or animal deformities or reproductive problems	Not Impaired
BUI 6: Degradation of benthos	Impaired
BUI 7: Restriction on dredging activities	Impaired
BUI 8: Eutrophication or undesirable algae	Impaired
BUI 9: Restrictions on drinking water consumption, or taste and odor	Not Impaired
BUI 10: Beach Closings	Impaired
BUI 11: Degradation of aesthetics	Impaired
BUI 12: Added Cost to agriculture and industry	REMOVAL IN PROGRESS
BUI 13: Degradation of phytoplankton & zooplankton populations	Unknown
BUI 14: Loss of fish and wildlife habitat	Impaired

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

1. Summarize BUI removal activities and provide timeline for what BUIs are likely to be removed with the next 12 months 3 years, 5 years, or 5 yr+.

BUI 12 was determined to be impaired in the Maumee AOC due the added treatment necessary to use the water from the Ottawa River by industry. This industry no longer utilized river water for non-process cooling water and (to the best of our knowledge) there are no longer any industries that have an added cost for using this water source. The removal recommendation of this BUI was prepared in FY 15; however the Advisory Committee and Public Comment periods as well the endorsement and submission of this recommendation occurred in FY 2016. More details will be provided in next year's report. At this time, no additional requests for BUI removal are expected in the near future.

2. Priorities for coming year

- A. Maintain MAAC: Continue meetings, progress and activities with the projects/partners and with other projects/partners as they arise.
- B. DMDS: Continue DMDS management with new data uploads, project additions/updates and system maintenance updates
- C. Create a local BUI 14 Target: Work with the MAAC and other Maumee AOC partners to develop their local target for BUI 14 Wildlife Habitat.
- D. Management Action List Defined: Begin discussions with Ohio EPA staff and leadership about what a management action list for the Maumee AOC should look like, what should be included, what level of detail, etc. The next step is to work with local partners and actually developing the lists (see below).
- E. Begin a Habitat Restoration Plan: Once the local target for BUI 14 Wildlife Habitat is developed, the MAAC and locals would work to develop a Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration Plan. This Habitat Plan would be created using the 5 existing habitat inventories in conjunction with new projects that would be offered for consideration by local implementers. Ultimately, the plan would have a prioritized listing of projects that will achieve the newly defined local BUI 14 Wildlife Habitat target, as well as the Fish Habitat target. The plan should also include other projects in case the prioritized projects are not able to be implemented or for other restoration efforts/priorities in the AOC (i.e. storm water control, nutrient reduction, etc.).
- F. Management Action List Creation: Provided Ohio EPA was able to determine specific needs/wants for management action lists for the Maumee AOC early in FY 2016, the next step would be to begin work with the local advisory committees, facilitating organization and other AOC partners to populate the management action list for each BUI in the Maumee AOC. This effort could take +/- a year consider the number of remaining BUIs.
- G. Data Needs Sampling: The data and locations where gaps existed were provided in the Spring 2015 and will be updated Winter 2015-16. Sampling would begin to be conducted to fill identified data gaps and where data has become more than 10 year old. Once collected, all data would be uploaded in the DMDS to update the status of the BUIs.
- H. AOC Report Card(s): Develop a short, simple AOC Report Card to communicate the status of the BUIs across the AOC and to illustrate the goals of the AOC program to the public. Write text, develop graphics (from the DMDS) and use the DMDS to visually represent the status of the BUIs in the Maumee AOC. Spotlight specific goals when possible (for instance, xx acres needs to be protected/restored). Education & outreach has been identified as a high priority by the MAAC.

3. A preliminary schedule for activities upcoming in the next program year.

Below is a list of projects for possible implementation and/or funding in some part during FY 2016.

Project	Start	Finish	Lead Responsibility	Partners	Funding
DMDS	Jul-15	Mar-20	PCS and Ohio EPA(DSW)	local community, hired contractor	Ohio EPA PassThrough (ERIEGAP & ERIE 16)
MAAC	Jul-15	Mar-20	PCS	Ohio EPA, Local community partners	Ohio EPA PassThrough (ERIEGAP & ERIE 16)
Continue Annual Outreach Events & Social Media <i>(i.e. CYS, GLO, Patch Day, website, Facebook)</i>	Jul-15	Mar-20	PCS	Ohio EPA, Local community partners	Ohio EPA PassThrough (ERIEGAP & ERIE 16)
Create a local BUI 14 Target	Oct-15	Mar-16	MAAC	Ohio EPA, Local technical experts	Ohio EPA (ERIEGAP)
Management Action List Defined	Oct-15	Mar-16	Ohio EPA	MAAC, PCS, CAAC, CRR	Ohio EPA (ERIEGAP)
AOC Report Card(s)	Oct-15	Mar-16	PCS	Ohio EPA (DSW), MAAC	Ohio EPA PassThrough (ERIEGAP)
Ottawa River Contact Advisory	2016	2016	Ohio EPA (DERR?)	Ohio EPA (DSW), US EPA (ORD), USFWS (NRD)	Ohio EPA (ERIE 16)
Create a Habitat Restoration Plan	Apr-16	Dec-16	MAAC or Ohio EPA	MAAC, PCS, local implementers	Ohio EPA (ERIE16)
Management Action List Creation	Apr-16	Apr-17	Ohio EPA	MAAC, PCS, CAAC, CRR, local implementers	Ohio EPA (ERIE16)
Biological sampling for watersheds with data over 10 yrs old <i>(Toussaint Crk, Upper Swan Crk & Lower Swan Crk & Grassy Crk Maumee River HUC 10s)</i>	Apr-16	Feb-17	Ohio EPA		Ohio EPA (ERIE16)
Biological sampling for data gaps throughout the AOC	Apr-16	Feb-17	Ohio EPA		Ohio EPA (ERIE16)
Turtle Study	2016	2018	Ohio EPA		Ohio EPA (ERIE 16)