

## Maumee AOC Advisory Committee (MAAC) Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2015 1:30pm – 4:00pm

Wildwood Metropark Manor House (Board Room), 5100 W Central Ave, Toledo, OH 43615

Attendance (Voting Members): John Kusnier (Chair), Jenny Carter-Cornell, Tim Bollin (Vice-Chair), Tara Baranowski, Sandy Bihn, Terry Shankland, Bill Buri, Tim Schetter; (Ex-Officio): Cherie Blair, Matt Horvat, Joann Banda (phone), Sarah Lowe (phone), Dick Bartz (phone), Bryan Hinterberger (phone); (Facilitating Org): Kris Patterson; (Others): Paul Hotz

### Minutes

- **Welcome** and introductions for everyone present and on the phone.
- **(VOTE) Review Agenda/Approve Minutes:** John Kusnier, Committee Chair, noted that the February minutes were available for review. Terry Shankland made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Tim Bollin seconded, and the motion passed. Kris Patterson will now post the minutes for the public record on [www.MaumeeRAP.org](http://www.MaumeeRAP.org).
- **Maumee AOC Small Grants:** Kris Patterson, Partners for Clean Streams, reviewed a summary document with the background of the SEP agreements and the past spending. She noted that since Partners for Clean Streams became fiscal agent very little of the funds had been spent and no new SEP monies had been added. Cherie Blair noted that the SEP language was negotiated by Ohio EPA and had been mostly written in general terms to support projects in the AOC, not limited to BUI delisting. Kris Patterson also summarized the two small grant proposals before the committee. The group discussed several avenues for making decisions about the small grants and for overseeing the SEP funds. The group decided to make recommendations to PCS but to allow PCS to continue to handle the SEP funds and any disbursement of those monies through small grants or other means. PCS will bring any future small grants before the committee, if any, for review and recommendations. Tara Baranowski made a motion to formalize the consensus, which grants PCS the authority to award funding from the existing SEP monies after review and recommendations from this committee. Bill Buri seconded and the motion passed.

The committee then discussed each small grant proposal. Recommended considerations for the City of Toledo's Jemaine Meadow proposal included discussing erosion control measures to protect the wetland and endangered sedges and for a plan for future O&M. Tim Schetter made a motion to recommend the City of Toledo proposal to PCS, with those considerations to be discussed with the City. Tim Bollin seconded, there was one objection but the motion carried. Recommended considerations for the TMACOG proposal included using native plants, involving students to help with activities, and having an O&M plan. Tim Schetter made a motion to recommend the TMACOG proposal to PCS; Jenny seconded it and the motion carried.

- **Chair's Report:** John reported that the US AOC Conference was held locally at the UT and it was a great success. He reviewed the group's previous discussion that the committee would loosely follow Roberts Rules but would allow the Chair to participate in discussion and vote, unless a conflict existed. The group would work towards consensus and vote when necessary. The committee adopted bylaws at the last

meeting for anyone that missed it. John proposed to have Vice Chair, Tim Bollin, keep the group on track by making everyone aware of the time allotted on the agenda and the time being spent in discussion.

- **Facilitating Organization's Report:** Kris briefly reported on the updates to the website and that a contract is now underway for substantial expansion and improvements to [www.MaumeeRAP.org](http://www.MaumeeRAP.org). She shared that approximately \$37,000 is available in SEP funds. She reported that the US EPA AOC Conference was a success. Patrick Lawrence with University of Toledo and past RAP Chair helped organized the conference. PCS, and our sponsors (including Davey Resources Group and Hull & Associates) hosted a pre-conference reception that was well attended. Kris reported that Storm Drain Marking on Global Youth Service was a success again, using the RAP door hangers and stencils. PCS also organized and held the Maumee RAP Patch Day Workshop again for kids and their leaders. PCS applied for an extension of the AOC support grant and for some additional funds to continue serving as facilitator and in completing tasks and projects that support the AOC through mid-September. PCS anticipates preparing a proposal to continuing in this capacity when Ohio EPA provides the opportunity for the pass through monies. The timeline, and the guidance, for that future funding is not available yet.
- **Ohio EPA Report:** Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA Maumee AOC Coordinator, gave updates from Ohio EPA. Ohio EPA is working to re-negotiate the funding from US EPA for Ohio's AOC program for the next five years (hopefully). The current grant expires September 30<sup>th</sup> and Ohio EPA is anticipating extended the local capacity grants as long as possible (through mid-September). As of now, Ohio EPA expects about a 30% cut in funding, leading to a cut in staffing (also due to reaching the ceilings on staff hours/positions in some divisions). This will also likely lead to cuts in funding at the local level. Ohio EPA is working to consider how they can pass through as much as possible while still increasing sampling, monitoring, and maintaining adequate staffing levels. Sampling in 2015 is different than requested. Ohio EPA management re-directed GLRI funding to other priorities and will not be increasing sampling in this AOC in 2015, as previously requested by PCS and the AOC Coordinator. Cherie noted that she will go into more detail on the BUIs in the future but that this committee should expect an addendum to the BUI target document within a month or so. A few BUIs are being tweaked, some just needed refinement and one, Benthos, had an oversight and did not account for qualitative, narrative metrics (not just quantitative). Ohio EPA is also working on a state-wide Aesthetics BUI. Sandy Bihn noted that Ohio EPA should consider the Lake Erie Improvement Associations previous comments on the SNAP, particularly the concerns that it considers low flow and not high flow evaluation.
- **Discuss MAAC and AOC needs:** Kris & Cherie asked the committee 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. Discussion ensued on outreach and education and how best to inform and/or engage the community. The committee determined that outside support (for materials and technical support) would likely be needed because building public engagement is a high priority but it needs to be accomplished in a way that doesn't only focus on the AOC and BUIs. The overall goal would be to distill down technical information into building an understanding about the bigger picture of water quality and the importance of clean water to many facets of the community (economic, transportation, wildlife and natural areas, drinking water, etc.) and to build an interactive & engaging process with the community. The committee also affirmed the sampling needs that the DMDS highlighted and that the AOC Coordinator had brought forward previously. There was also interest in a "roadmap" document, but in a shorter, more compact process and deliverable than the St. Louis AOC example. The committee held general discussion but did not

identify specific projects or tasks at this point. Holding several “listening” sessions around the AOC either in conjunction with the Summit or as separate events was proposed. Cherie and Kris will work on this idea more.

- **Discuss Proposed Path Forward:** John asked for input on how the committee would like to proceed with reviewing the Target document and the BUIs for the AOC. The group discussed several paths forward, including how to handle approving of the targets. Cherie stressed that Ohio EPA expects a letter adopting all or part of the targets within the next few months. If adopting any target in part or not at all, the letter should identify when the proposed changes or local targets would be submitted for review to the state. A local target can be no less stringent than the state target and must be approved by Ohio EPA and if any other sampling or data is needed then the locals must find resources to support those needs (beyond anything the state already does). Cherie gave a brief overview of the AOC program. She proposed going into more detail at future meetings. She reviewed a proposed agenda breaking up the target review into several bi-monthly meetings and identified proposed homework to prepare the committee members for the meetings.
- **Set Future Meeting Frequency, Dates, Times, Agendas and Locations:** John asked the committee how often they wanted to meet, given the amount of information to get through and the need to be best positioned by the end of this year with understanding the BUIs, the targets, and identifying projects/needs for the AOC. The group agreed to meet in 2 half day sessions in the next month or so instead of keeping a regular schedule of bi-monthly meetings. Kris will send out a Doodle poll with multiple dates to find two that work for the majority. The goal for the half day sessions to go through each BUI restoration target and supporting data in greater detail and determine if the committee is adopting the target in whole, in part, or not at all. If time allows, the committee will also explore the current status (based on the current targets and data available in the DMDS) of the BUIs in the Maumee AOC and if possible begin identifying potential needs and project ideas. The BUI status may change as more data is integrated into the DMDS and as the targets are amended in the second version from Ohio EPA.
- **Announcements:** none.
- **Public Comments:** Paul Hotz, guest, noted that he’s observed the RAP try to glamorize the impairments in the past so that people will get involved but that we need to be careful not to make it seem like too big of a problem, so big that it can never be fixed.
- **Adjourn:** Terry made a motion to adjourn, Jenny seconded it, motioned carried.