

## Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

April 26th, 2016 10:00am – 12:00pm

\* Note: this meeting was re-scheduled from original April 14<sup>th</sup> date.

The Mannik and Smith Group

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

### MINUTES

- **Participants:** Jenny Carter – Cornell, Sally Gladwell, John Kusnier, Bill Buri, Terry Shankland, Jim Carter, Melanie Coulter, Tim Schetter, Eric Zgodzinski, Ted Smith, Cherie Blair, Cassie Lovall, Nick Bohland, Joshua Miller, Kevin O-Donnell, Jeff Schaeffer, Michael Weintraub
- **Welcome & Introductions:** Kris invited those in the room and on the phone to introduce themselves.
- **Review Agenda/Approve Minutes:** John, the Chair, reviewed the agenda and asked for a vote on the February minutes. Terry S made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Eric Z. seconded, the motion passed.
- **BUI 14: Wildlife Target Development Team Update:** Tim Schetter gave an update on the BUI 14 local target development. He explained the overall approach the team has agreed upon, including dividing the AOC into three sub-regions: Coastal, Oak Openings, and Woodlots/Riparian. He explained the significant level of effort that the team has made to develop reasonable, achievable acreage targets by sub-region. This focuses the work to relatively small areas of the AOC and provides for clear goals within each impaired region. The team worked with Cherie to solicit feedback from Ohio EPA and US EPA on the draft target and is working on reviewing and addressing that feedback. The team expects to present a recommended target to the MAAC at the next meeting.
- **Path Forward for Management Action List Development** (John, Chair)
  - What did we learn at the US AOC Conference? John shared feedback he and Cherie received from a few of the AOC Conference attendees and emphasized the value of attending the conference and the key take away messages. John emphasized developing the management actions this year, recognizing that funding is always up in the air, and that attendees recognized that our AOC, which is one of the largest AOCs, is extremely complex and will require sustained, multi-year projects to address BUIs. He summarized the feedback as stressing the importance of outreach & education, developing clear goals, and getting to projects.
  - Management Action List Development, Prioritization, and Implementation
    - What is the Management Action List and why is it so important? John stressed this again to the group. He explained a basic three-step process: finish the local targets, understand where we are in our AOC with respect to the targets, and develop a list of projects we think will get us to the target.
    - How do we develop and prioritize the Management Action List for implementation? John proposed this question and proposed paths forward. John proposed that the

- Committee either break into smaller working groups around certain BUIs or have several additional focused meetings just on BUIs and management actions. After discussion the Committee decided to add additional working meetings, using part of the June meeting to get started, to focus on understanding the status of the impairments, what data we have or need, and begin brainstorming management actions. The Committee expects to find some “low hanging fruit” and some BUIs that will need expert assistance and much more focus to understand and to develop appropriate potential management actions for as they go through the BUIs in this large AOC. The Committee will then work through the potential management actions to narrow those down and determine which could be proposed as an initial list (to be amended, added to, or revised later). They may break into smaller groups if they need to focus more extensively on complex BUIs.
  - What should our desired schedule be for the development of the prioritized list?
    - What deadlines would Ohio EPA like to see? Yesterday but certainly this year.
    - Can we meet Ohio EPA’s desired schedule? The Committee agreed to add up to 4, 2-3 hours meetings in the next 6 weeks to accelerate this task while recognizing that it will take additional work throughout the year to narrow and prioritize.
    - If not, what should our goal be? The Committee will strive for this goal, recognizing that it is aggressive.
  - How can Ohio EPA, PCS, and others (i.e. Tetra Tech, committee members, other agencies, etc.) help? As additional resources, data, experts, and evaluation are needed, the Committee will rely on Ohio EPA, their consultants, PCS, and any other state/federal partners to provide support as their resources allow. The Committee is a group of volunteers, with limited time and resources, and must rely on Ohio EPA & federal data and support to provide the information needed to make decisions on many of the BUIs. Ted Smith, US EPA, echoed that US EPA and other federal partners can help, for instance with confirmatory data, collecting & analyzing samples (such as recent fish sampling with US FWS) and subject-matter expertise within agencies.
- **Public Outreach and Education (John)**
    - What information do we want to share with stakeholders and the public about the Maumee AOC? The Committee discussed sharing general information and how to get involved (volunteering, social media, come to a meeting, etc).
    - How does this get accomplished? Suggestions included holding booths/displays at festivals, getting involved downtown in the visioning project, creating short videos to share, going to groups and giving presentations, developing talking points & sharing articles in other organizations’ newsletters. Kris reminded the group that the funding is limited but that all their respective organizations/members can be sharing information and helping with outreach as well. Each member could share any new materials (such as videos or a short presentation) within their professional and personal circles as well.

- **Future Meeting Frequency, Dates, Times** (John)
  - Bimonthly dates: June 9<sup>th</sup> 1pm, August 11<sup>th</sup> 2pm, October 13<sup>th</sup> 2pm, December 8<sup>th</sup> 2pm (may be combined with the Summit) Additional meetings will be added for the Management Action List development based on a Doodle poll Locations TBD
  
- **RAP Small grant RFP** (Kris)
  - Kris shared that the TMACOG small grant has gone well and is nearly done. The rain garden was installed last fall and the community is very excited about it. This spring TMACOG plans to keep an eye on the plants and install signage. TMACOG will invoice the RAP SEP account when all work is complete.
  - Will we do this again? The Committee discussed how limited of a response we got the first round of small grants (very few proposals) and realistically how little money there is for meaningful projects. Tim S proposed that the group consider using the funds for meaningful outreach and education deliverables, such as were proposed in the earlier discussion. These types of projects are often less costly, can be used repeatedly (such as short videos) and can have a broad, important impact. The Committee recognizes what an important role public outreach and education will have in moving forward support for management actions and longer term, significant projects but education and outreach won't be funded as "management actions" so those type of projects will always rely on other funding (more and more limited funding). Some suggestions were made to fund water-related summer camps &/or field trips/boat trips for students. The Committee agreed that this is a very meaningful, and less time intensive, way to spend the remaining SEP funds. Cherie and Kris will propose this to Ohio EPA and seek direction given that some SEP monies have some restrictions in their usage.
  
- **Ohio EPA Report** (Cherie)
  - Next Federal Grant: Cherie reported that this should come through soon.
  - Updates on other agencies' work in the AOC: Cherie shared that US FWS had shared in fish sampling in the AOC and NOAA was working on a mussels survey.
  
- **Facilitating Organization's Report** (Kris)
  - Kris reported that PCS has continued support the Committee, even though the grant support ended in February. PCS led & organized Patch Day, for the Maumee RAP patch educational activities since last meeting and kicked off storm drain marking on Global Youth Service Day. Kris also attended the AOC Conference and continued working closely with the BUI 14 target development team, and with Cherie and John to plan and organize meetings. PCS's staff, and website contractor, continued social media for the MAAC and development of the new website.
  - Please provide feedback on dev.MaumeeRAP.org and use this for current info until it is switched over to maumeerap.org.
  - Kris will finalize and send the letter on adopting targets (except for BUI 14) to Ohio EPA by April 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Facilitating grant overview, pending funding, and 2016 outreach activities: Kris shared a summary table from the grant proposal of the deliverables PCS is proposing over the next 18 months. She highlighted that PCS will continue to provide the required minimum Facilitating



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Org deliverables and support while also providing additional deliverables focused on outreach, education, and technical support.

- **Announcements and/or Updates from Ex Officio & Resource Members** (open)
  - Kris announced that PCS is helping the Cuyahoga River Restoration (the Cuyahoga RAP Facilitating Org) host a Tree Intensive Training here July 15<sup>th</sup> at Wildwood. It is free and people can register online.
  - Josh, with USGS, updated the group on MALMR. MALMR is a USGS mapping project meant to support BUI 14, and perhaps 3, with fish habitat information in the Maumee River confluence.
- **Public Comments**  
None.
- **Adjourn:** Terry made the motion, Jenny seconded. Motioned enthusiastically passed.