
Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

December 12, 2019 9:30am – 12:30pm

Ohio EPA Northwest District, 347 N. Dunbridge Road, Bowling Green, OH

Conference Call # 877-372-2917 Access Code 31262

MINUTES

Attendance: Melanie Coulter, Matt Kovach, Deanna Bobak (phone), John Hull as proxy for Jenny Carter-Cornell, Sally Gladwell, Paul Hotz, Jim Carter, Mike Pniewski, Tim Schetter (phone), Joey Sink-Oiler, Cherie Blair, Lynn Garrity, Leah Medley (phone), Ashley Binion-Zuccaro (phone), Archie Lunsey, Joshua Miller, Deborah Millsap, Don Schmenk, John Mueller, Paul Chasco, Robin DeBruyne, Chris Cline, Lynn Ackerson, Scott Cieniawski, Shawna Towns, Chris Kephart, Rodney Shultz, Andrea Beard, Kris Patterson, Amanda Kovach

- **Welcome, Overview of Agenda:** Mike Pniewski welcomed everyone and the group introduced themselves individually.
- **VOTE on Minutes:** Paul Hotz moved & Joey Sink-Oiler seconded the motion to accept the August minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Appeal for Membership Applications:** Kris Patterson asked for interested individuals to turn MAAC membership applications in to her (hard copy or email) by Sunday, December 15th.
- **Overview of BUI Status and Progress:** Cherie Blair (Ohio EPA) provided updates for the status and progress of the 9 Maumee AOC BUIs. A summary table was presented (see the meeting PPT for more detail), detailing the current status for each BUI. The most current highlights included work being done to prepare MA lists for BUIs 3a, 6, and 14a, and the completion of the BUI 14b management action list/beginning of project implementation work.
- **Microbial Source Tracking (MST) Study at Maumee Bay State Park:** Chris Kephart (USGS) provided updates on the MST study done in 2019 at Maumee Bay State Park. Per preliminary study results, markers for *bacteroides* (type of bacteria found in the digestive tract of human and other wildlife) were detected in the study area. Further analysis determined that all of the *bacteroides* present at the inland lake originated from a waterfowl source. There was a mixture of human/waterfowl-based bacteria in the swim coves and in Berger Ditch. Based on this information, the study team believes that Berger Ditch is still acting as a source for human-based microbiota, despite previous work done to address failing septic systems and other sources of human waste to the Ditch. A longitudinal study along Berger Ditch was proposed to determine the source of the contamination. See the meeting PPT for more detail.
- **Contaminated Sediments (see the meeting PPT for more details of each project)**
 - **Ottawa River, Maumee River, Duck Creek:** Scott Cieniawski (GLNPO) provided a summary of the sediment remediation work done in the Ottawa River under the GLLA in 2009/2010, as well as the remedy confirmation study being done currently. Scott then provided information on previous sediment sampling efforts at three sites along the Lower Maumee River. Finally, Scott presented details and conclusions from sediment sampling/toxicity testing along Duck Creek and the Duck Creek Confluence.

- **Otter Creek:** Ashley Binion-Zuccaro (US ACE) provided a summary of the current status of this GLLA project. Ashley first shared an overview of past sampling results that determined the lower 1.7 miles require sediment remediation due to high levels of PAHs. Ashley then provided information regarding remediation details; 1) 57,000 cubic yards of sediment (up to 4 ft in depth or to native clay) will be removed via hydraulic dredge and 2) following sediment removal, a sand cover will be placed along the dredged area and habitat enhancements will be made to the lower 0.6 miles/confluence of Otter Creek. Project completion is anticipated in Fall 2021.
- **Swan Creek:** Shannon Nabors (Ohio EPA) shared updates on this GLLA project. According to the update, past sediment sampling in the lower 4 miles of the Creek and subsequent data analysis have revealed that the primary CoCs are metals, PAHs, and PCBs. Shannon then shared a series of next steps, including a data gap analysis/feasibility study (2020), partner recruitment/establishment (2022), and remedial design/ implementation (2022/2023).
- **Biological Subcommittee Updates (BUIs 3a, 6, and 14a):** This portion of the meeting was led by Josh Miller (USGS). Josh shared a brief summary of the Subcommittee's work over the last 1-2 years and then presented a timeline for work/deliverables in 2020. Josh shared the number and type of documents that the Subcommittee expects to deliver to the MAAC in April 2020. Meetings required to review and vote on the MA List (frequency/length) were also discussed. MAAC members were advised that a comprehensive document review on their part prior to the MA List vote will be necessary.
- **Activities and Timeline for 2020, Looking Toward 2024:** Cherie Blair shared timelines for the Biological MAP and the Sediment MAP. Cherie then shared a timeline for additional BUI evaluation/removal. Please see the meeting PPT for more details on the MAP and the BUI evaluation timelines. Finally, Cherie told the MAAC that the Maumee AOC video project is in progress and that she would have more information for the group at the next meeting.
- **US EPA Task Force Leader Report:** Leah Medley reiterated the importance/urgency of the AOC timeline. Per Leah's statement, in 2020, 10 AOCs will be considered for funding (Maumee AOC is one of them), but only 5 AOCs will be approved for 5-yr funding. The AOCs not approved for 5-yr funding may still be eligible for support, but funds will not be a priority or guaranteed.
- **Ohio EPA AOC Coordinator Report:** Cherie presented her updates during her presentation earlier in the meeting. *(Note: the presentation is available at www.maumeeaac.org under Resources, Miscellaneous).*
- **Facilitating Organization's Report:** Kris Patterson asked again for MAAC membership applications to be submitted to her by the deadline (Dec. 15th). Kris also advised that updates to the MAAC Operating Procedures would likely be made in 2020 (winter). MAAC members were then asked to consider MA projects they would like to see highlighted in future MAAC newsletters; Kris suggested that ideas be sent to PCS. Input regarding MAAC outreach activities in 2020 was requested and the following ideas were suggested; boat tour (M. Pniewski), kayak tour (M. Coulter), and AOC movie premier (C. Blair). Finally, a Maumee AOC Summit was discussed; J. Carter-Cornell suggested asking BSBO to host or to comment on recent habitat observations. In wrapping up, Cherie suggested that anyone looking to promote AOC project work reach out to PCS for assistance.

- **Set Meetings for 2020:** This discussion was initiated/led by Mike Pniewski. Quarterly MAAC meeting will be held per usual (April, June, August, and December), but multiple meetings will be held in April to facilitate the Biological BUIs MA List review/vote. The dates & times will be on the MAAC calendar at www.maumeeaac.org.
- **Partner Reports:** There was brief discussion of projects at Maumee Bay State Park & other potential H2Ohio projects that may get funding & move forward in the AOC through that state initiative.
- **Public Comments & Adjourn:** No public comments received. Adjourned at 12:00pm.