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## Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

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February 28, 2018 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Camp Miakonda, Leadership Building, 5600 W. Sylvania Ave, Toledo OH

Conference Call # 563.999.2090 Access Code 633273

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### MINUTES

**Attendance:** Tim Bollin, Melanie Coulter, Daryl Dwyer, Deanna Bobak, Jenny Carter- Cornell, John Kusnier, Paul Hotz, Jim Carter, Mike Pniewski, Tim Schetter, Joey Sink-Oiler, Cherie Blair, Lynn Garrity, Bryan Hinterberger, Cassie Lovall, Leah Medley, Josh Miller, Deborah Millsap, Lynn Sherman, Mike Cassidy, Stephanie Koscho, Sara Guiher, Nick Bohland, Russ Terry

- **Welcome, Overview of Agenda:** Kris Patterson welcomed everyone and the group introduced themselves individually.
- **VOTE on Chair & Vice Chair:** Kris Patterson asked for a vote. John Kusnier & Tim Bollin said they would serve as Chair and Vice Chair, respectfully, again. There were no other nominations. Mike P & Tim S made the motion & the second to accept John & Tim's nomination as Chair. Motion passed unanimously.
- **VOTE on Minutes:** Jenny & Daryl made the motion & second to accept the minutes with a small correction (Josh Miller was incorrectly listed in the attendees). The motion passed unanimously.
- **Path Forward for the Maumee AOC:** Cherie Blair and Leah Medley, US EPA, outlined the path forward. A brief presentation was given that noted an opportunity to move the Maumee AOC up a year (to 2024) on the list for when the MAP projects would be finished. This would align the Maumee AOC with the third Great Lakes Action Plan, which is currently being developed. US EPA AOC Focus Area funding will be prioritized to those AOCs in the plan (so basically in the near term, next 5 years) that also have their MAP lists approved for every BUI. The Maumee AOC has one MAP list for a partial (but accepted) BUI but needs to rapidly develop the rest of the locally-led MAPs. Ohio EPA will work with US EPA to identify what other needs there are in order to support this MAP list development and for the state (or other agency) led MAPs & BUIs. This will be a challenge and although Cherie noted it is not written in stone, it is a goal to shoot for now.

Leah & Cherie noted that both agencies recognize that the Maumee AOC (and the local committee) have been actively working and generating a lot of activity lately. Casey, with NOAA, noted that NOAA couldn't get FFY17 money allotted for Maumee AOC projects because the pertinent BUI lists weren't approved. Once the list was approved, project awards are now being developed. Cherie informed the group that the MAAC needs to propose the MAP lists for all the impaired BUIs by the end of the year. Or preferably before the end of the year so that Ohio EPA can prepare the final lists to get US EPA's approval. The MAAC discussed these points. Questions arose, such as "Is all GLRI money being held back and if a project is geographically in the AOC (but not necessary an AOC MAP), can it get other funding?" It was clarified that this is for Focus Area 3 GLRI dollars, not all GLRI or state dollars, and that there are many funding sources for potential projects. The group decided they would agree so that every avenue for funding was viable & recognized that it would again need to accelerate and increase their volunteer efforts to respond to a new deadline. The sub-committees would continue meeting with a new goal of having all MAPs identified by the end of the year. The GLLA & NRD projects in the AOC are on other more detailed lists and the state & federal agencies would be determined how those would affect the process & the approval of lists.

- **Updates from BUI Sub-Committees**

- BUI 3a & 14a: Josh Miller updated the group on the planning for a BUI 3a, 6, & 14a technical workshop to solicit expert input on what projects need to be identified, given the existing data, to remove these BUI impairments. The workshop will focus specifically on the Ottawa River HUCs, the mainstem Maumee River, and Maumee Bay. These are the areas where there isn't new data. Ohio EPA did sampling last year and will be releasing new data for most of the rest of the AOC this year. If successful, this process would likely be repeated for the rest of the AOC later this year. Josh asked for suggestions for additional experts on macroinvertebrates and for any other suggestions people have on the participant list.
- BUI 6: Josh Miller & Cassie Lovall – update included above.
- BUI 8 & 11: John Kusnier updated the group that progress on these BUIs is on hold until additional help can be provided from a consultant. Cherie has mentioned that a consultant will be hired to provide additional support to the MAAC but the consultant won't be available until after July 1<sup>st</sup>. This sub-committee has requested support for tasks such as performing aesthetics surveys, data mining various agency records to see what has been documented for aesthetics impairments throughout the AOC, and for BUI 8 to help determine the best way to evaluate this impairment through an AOC lens.
- BUI 14b: in hiatus

- **US EPA Report:** Leah Medley updated the group that currently there is a federal continuing resolution and in the next Presidential Budget, the GLRI has been proposed at 30 million or 10% of its current budget. She also noted that US EPA was happy to get the 14b MAP list. In the future, US EPA would appreciate if multiple BUIS, or all the remaining impaired BUIs, were bundled together if possible.
- **Ohio EPA Report:** Cherie provided an update on BUI 14b MAP list that was accepted by US EPA. Some projects may potentially receive funding in the next month or two. Nearly all the MAP projects are in the DMDS and identified as such. Cherie has reviewed the early Ohio EPA stream sampling data that is available. It looks like 4 HUC 12's may show fish are mostly improving and one HUC may not be impaired. The macroinvertebrate data isn't ready yet. She will upload data into the DMDS in a few months but provide what is available to Josh and others that need it. Tetra Tech & The Mannik and Smith Group have been hired to complete 7 more NPS-IS Habitat Plans for Ohio EPA and compile the other AOC plans. Cherie reminded everyone that the US AOC Conference is May 15 – 17 in Sheboygan, WI. She encouraged attendance. She provided a written report with more info.
- **Facilitating Organization's Report:** Kris updated the group on PCS's AOC recent outreach activities, including Patch Day, Clear Choices, Clean Water campaign (through the SEP funding), newsletter, and maintaining the website & social media. PCS has also continued admin support for meetings, 2018 planning, DMDS work, & coordinating AOC conference scholarships. **The current** support grant is approximately 95% spent & significant progress was completed. Kris has been preparing next grant application, including 3 separate requests for additional Special Projects. She outlined these three, which were developed based on previous discussion. Some discussion ensued and there was broad support for including these projects in a request for supplemental funding. Some new ideas for future grants were raised, such as hosting workshops with stipends or travel support for graduate students and educators; looking for an intern or independent study student to assist the MAAC. Cherie asked the group to consider setting a set time/day for future meetings but the group prefer to plan each meeting independently and allow for flexibility in the summer with less formal meetings and more time for sub-committees or consultant support. Kris will prepare a Doodle poll for next full committee meeting in April.

- **MAP Reports** (Lead Project Coordinators)
  - Update on Projects: Several partners gave updates on their project progress. Project 22-17 on Turtle Creek is moving forward with easements. Russ, with Ducks Unlimited, announced that the Toussaint project will be getting its 5<sup>th</sup> grant for a third phase. Meanwhile DU is looking for other parcels to purchase for the Toussaint project as some have fallen through. DU also mentioned that the Navarre unit project, by Davis Besse, is on hold now that the facility announced it may close & DU needs a new management agreement. Julia, with TNC, mentioned that the Griswold 4-16 project is moving, even though one parcel fell through but they have located other willing sellers. The MAP 10-16 project is completed.
- **Partner Reports:** The 10-Mile Creek project, by the Lucas Co Engineers, will be buying some land. They secured an Ohio EPA grant to supplement and add onto the county-funded project. Separately, a project at Carter Farms is also moving forward. DU secured funding to work on the engineering and design of a third phase of Howard Marsh and to perform post-restoration monitoring for one year (in conjunction with the Metroparks). Howard Marsh will open April 28<sup>th</sup> to the public.
- **Public Comments & Adjourn:** No public comments. Adjourned at 3:05pm.