

Maumee AOC Coordinator Report for the Maumee AOC Advisory Committee *August 13, 2020*

- **WildMAPs** (*BUI 14b: Wildlife Habitat*)
 - Funding was awarded to ODNR – Forestry (MAP 28-17) for the last Wildlife Habitat MAP in June. The last project to begin construction will be Howard Marsh Phase 2 (MAP 25-17) in 2021. Progress continues to be made on the implementation of the approved BUI 14b MAPs.
 - Detailed project tracking narratives are available for the WildMAPs upon request.
- **AquaMAPs** (*BUI 3a, 6, 14a: Fish Pops, Benthic Pops, Fish Habitat*)
 - The MAAC Recommended Aquatic Project List has been **APPROVED!!!** We are working with local implementers of the project expected to be funded first to begin developing their grant applications, so they will be ready as soon as the funding becomes available. At this time, we do not know how many projects will be funded in the Maumee AOC during FFY21 (Oct. 2020 to Sept. 2021). We have ask for at least 10 project that would total about \$8 million.
 - A narrative tracking of the AquaMAPs (similar to the WildMAP tracking) is expected to be available next month upon request.
- **SedMAPs** (*BUIs vary by project site, GLLA contaminated sediment*)
 - The MAAC Recommended Sediment Project List has been **APPROVED!!!** We continue to work with federal partners to make progress on these projects.
 - Ottawa River: 10-Yr Remedy Effectiveness Study starts next week.
 - Otter Creek: Remedy and Restoration Baseline Study began this week.
 - Swan Creek: Data Gap sampling is expected this Fall; a Focused Feasibility Study is funded and expected to begin once the data gap sampling results are available.
 - Maumee-Sway Bridge & WWTP: Data Gap sampling plan is in development. Sampling is being planned for Spring 2021.
 - A narrative tracking of the SedMAPs (similar to the WildMAP tracking) is now available upon request.
- **Misc. MAPs** (*BUIs 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11*)
 - **BUI 1b: Wildlife Consumption** – Ohio EPA and Ohio Lake Erie Commission leadership are discussing next steps for this BUI. I hope to have more information at the next meeting.
 - **BUI 4: Deformities & Tumors** – No recent activity. US FWS bullhead and fish community sampling on hold until 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions.
 - **BUI 7: Dredging** – Ohio EPA and ACE are compiling and reviewing data per the revised BUI 7 rationale. We expect a status update this Fall and to determine mgmt. actions needed (if any) for Dec. MAAC meeting.
 - **BUI 10a: Beach Closings (advisories)** – USGS is collecting samples weekly for human marker microbial source tracking in Berger Ditch. We have done one adjustment to narrow in on potential sources. We hope to determine any mgmt. actions needed (if any) for Dec. MAAC meeting.
 - **BUI 8b: Eutrophication** – Ohio EPA has hired MSG to conduct data gap sampling in the Ottawa River HUC-10 and a survey of professionals in the water quality field for this BUI. Ohio EPA personnel and MSG will then determine the status of this BUI. We hope to determine any mgmt. actions needed (if any) for Dec. MAAC meeting.
 - **BUI 11: Aesthetics** – no recent activity, removal pending Otter Creek GLLA project.

- **Maumee AOC Progress/Success Video**
 - The videos are complete! There is 1 long (13 min) and 4 short (1 min) videos. PCS is coordinating with Ohio EPA to release via social media a short video each week in September, with two live, interactive online sessions the first week in October to release the long video and answer AOC related questions. Watch the Maumee AOC Facebook and Twitter for these videos and how to register for the live session.
- **Field work and Sampling**
 - As of this week, Ohio EPA-DSW is conducting Lake Erie related sampling, but no other field work.
 - So far this summer, US FWS has not conducted Maumee AOC field work due to COVID-19. They hope to reevaluate in early September and to be able to collect fish community samples in Otter Creek and the Ottawa River in coordination with the US EPA ORD sampling efforts.
 - US EPA – ORD will be sampling in Otter Creek and the Ottawa River this summer/fall; including sediment, water and benthos.
 - USGS (Columbus) has been conducting bacteria sampling and microbial source tracking analysis on Berger Ditch this summer.

Progress:

At the top of the achievement list is the completion of a long-running Committee goal - the finalization of Maumee AOC Subcommittee recommendations regarding projects needed to address BUIs 3a, 6, and 14a. The list was approved by US EPA and PCS continues to reach out to landowners & partners to help develop specific placeholder projects for the December meeting. PCS also participates on the committee working to identify Maumee River mainstem projects.

Work was also done to share AOC progress with the public. The following publications and social media posts have either been completed or are in progress as a result of work done by Partners for Clean Streams staff, along with valuable review from the MAAC president and Ohio EPA Maumee AOC Coordinator.

- 2019 Annual Report: Complete & Available (<https://maumeeaac.org/resources> - see the first document under the "Miscellaneous" category). This has been shared digitally first, then available in limited print copies later this year or as needed.
- Quarter 2 MAAC Newsletter: Distributed June 2020
 - Articles announced the new “rack cards” summarizing MAP projects, the digital annual report, and upcoming meeting schedules, and also summarized a partner’s project in the AOC (non-MAP project) and a BUI 14b project highlight. Sign up for the quarterly e-news under Get Involved on maumeeaac.org
- Project Highlights: Four BUI 14b projects are being highlighted in a suite of products;
 - Social Media Posts: Complete and posted to Maumee AOC Facebook and Twitter pages
 - BUI 14b Project “Rack Cards”: 3 are complete & available digitally with 1 pending approval. These are 5x7 front & back “cards” for putting out in displays & at table events. Available in limited print copies later this year or as needed.
 - New MaumeeAOC.org page that highlights MAP projects. Check it out soon!
 - BUI 14b Virtual Project Site Tours: planning has begun to shift these to Facebook Live or pre-recorded short videos for social media
- Social Media Posts: 56 posts were made to the Maumee AOC’s Facebook and Twitter pages from April through June regarding the current status of several BUIs, the 2019 Maumee AOC Annual Report, project highlights, interesting stories from other AOCs, etc.
- Several website updates for the calendar, agendas, minutes, & security settings.
- Continued work on the DMDS, trouble-shooting, addressing a few project revisions & adding additional projects, & incorporating the information into BUI subcommittee work & deliverables.

Administrative:

- PCS staff also completed the grant reporting, planning for the series of April MAAC meetings & participated in numerous BUI sub-committee meetings & document review. The staff transitioned to a work-from-home environment mid-March & continue to support the MAAC.
- As of the end of June, PCS has approx. \$50k remaining (50%) with 3 months left (17%). We are significantly underspent. We have started working with Ohio EPA to decide how to address activities & funding moving forward through an extension & workplan revision. The grant will be extended through March 2021 with additional funding to continue activities.

Upcoming work:

- We will continue working on outreach, such as the video premiere, newsletter, & social media, as well as planning more project highlights and possibly small, video streamed on site tours. We will also be participating in the AquaMAP sub-committee meetings & reviewing documents and working on the grant reporting & modifications to the workplan & grant agreements.
- Fall 2020 – The Maumee AOC success video should be released this October. We are working with Ohio EPA on how to release this virtually & on a series of social media posts, e-news, email announcements, etc with promo videos released over 4 weeks leading up to the main premiere.