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Maumee AOC Coordinator Update for July to November 2015

*Presented at the Maumee AOC Summit
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- The **BUI 12 removal package** with input from US EPA-GLNPO, Ohio EPA, and MAAC was finalized including supporting documentation and comments from MAAC and public. After routing through the Ohio EPA Director it was sent to US EPA-GLNPO for concurrence. US EPA's acceptance letter was received on Sept 23, 2015. CONGRATS on our first BUI removal!
- As I have mentioned in the past, US FWS and US EPA have been collecting various data in the Ottawa River. They collected fish samples for **fish tissue analysis** this summer/fall. When it was determined that they did not have the funds to analyze the fish, Ohio EPA agreed to incur this cost. Because the sample size and locations were fairly robust throughout the DO NOT EAT advisory zone, it is expected that the status of the consumption advisory will be able to be updated. The hope is the DO NOT EAT advisory may be able to be reduced. Results are not expected until Fall 2016, and any determination of the consumption advisory will not be made until Winter 2016. New advisories are issued the last day in February each year.
- Starting in 2016, several federal agencies are planning a **Great Lakes wide sampling event** focusing on different issues each year. In 2016 it is anticipated that the focus will be on pesticides. The Maumee River is expected to be one of the focus streams for Lake Erie. In late September I conducted field recon for sampling locations with US FWS.
- Based on the Annex 4 recommendations, 40% reduction goals for phosphorus, Domestic Action Plans and other initiatives, Ohio EPA is re-evaluating its monitoring approach and which watersheds will be sampled in the coming years under its Basin Study Program. I am highly encouraged that sampling be conducted in the watersheds of the Maumee AOC due to the age of some of our data and their location in the Western Basin. It may be possible to have most of the **AOC comprehensively sampled** in the next few years. I will keep you posted.
- **Ohio EPA is supporting the MAAC's** next steps for the Maumee AOC with support funding to PCS to serve as the Facilitating Organization for the MAAC and the hiring a state contractor to assist with the development of a local target for BUI 14: Wildlife Habitat. Ohio EPA anticipates that additional funding for PCS and assistance with the other next steps will be available next spring.

NEXT STEPS in 2016 for the MAAC

- Create local target for BUI 14: Wildlife Habitat
 - Define what is needed on Management Actions List
 - Begin creation of Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Restoration Plans (using existing plans and new projects; projects highlighted should be based on need for restoration of BUI 3, 6 and the new local target for BUI 14)
 - Begin creation of Management Actions List
- See the *FY2015 Annual Report Maumee AOC (July 2014 to June 2015)* for a listing of additional activities in 2015 and the plans for 2016.