



Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

December 8, 2022 9:30am – 11:30am

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1-614-721-2972 Conference ID: 498 927 01#

Hybrid Meeting

In person at Ohio EPA Northwest District,
347 N. Dunbridge Rd, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

MINUTES

Attendance: Cherie Blair, Archie Lunsey, Deanna Bobak, Amber Bellamy, Leah Medley, Regina Collins, Sally Gladwell, Andrew Timmis, Amanda Kovach, Shawn Duke, Ryan Allison, Liv Simkins Bullock, Corey VanStratt, Bryan Hinterberger, Zuri Carter, Mike Pniewski, Vanessa Steigerwald Dick, Scott Butterworth, Edith Kippenham, Kris Patterson, Marc Mills, Jenny Carter Cornell, DJ Mears, Ashlee Decker, Beth Sparks-Jackson, Lynn Ackerson, Josh Miller, Courtney Lopez

- Mike Pniewski, Chair welcomed everyone and provided a quick overview of the agenda.
- August minutes were approved. Jenny Carter Cornell made a motion of approval, Sally seconded, and motion passed.
- Beth Sparks-Jackson, USGS, provided an update from BUI 3a, 6, 14a Biological Subcommittee.
There was one TBD project left on MAP project list on the Sibley Creek HUC-Ottawa River projects. The time has come to identify and recommend new projects in the lower Ottawa River, and the Biological Subcommittee is looking for new committee members to help with this process. They have six to nine months, meeting at most once a month throughout 2023. Planning for their first meeting in January 2023 if data is available from US EPA at that point.

Looking for specific roles to fill on the team – Beth specifically mentioned people with toxicology experience with the Ottawa River, US Fish and Wildlife, and reps from environmental design companies. Edith Kippenhan (City of Toledo) says she will offer some project suggestions via email. Bryan Hinterberger (USACE) – said they could brainstorm if any support is needed from USACE. Amber Bellamy (USFWS) said they can help out with subcommittee.

- Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA shared the Ohio EPA AOC Coordinator Report/Year in Review. Presentation is posted on maumeeaac.org. She shared an update on most BUI Statuses. A few highlights are below.
BUI Status: BUI 1 was removed in August 2022. BUI 7 - Dredging restrictions – Removal date given as TBD in presentation. New data available on ship channel collected last year, Ohio EPA sediment staff reviewing. Will be updates in 2023 on removal timeline.

BUI 11 - Aesthetics is still under internal agency review. It still has to go to US EPA for their review. Once we get US EPA review, then there will be a MAAC review, then public comment. She says she expects to bring it before the MAAC before or at the February 2023 meeting.
- WildMAPs, AquaMAPs, SedMAPs Updates: All WildMAPs are funded and several celebrated ribbon cuttings this year. AquaMAPs - 2 nearing completion - Secor Metropark expansion projects (Prairie Ditch). 1-2



AquaMAPs may begin construction next spring pending permits – Hill Ditch project and possibly Bandore Park but due to other circumstances, that may be delayed.

US EPA set a goal of all AOCs delisted by 2030. That means in the AOC, we want all management actions complete by 2026 so there's time to data collect and assess. We are working towards that. SedMAPs are on a slightly different timeline due to remedial designs and remedial actions need to be taken, but Cherie is optimistic that those MAPs will complete by 2026 as well. The Ottawa River may need additional work, Otter Creek had remedy evaluation, mussel mitigation, and replacement planting, while Swan Creek and the Lower Maumee River projects are beginning Feasibility.

- FFY23 Funding Requests: Requested funding for a few more AquaMAPs and pending decisions on a few under other mechanisms, such as Partnership agreements.
- GLNPO EJ/CR projects: GLNPO has an Environmental Justice/Diversity and Inclusion Initiative and the Maumee AOC is a focus area. Some local projects could receive support through this mechanism. Cherie highlighted "Nature Play Parks" in City of Toledo Parks, as well as revitalizing PCS's Maumee Corp., among other projects.
- Leah Medley, GLNPO echoed that the review for funding requests is going well but decisions haven't been made yet.
- Facilitating Organization's Report, Kris Patterson, PCS:
 - Financial update: PCS got new grant support from Ohio EPA in June, with about 15% spent right now and a few thousand dollars obligated in contracts, such as working on the DMDS. Kris asked for project partners to please update their DMDS pages.
 - Outreach activities: Kris highlighted that PCS prepared four quarterly newsletters, the 2021 annual report, and three additional project rack cards bringing our total to eight. We also developed a new website subsection for AquaMAPs and updated information on SedMAPs. And continued to be active on social media, producing new content.
 - PCS also helped promote open houses like Maumee River Islands project and the Hill Ditch TPS project. Kris also requested that if a project is underway and if the project lead is comfortable leading field visits, that's a good way to keep MAAC members connected to your project. PCS can help arrange site visits.
 - Committee terms & application: Kris reminded everyone that applications are posted. There's a current vacancy for academic/nonprofit/citizen category. In addition, Kris and Cherie would like to know if there are new people coming on board or people changing roles. If there are enough interested new participants, Cherie and/or Kris could do an onboarding to get people familiar with the AOC program and how it's being implemented here. Would probably be before the February meeting. Kris also reminded voting members that once per term they need to take the State of Ohio ethics training (online or in-person at Owens). Online version coming up in December.
 - Update on future activities: Kris led a conversation to brainstorm ideas for MAAC activities for 2023. Some suggestions for future MAAC outreach and activities:
 - Multiple people said they were interested in seeing new project sites, especially things that have been talked about over the years but never seen.
 - Brainstorming/sharing lessons learned meeting of project leads. Helping to troubleshoot and avoid pitfalls.
 - Have Bill Hintz come to share updates on the chloride project research.
 - Sandpiper trip, or taking the bigger boat that can go out onto the Lake proper.
 - Virtual talks (possibly including pre-recorded video of sites).
 - Kayaking on the Ottawa to look for potential projects.
 - Getting Ottawa drone footage from Mike Pniewski from harder-to-access-areas for project inspiration.

- **Project Feature: Maumee Bay State Park Projects** (Ashlee Decker, TNC)

Far east end of the park, there's a large wetland complex. Purchased in 1975 and by 1981 they noticed significant erosion of 12 feet per year! In 1982 they built a rock wall/dike. Wetland fluctuates with the lake level. However, it is inundated with phragmites so this project sought to make the rock wall impermeable so DNR could control water levels and invasive species. Goal is to enable water management to improve habitat on 137 acres.

First part of project was to repair the dike and create an access road along the mile-long dike. Used "Aquablok," a limestone aggregate coated with sodium bentonite through Hull and Associates (now Verdantas).

Also installed a water control structure with trash rack on the lake side and fish control structure on the side to keep carp out. Did a snake survey and Blandings turtle survey but did not find any. Removed an internal berm and created more connectivity within the wetlands in a larger complex.

No signage installed yet, although H2O did some signage that has funders on it. Cherie mentioned there was interest in doing the boardwalk signage, and if that's done, this project would likely be mentioned.

- **Partner Reports** (10 mins)

Ashlee Decker, TNC - We have quite a few projects coming online through H2Ohio. One is in Ottawa Hills on the Ottawa River - just came out. ODNR received GLRI funding for Blue Creek stream project (adjacent to Blue Creek wetland project). ODNR did not have the staff to lead that project so TNC is the project lead.

Courtney Lopez – new to US Fish and Wildlife service and is a refuge specialist coordinating several GLRI & MAP projects.

Edith, City of Toledo - Bandore Park (which is a 319/GLRI joint project) is working on final design. Doing construction late next year. Delaware Creek phase two is working closely with ODOT as they do a culvert replacement there and COT is getting the project area locked in.

LaShawna Weeks, City of Toledo - Collins park project grant paperwork being finalized. For Jermain Park, the City has picked a design team but the paperwork has not been awarded yet. Detwiler golf course project is in preliminary phase and Detwiler Marsh project is finished with construction.

Corey VanStratt, Ducks Unlimited - Camp Zabrowski. "We've bid out the appraisal. ideally this property will be purchased by the end of the DU fiscal year, June 30." Meeting with the landowner to get approval to conduct topographic and bathymetric surveys. discuss with landowner to remove brush from the levees so we can get that work underway prior to the finalization of the sale.

Zuri Carter, Metroparks Toledo – Audubon Island design RFP is out. RFP is also out on Blue Creek and Neis Ditch.

- **Meetings for 2023**

- Second Thursday of the month, once per quarter at 9:30 (Feb. 16, May 11, Aug. 10, Dec. 14)
There is agreement that hybrid meetings work well to allow access for people who can't be in the room.

- **Public Comments & Adjourn:** None