
Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

December 9, 2021 9:30am – 11:00am

Microsoft Teams Meeting

MINUTES

- **Virtual Attendance:** Cherie Blair, Amanda Kovach, Kris Patterson, Lynn Ackerson, Scott Butterworth, Kristopher Barnswell, Deanna Bobak, Paul Hotz, Melanie Coulter, Joshua Miller, Vanessa Steigerwald Dick, Cassie Lovall, Ryan Allison, Jenny Carter-Cornell, Lynn Garrity, Archie Lunsey, Beth Sparks-Jackson, Amber R Bellamy, Sally Gladwell, Ashlee Decker, Kari Gerwin, Liv Simkins Bullock, Shawna Towns, Jessica Wilbarger, Sara Miranda Mierzwiak, Bryan Hinterberger, Andrew Timmis, Marc Mills, Shannon Nabors, Alexis Sakas, Tim Schetter, Laura Sullivan
- Jenny Carter Cornell, Vice Chair, gave a brief welcome and overview of meeting agenda.
- Kris explained that because the August MAAC meeting was held on the Sandpiper tour boat, there were no minutes to approve.
- Kris Patterson, PCS, offered some highlights of the August trip aboard the Sandpiper. On this trip, MAAC members and invited guests got a chance to view recent projects and one future project site improving BUIs for the lower Maumee River.
- Josh Miller, USGS, gave a brief update from BUI 3a, 6, 14a Biological subcommittee.
 - Maumee River Habitat Feasibility Study
 - The sub-committee has been working with numerous partners on a Feasibility study to further refine areas most suitable and feasible for habitat and in stream restoration around several islands areas in the Maumee River.
 - Reports and studies have been coming in & are being reviewed and incorporated into a more substantial (but preliminary) analysis by the US ACE.
 - Stakeholder outreach has been ongoing with an interested tribe, interested landowners, reaching out to nearby or adjacent landowners and through a public open house. The open house was attended by approximately 25 community members. Team members provided presentations at stakeholder meetings, such as boat clubs, to solicit their input and knowledge of the river and islands.
 - The next step will be for the sub-committee to make a recommendation, based on all the information gathered through the Feasibility Study, for the MAAC on the key priority areas for MAP projects within the focus areas in the Maumee River.
 - Josh noted that the next phase, after the Maumee River islands recommendations, for the sub-committee would be the TBD Sibley Creek HUC-Ottawa River projects. Cherie noted that would be after new data is received.
- Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA, gave a Ohio EPA AOC Coordinator Report. A copy of her presentation was distributed via email to all MAAC members and will be available on maumeeaac.org. Her presentation included updates on BUI Status, WildMAPs, AquaMAPs, SedMAPs updates, and information on prioritization of Ohio AOC projects and requests. Overall, all 20 WildMAP projects are fully funded, and 11 projects are complete as of the end of 2021. Out of 51 AquaMAPs, 32 are funded (some just

- recently), 2 are partially funded, and 17 still need funding. 9 AquaMAP projects are completed. Out of 8 SedMAP areas, 3 next steps are fully funded and 5 are partially funded. Federal partners, such as US EPA ORD, US ACE, and US FWS have been out sampling in 2021 to support work on several BUIs. Cherie noted that H2Ohio projects are now being leveraged to provide non-federal match towards future sediment investigation and remediation steps in the AOC. In addition to past bankruptcy & settlement funds the state held, Clean Ohio bond fund projects, and state H2Ohio dollars are being used for the first time here to leverage next steps in addressing legacy sediment contamination affecting BUIs in some specific areas of the AOC. Cherie stressed that the state wants to move quickly to submit any other AOC needs to US EPA in this federal fiscal year so funding can be prioritized and maximized for this AOC.
- Cherie shared that Leah Medley, GLNPO, applauded the MAP lists all being approved and projects were being reviewed and approved as funding becomes available during the fiscal year.
- Kris Patterson, PCS, gave the Facilitating Organization’s Report, including an update on finances, outreach, and an update on future activities. The grant is underspent but will be drawn down more as several contractors are on board now and just beginning work. Outreach and updates to the DMDS have continued. She solicited input on the next Facilitating Organization grant and was asked if the August Sandpiper trip (and more trips) would be included. Another suggestion was a driving tour style map available to highlight projects.
- Brief partner reports were offered by
 - Scott Butterworth (ODNR) on several H2Ohio projects within the Maumee AOC. These projects are providing “bonus” enhancements that should further support BUI beyond the AOC-funded projects.
 - Cassie Lovall (NOAA) announced that the NOAA Restoration Partners application is now open and this has supported AOC projects in the past.
 - Melanie Coulter (Black Swamp Conservancy) reported that BSC doesn’t have any active projects within the AOC, but is working on a number of H2Ohio projects upstream in the Maumee River, in Sandusky, and in other river systems.
 - Kari Gerwin (TMACOG) reported that while TMACOG has no active AOC projects, they look forward to starting work on “Reducing the Impact of Chlorides on Aquatic Species” project with the University of Toledo and Partners for Clean Streams.
 - Shawna Towns (City of Toledo) has several stream or streamside habitat projects getting funded or underway, such as Bandor Park, Jermain Park, and Collins Park. Jermain & Collins part are through the Great Lakes Commission NOAA Partnership for Engineering & Design (recommended by MAAC) and Bandor has some supplemental AOC funding but is primarily through 319 and is ready.
 - Jessica Wilbarger (Lucas SWCD) said the headwater Ten Mile project, recommended by the MAAC, has a landowner agreement and covenant now.
- MAAC Voting Members for 2022 – Applications were solicited for several months. A few organizations changed their voting member & re-applied. Kris discussed a recommendation that 2 returning members, in different categories, receive 3 year terms so that the Committee would return to a more balanced 50/50 term change-over each year. Those individuals (Paul Hotz & Jim Carter) accepted the

- 3-year nomination. Tim made the motion to accept the slate; Sally seconded. Motion passed. There are now 9 voting members. There was a call put out for more MAAC voting members, especially representing the Citizen/Academia/Non-Profit category. If more applications are received, they will be considered at a future meeting.
- The Committee reviewed dates for upcoming meetings. Meetings are planned quarterly on the second Thursday of the month, beginning at 9:30am EST
 - May 12, 2022
 - August 11, 2022
 - December 8, 2022
- **Public Comments & Adjourn**
None given.