



Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

February 11, 2021 9:30am – 11:30am

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MINUTES

Attendance: Cherie Blair, Beth Sparks-Jackson, Regina Collins, Scott Butterworth, Kris Patterson, Jenny Carter-Cornell, Mike Pniewski, Paul Hotz, Lynn Ackerson, Amanda Kovach, Chris Kline, Matt Kovach, Tim Schetter, Ashley Binion-Zuccaro, Amber Bellamy, Ryan Darton, Lead Medley, Sondra Prchlik, Josh Miller, Shawna Towns, Jessica Wilbarger, Sally Gladwell, Deanna Bobak, Melanie Coulter, Archie Lunsey, 2 phone guests

- **Welcome, Meeting/Call Logistics, Overview of Agenda:** Since there are elections today for MAAC leadership, Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA, handled the basic meeting info to get it started.
- **Vote: Recommended Voting Members:** Kris Patterson, Partners for Clean Streams, updated the group on the applications & review process. The review team invites one new applicant to participate as a guest and recommends Sally Gladwell (Business), Tim Schetter (Local Government), and Jenny Carter-Cornell (Business) for MAAC voting membership. The current group of non-expired voting members (5) voted to approve the slate of recommended applicants. Mike P made the motion to accept the slate & Chris K seconded. Motion passed.
- **Vote: Chair & Vice-Chair:** Kris led the discussion of nominations for Chair & Vice Chair. Mike Pniewski & Jenny Carter-Cornell both agreed to another term as Chair & Vice Chair. With no other nominations, the voting member selected Mike & Jenny unanimously. Chris K made the motion, Joey seconded, and motion passed with 7 yes votes.
- **Vote: Minutes:** Mike asked for a vote on the prior minutes. No changes were made. Chris K made the motion, Jenny seconded, and motion passed.
- **Update from BUI 3a, 6, 14a Biological Subcommittee:** Josh Miller, USGS, updated the group on the development of concept plans for potential projects in the mainstem lower Maumee River. Federal partners have reached out to other stakeholders and are beginning discussions. The sub-committee will reconvene soon and discuss the projects in more detail to prepare for recommendations to the MAAC.
- **Update on Otter Creek Sediment Removal Project:** Ashley Binion-Zucarro, USACE, gave a presentation about the Otter Creek sediment removal project that is getting underway soon. There will be a public webinar about the project in March. The GLRI project will remove approximately 57,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment & confine it in the Army Corps confined disposal facility (CDF) nearby. The dredged material will be piped to the CDF. Every effort is being made not to interfere with boat traffic in the confluence or the bay.
- **Marc Mills, US EPA-ORD, gave a quick update that they** was able to complete collection of samples for the Ottawa River 10-Year Remedy Effectiveness study. Data is expected later this year. Baseline data for the Otter Creek sediment removal project was also collected.
- **Ohio EPA AOC Coordinator Report:** Cherie distributed written updates and briefly reviewed the highlights. Cherie distributed AquaMAP, SedMAP, and WildMAP lists, with updates as of the end of 2020. Five WildMAP projects are



complete. Sediment remediation projects are beginning; Swan Creek and Maumee River data gaps projects (100% federally funded) this year. Funding for all 10 of the AquaMAP projects that was requested was approved by US EPA for this FFY. Four other projects were also approved for upcoming funding for a total of over \$10 million this FFY. 2021 field work by various agencies to support AOC work is still being determined. Some agencies are still working out field plans given COVID restrictions. The Ohio Lake Erie Commission just released an updated website; the Maumee AOC has a new page there.

- **US EPA Task Force Leader Report:** Leah Medley, GLNPO, congratulated the MAAC on meeting the requested deadline for submitting all Management Action Project lists (with the understanding that a few projects will be more fully defined pending other investigations and report results). This made the AOC eligible for consideration of funding this FFY. Chris Kline asked how to keep the rest of the priority projects moving forward. All funding has been allocated and there likely won't be any more for this FFY. US EPA reviewed the requests in detail and had more requests from AOCs than funding allowed. EPA and other agencies will continue to work with the state to fund future projects that are MAPs as funding allows. Nothing else is necessary from the MAAC at this time. Cherie added that there may be other funding sources possible too & partners can still look for funding.
- **Facilitating Organization's Report:** Kris Patterson, PCS: Kris noted that the grant was approximately 35% spent; underspent so far but expect there to be more contractual expenses coming up. Kris is the primary staff now, with Amanda's departure. PCS is increasing the digital outreach during COVID. There will be new website content & social media content. A new annual report is ready. PCS is working with Metroparks Toledo on a paddle opportunity for committee members this summer on the Maumee River to some of the islands we are considering for restoration. Kris invited partners to reach out about highlighting their MAP projects, in various stages, and in providing virtual or in person visits.
- **MAP Spotlight:**
Howard Marsh, Phase 2 presentation by Tim Schetter, Metroparks Toledo. Tim gave a visual presentation of the upcoming next phase for expanding Howard Marsh, primarily funded through directed AOC dollars as a Management Action Project. The next addition, across a road from the main Marsh, will be converting another 243 acre track of previous farmland to marsh (with some pockets of upland prairie) and deep channels, and including several fish passage structures so that fish can move between the canal (to Lake Erie) and the main marsh. Construction begins this year.
- **Next Meeting** (5 mins)
May 13, 2021 at 9:30am, Teams call
- **Public Comments & Adjourn** (5 mins)