



Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

May 13, 2021 9:30am – 11:30am

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MINUTES

- **Attendance:** Cherie Blair, John Mueller, Scott Butterworth, Jim Carter, Andrea Beard, Kris Patterson, Amanda Kovach, Beth Sparks-Jackson, Melanie Coulter, Chris Kline, Vanessa Steigerwald Dick, Ryan Darton, Jenny Carter-Cornell, Josh Miller, Archie Lunsey, Shawna Towns, Keith Shane, Deanna Bobak, Sondra Prchlck, Paul Hotz, Leah Medley, Bryan Hinterberger, Mike Pniewski, Tim Schetter, Lynn Ackerson, Don Schmenk, Sally Gladwell, Jessica Wilbarger
- Mike Pniewski (Chair) gave a brief welcome & overview of meeting agenda.
- Mike asked for a vote on the minutes distributed via email. Chris Kline made a motion to approve the minutes, Melanie Coulter made the second, and the motion carried. February minutes approved.
- Josh Miller, USGS, gave a brief update from BUI 3a, 6, 14a Biological subcommittee. Josh reminded the group that there were 12 potential projects. The sub-committee has done some reviewing & refining and found that 7 of those would benefit from more feasibility analysis and potential conceptual details. A potential feasibility study would work towards defining a suite of projects that are ready for Engineering & Design and have some of the uncertainties better refined or understood. The agency leads are continuing to coordinate outreach & engagement of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. The group discussed the feasibility study components and what to consider and the aggressive timeline needed, as most work would need to be completed this year, with 2-4 designs prepared by February in order to keep moving on GLNPO's schedule. Ohio EPA, GLNPO, and other agencies are discussing what funding will be used for this phase and if that will impact the \$9 million estimate for the lower Maumee River BUI improvements.
- Other Federal Partner Update: Cherie Blair gave a short update (for Ashley Binion Zuccaro, USACE) about the Otter Creek GLLA project progress. Dredging is underway in the lower mile of the creek.
- Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA, gave her coordinator report. A written report was included in the meeting packet. Overall, 8 of the 12 WildMAP projects are completed. USEPA GLNPO has approved 10 projects for \$8.2 million of FFYQ2 allocations. And additional money is available for Q3 now, even though previously it appeared that GLNPO was out of AOC monies for the federal fiscal. Three more projects will be fully funded sometime and 2 will get partial funding for acquisition only, which is very time critical. Ohio EPA is asking for \$10 million for FFY22 for the Maumee AOC. For GLLA work, Ohio EPA is adding more funding to the GLLA project agreements to leverage GLNPO funding. The agencies have also entered into a unique agreement to allow H2Ohio project funding, once awarded to a project in the AOC, to be used to provide non-federal match for future GLLA work in Ohio.
- Leah Medley, with GLNPO, announced that all Q3 projects were approved. Going forward, GLNPO doesn't anticipate having the funds available to fully fund all Tier 1 AOCs even if fully funded. They are asking states to determine how they would prioritize their AOCs and/or identified projects with more limited funding.



- Kris Patterson, PCS, gave a brief Facilitating Organization's Report and discussed future ideas for outreach with the committee. PCS is approximately 40% spent with the grant, but there are some additional funds obligated but not yet billed for DMDS support from the consultant. The 2020 MAAC annual report is online now & will be printed as needed. PCS has continued ramping up digital outreach and is happy to share the great updates by the USACE on the Otter Creek GLLA project. We also put together, with input from Ohio EPA, a website section about the four GLLA projects in this AOC (past, present, & potential ones). Kris is also working to plan an Island Paddle with Metroparks, but the group may be limited in size. Other ideas suggested by meeting participants for outreach include driving tours with a pre-determined with a pre-made map & description of MAP projects that people could complete on their own (maybe with temporary signs and/or QR codes on signs that go to a website page about the project).
- **MAP Spotlight:**
 - John Mueller, ODNR Division of Forestry, gave a presentation on the AOC projects that ODNR Forestry is leading. He highlighted 3 completed projects: WildMAPs 7-16 (Rusin/Carter), 8-16 & 9-16 (Hight projects). He also discussed some future project ideas for a 90 degree bend of Blue Creek that runs near their properties. He noted that they need some replacement parcels near ODNR Forestry properties to meet their AOC goals, in particular about 100 acres in the region of SW Lucas Co, SE Fulton Co, & NE Henry Co. If anyone knows of potential parcels or owners, please reach out to John.
- **Next meetings for 2021**
 - August 12 at 9:30am
 - December 9 at 9:30am
- **Public Comments & Adjourn**

None given