



Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

June 9, 2022 9:30am – 11:30am

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MINUTES

- **Welcome & Meeting** Mike Pniewski, Chair greeted everyone on the virtual call.
Attendance: Mike Pniewski, Cherie Blair, Beth Sparks-Jackson, Vanessa Steigerwald Dick, Paul Hotz, Ryan Allison, Jim Carter, Kylie McElrath, Kris Patterson, John Kusnier, Amanda Kovach, Andrew Sankowski, Don Nelson, Leah Medley, Ashlee Decker, Lynn Garrity, Kari Gerwin, Lynn Ackerson, Archie Lunsey, Liv Simkins Bullock, Deanna Bobak, Josh Miller, Bryan Hinterberger, Tom Denbow, Shannon Nabors, Kris Barnswell
- **Vote: Minutes** Mike asked for a motion & vote on the February minutes. Paul motioned for approval and Ashlee seconded. Motion passed.
- **BUI 1 Removal Update and Next Steps** Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA summarized the BUI Removal document from Ohio EPA & Ohio Lake Erie Commission. The MAAC will have 2 weeks for comments before it goes out publicly for a few weeks for additional review & comments. John asked If requested by the public, could the 2 week comment period could be extended? Cherie responded yes, slightly extended. From the recommendation, “All fish species in all waters of the Maumee AOC have been identified as safe to consume at a frequency of one meal per month, or less restrictive, thus meeting the BUI Restoration Target for fish. Although turtle fat from the few turtles collected exceeded consumption advisory levels, “Snapping turtle muscle (meat) in the Ottawa River of the Maumee AOC are below the contaminant levels designated as safe to consume at a frequency of one meal per month or less restrictive, thus meeting the BUI Restoration Target for wildlife, even though an advisory remains as a precaution to minimize the possible exposure risk to contaminated fat bodies while cleaning/preparing snapping turtles for consumption.” Several comments or questions were asked about ways to communicate the need for proper cleaning and only consuming meat for turtles, which is are prepared in a variety of ways.
- **US EPA Task Force Leader Report** Leah Medley, GLNPO said more MAP projects were submitted to funding consideration for Quarter 4. Announcements will come later. No other updates on the federal budget or new IJA funding specifics.
- **Ohio EPA AOC Coordinator Report** Cherie provided MAP update handouts and verbally provided further updates. AquaMAP projects are beginning to be allocated & submit applications in Grants.gov. Two additional projects were requested in this quarter. Three projects that were submitted under the NOAA Partnership through Great Lakes Commission are pending. For the AOC, that’s 32 projects for 27.5M allocated so far. Ottawa River projects and more on Delaware/Horseshoe project will hopefully be available later this year. For SedMAPS, Ohio EPA and federal partners continue to collect & review data. Focused Feasibility Studies for Swan Creek and lower Maumee River area are expected to start this year. Hopefully more to share at a future meeting. For BUI 4, 7, & 8 Ohio EPA is waiting on or reviewing data. A BUI removal package is being prepared for BUI 11 and a draft will be shared at the August meeting. A number of people from our AOC attended the US ACE Conference and the session Cherie participated in showcasing the DMDS had a lot of interest.



- **Facilitating Organization's Report** Kris Patterson, PCS, gave a brief update. The ERIE19 grant closed. Kris is figuring out the final invoices and amount remaining but expects that there were some unspent grant funds. The extended time allowed for more outreach and printing of materials. Some MAP project "cards" were shared at the Penn 7 ribbon cutting and are available for other field visits or outreach programs. Kris asked for suggestions for summer activities and encouraged partners to share opportunities (such as ribbon cuttings, grand openings, field tours, etc) that they have planned.
- **MAP Spotlight**
 - Don Nelson, City of Oregon, presented on several AOC-funded projects that are either underway or coming up. Don shared a nice presentation on the stream restoration at Oregon Recreational Complex and two other upcoming projects for floodplain and stream improvement (funding pending).
- **Partner Updates:** Mike mentioned three large 2-stage ditch projects nearly complete or underway within Lucas County (Heldman, Morrison, and Van Fleet) and that a future tour might be possible. Bryan mentioned that the Army Corps helped prepare feasibility study for the lower Maumee River islands and look forward to ways to help in the future. TMACOG announced that July 19th will be the formal designation of the Portage River Water Trail.
- **Public Comments & Adjourn** None.
- **Next meetings for 2022**
August 11 and December 8 at 930am