



## Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

August 22, 2019; 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

CEC, 4841 Monroe St., Suite 103, Toledo, OH

### MINUTES

**Attendees:** Melanie Coulter, Daryl Dwyer, Matt Kovach, Deanna Bobak, Jenny Carter-Cornell, John Kusnier (proxy), Bill Buri, Paul Hotz, Jim Carter, Mike Pniewski, Tim Schetter, Joey Sink-Oiler, Cherie Blair, Kari Gerwin, Ashley Binion-Zuccaro, Archie Lunsey, Josh Miller, Deborah Millsap, Lynn Sherman, Russ Terry, Amanda Kovach, Kris Patterson, Robin DeBruyne (USGS), Ryan Busch & David Ruck (GLOM), Chris Cline (Cardno), Lynn Ackerson, Marilyn DuFour, Scott Butterworth

- **Welcome, Overview of Agenda:** Jenny Carter-Cornell, Chair, welcomed everyone.
- **VOTE: Minutes** Deanna made a motion to accept the minutes; Joey seconded. Motion passed.
- **Updates from BUI Subcommittees**
  - BUI 3a, 14a, 6 Biological Subcommittee: Josh Miller introduced Amanda Kovach, who is a contractor for USGS to help with the sub-committee tasks and part-time with PCS. Josh highlighted that work is underway with the BGSU/UT team to develop potential restoration concepts for the lower Maumee River mainstem channel (from Perrysburg/Maumee to the 1-75 bridge downtown). The team will be doing field work to characterize the river and look for opportunities for improving fish & benthos areas.
  - BUI 8 & 11 Subcommittee: John Kusnier updated the group on the BUI 11 & BUI 8 reports that are now available. Mannik & Smith Group evaluated available information to determine if the status of these impairments could be better defined. For BUI 11, the status is being updated as not impaired in all HUCs except Otter Creek. A GLLA project is on the radar for lower Otter Creek in the next few years. A public meeting will be held before work begins in 2020 or 2021. BUI 8 needs more information in order to be able to assess it & is put on hold for now until more funding and information is available to complete the evaluation. Some discussion ensued, especially around nutrients in this area and how that relates to the AOC approach for BUI 8. Both reports are available by request. Cherie said no formal action was needed by the sub-committee to update the status of BUI 11.
- **MAP Reports**
  - FEATURED PROJECT UPDATE: Toussaint SWA by Russ Terry, Ducks Unlimited. Russ updated the group, with video clips, on significant progress made at their project. It is almost done & significantly under the initial estimate. Phase 3 will be additional fish passage & additional invasive plant management. Some discussion ensued about operational guidelines for keeping fish passages open & considering elevation & water levels that best suit restoration strategies for different purposes & species.
  - Other Project Updates (Lead Project Coordinators)
    - Metroparks (Tim S) provided brief updates about two projects on the radar: Howard Marsh phase 3 is in engineering & design & a large project near Secor is being planned. Various ODNR projects are in the works, such as a wetland project at Maumee Bay State Park and some projects are being proposed for H2Ohio funding that may be within the AOC or nearshore areas (but not necessarily AOC related or funded). The Nature Conservancy has a few projects underway, such as structural improvements at Magee Marsh & ongoing studies & property acquisition near the Sandhill Crane project. City of Toledo recently hired Hull & Associates for implementation at Penn 7.



- **Maumee AOC Project/Success Video:** Cherie introduced the consultants, Great Lakes Outreach Media, recently hired by the State to put together a Maumee AOC success video. They have worked for NOAA & EPA previously. They commented on how much was going on here, just from the brief updates shared today, and their previous conversations with Cherie about work done over last decade or so. They are looking for human interest angles for this video & key people to tell a strong story & make connections with the audience. They proposed getting together for lunch with interested MAAC members and brainstorming. The video would end up being 12-15 minutes long, completed next June, and to be shared in late summer or early fall next year. It is unclear how it will be released or who will lead promoting it. Brief discussion ensued.
  
- **Ohio EPA Report (Cherie)**
  - Update of Ohio EPA-led BUIs (BUIs 4, 7, 8, 10, and 11) – in the interest of time, Cherie distributed a handout (attached) and briefly reviewed it.
  - Program Capacity Funding & Subawards
    - Facilitating Organizations – all have been awarded.
    - Viability Checks, Concept Plan Preparation – underway with Mannik & Smith Group.
  - US EPA AOC Conference (Sept 11-12 at Windows on the River in Cleveland, Ohio) – Cherie encouraged members to attend. Reach out to Kris if interested in travel scholarship or carpooling.
  - Great Lakes Wetlands Symposium (Sept 19-20 at Maumee Bay State Park) – Cherie & Lynn are attending and several AOC-related or MAP projects will be highlighted.
  
- **Facilitating Organization's Report (Kris)**
  - DMDS: New Version 4.0, New Features Launched
    - Amanda highlighted new functionality in three modules – Projects, BUI Status & BUI Data Sources. She demonstrated the new grid layout & showed how to add new projects, update projects, and the new searches/functionality available. Feedback is welcome.
    - BUI status & project fact sheets available by request from Cherie or Kris. Useful for sharing, grant applications, showing AOC connection to your work/projects, etc. so please reach out if you needed them.
  - Outreach Activities:
    - PCS has continued to promote AOC website, DMDS upgrades, social media, & preparing next newsletter. If you would like your MAP project highlighted, let me know.
    - Upcoming tasks include working on MAP project success stories & MAAC annual report later this year and/or over winter. Amanda or Kris will reach out if we are highlighting your project.
    - *Volunteers needed* for Outreach Team – prepare for spring Summit & feedback on format for annual report & project success stories. Let Kris or Amanda know.
  - Grant Spending Update – Only about \$7000 spent so far as grant didn't begin until late April.
  
- **Announcements & Information Sharing**
  - MAAC Meetings:
    - December 12, 9:30 – 11:30 a. m., location TBD
  - MAAC Biological BUIs Subcommittee Meeting
    - TBD
  - US EPA AOC Conference, Cleveland, Sept. 11-12, field tours/trips on Sept. 10
  
- **Public Comments – none.**
  
- **Adjourn**



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