



Maumee AOC Summit Spring/Summer 2014



Thursday, May 15, 2014

9:00am to 12:00pm

University of Toledo, Student Union, Room 2592

2801 W Bancroft St, Toledo, OH 43606

Park in Lot 10 (near tennis courts) and follow signs to Student Union

Light breakfast to be provided by UT Presidents Commission on the River

AGENDA

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 9:00-9:15am | Welcome and Introductions , also RAP Updates
<i>Patrick Lawrence, Partners for Clean Streams, President, Board of Directors</i> |
| 9:15-9:30am | Report on Partners for Clean Streams Activities
<i>Kristina Patterson, Partners for Clean Streams, Executive Director</i> |
| 9:30-10:00am | U.S. EPA's Approach to Restoring AOCs
<i>Kevin O'Donnell, US EPA GLNPO, Maumee AOC Task Force Leader</i> |
| 10:00-10:35am | Ohio's Updated Program, Approach and Targets
<i>AmyJo Klei, Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water, Lake Erie Program Coordinator</i> |
| 10:35-10:45am | Break and Networking |
| 10:45-11:05am | Local Response and Assistance to Restore the Maumee AOC
<i>Patrick Lawrence, Maumee RAP Advisory Committee, Chair</i> |
| 11:05-11:40am | Developing Tools to Improve Communication and Increase Progress
<i>Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water, Maumee RAP Coordinator</i> |
| 11:40-11:55am | Additional Partner Reports/Project Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open floor for project sharing by any other partners
(i.e. TMACOG, City of Toledo, Metroparks, TNC, DU, WaterKeeper, etc.) |
| 11:55-12:00pm | Closing comments and announcements |
| 12:00-12:30pm | OPTIONAL – site visit/tour to UT stream restoration project |

Next Maumee AOC Summit

Fall/Winter 2014

Thursday, December 4, 2014

9:00am-12:30pm

Location: TBA

AOC Program :

Getting to your Short-List

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Great Lakes National Program Office**

T. Kevin O'Donnell

May 15th, 2014

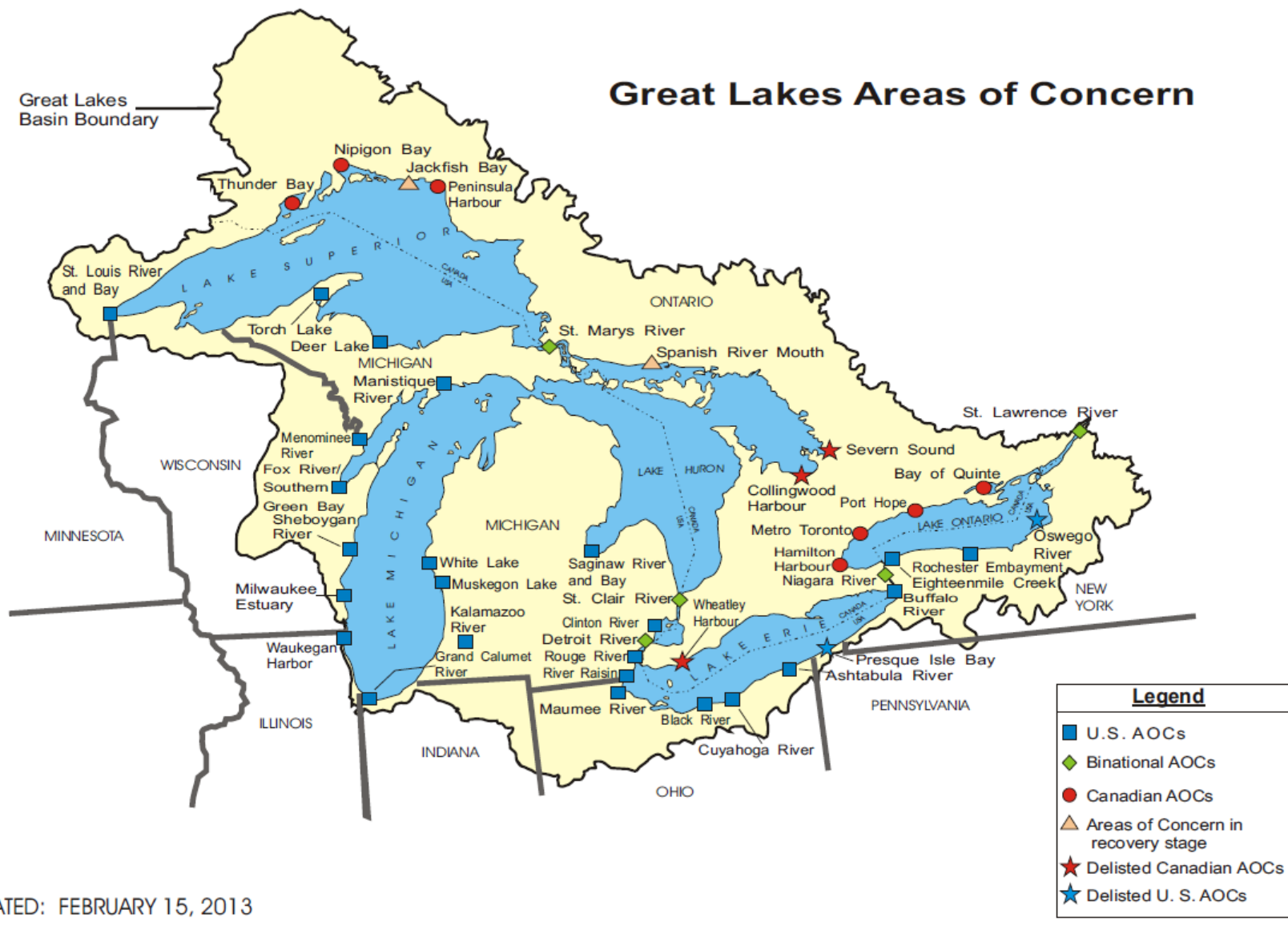
Presentation Outline

- AOC program restructuring due to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)
- How do you determine if you are a Near-term AOC and the process to get there
- The importance of being a Near-term (i.e., Priority) AOC



Change in AOC Program Due to GLRI

Great Lakes Areas of Concern



Near-term AOCs for completion of management actions

2012/2013

- Sheboygan
- White Lake
- Ashtabula
- Deer Lake

2014/15

- St Clair
- St Marys
- Waukegan

2016/17

- Buffalo
- Rochester
- Lower Menominee
- Black River
- Manistique
- River Raisin

2018 “contenders”

- Muskegon
- Clinton
- Grand Calumet
- Detroit River

Regional Working Group (RWG)

Federal AOC Committee

- Partners – EPA, NOAA, USGS, USFWS, USACE
- Calls once a month
- Review status of AOCs project-by-project
- Identify problems needing technical assistance or resolution
- Key question for all AOCs: “Where are you in the process of managing the AOC”



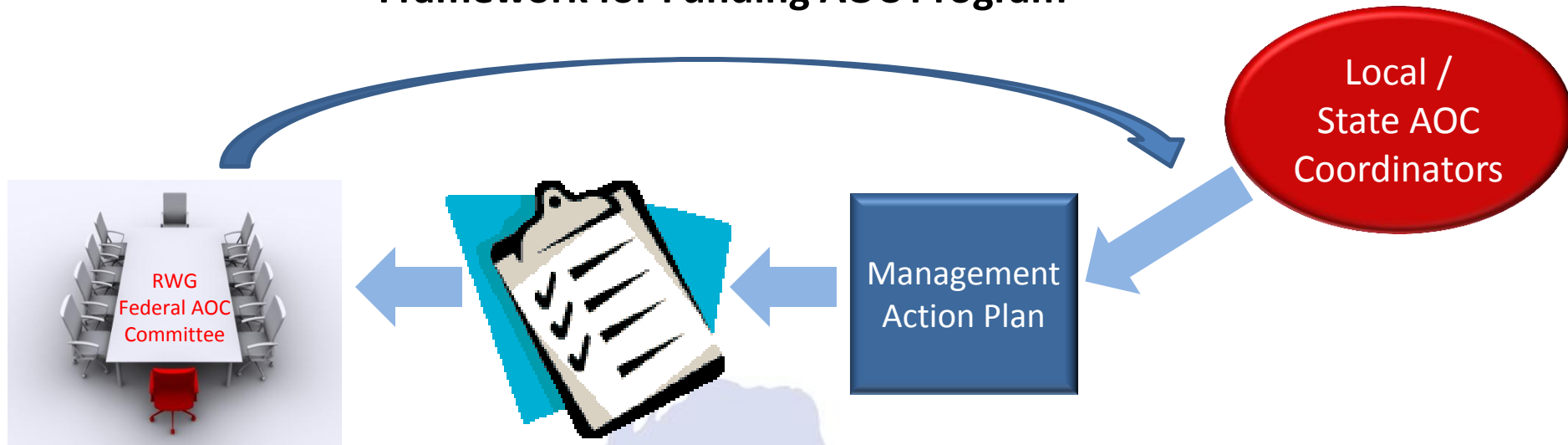


What is a Near-term AOC?

Determining if an AOC is Near-term?

- Conversations between EPA and State Agency
 - Are sediment remediation actions completed/planned?
 - Are habitat restoration projects completed/planned?
 - Are any other actions needed?
- Discussions with local AOC coordinator(s)
 - Willing to make difficult choices on projects?
- Ability to come up with the list of management actions?

Framework for Funding AOC Program



- **Are all projects needed for BUI removal identified?**
- **Does rational for projects make sense?**
- Determine funding allocations and timing of project implementation

- State submits list of projects to the Regional Working Group Federal AOC Committee

- A clear vision of success is defined
- **Actions/Projects to remove BUI's are defined**
- **Rational for those actions/projects is explicitly stated**
- Some level of uncertainty in final project results is expected

- Problem identification
- **Laser-like focus on BUI Removal & Achievable Goals**
- **Coordination on local level**
- Leadership, capacity in place

EPA-Great Lakes National Program Office assigns one Task Force Lead (TFL) for each AOC to facilitate this process, coordinate funding, provide recommendations/direction, etc.

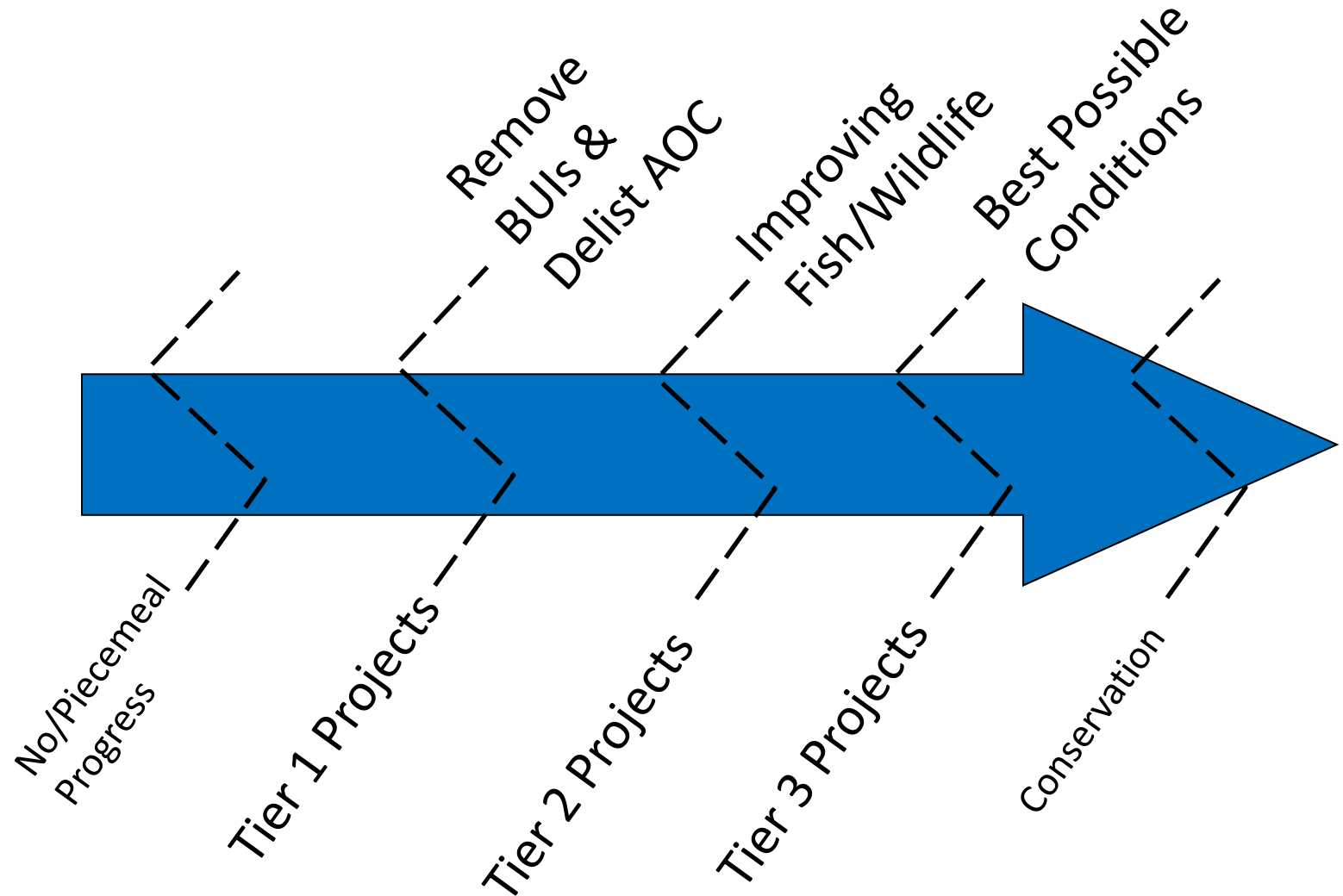
Keys to Becoming a Near-Term AOC

- Develop an agreed upon list of management actions ***necessary and sufficient*** to remove all BUIs
- Rational for projects is strong and related to AOC designation/cause of AOC impairments
- Key components
 - GLLA sediment projects
 - Habitat restoration projects
 - Additional projects

Keys to Becoming a Near-Term AOC

- Close coordination with federal and state agencies
- Strong local/state leadership to implement projects and achieve BUI removals
- Strong partnership of local residents/elected officials/industry
- Make hard decisions of what projects are essential for the AOC program and BUI removal

Possible AOC Planning Strategy





Near-term (i.e., Priority) AOC Status

Importance of Near-Term (i.e., Priority) AOC Status

- If Near-term AOC, GLRI funds can be provided directly to implement agreed upon list of management actions
 - Habitat Restoration funding
 - Other BUI projects (studies, analyses, monitoring)
 - Direct funding from other GLRI Agencies
- Legacy Act funding requires Non-Fed match
- For long-term AOCs projects may have to be competed via other grant programs
- EPA will fund both near-term and long-term AOCs but at different levels

FY 13 Funding at Priority AOCs*

- 2012 AOCs:
 - Ashtabula, White Lake (\$5M)
- 2014 AOCs
 - St Clair – 5 Shoreline Habitat and 1 reef (\$7.2M)
 - St Marys – Little Rapids (\$6M)
 - Waukegan – Strategic Navigation Dredging Project (\$4.6M)
- 2016 AOCs
 - Rochester – Wetland Reconnaissance (\$0.35M)
 - Manistique – Debris Removal –Phase 1 (\$7M)
 - Buffalo – Habitat Projects RD/RA (\$1.8M)
- 2018 AOCs
 - Muskegon Lake – Fenner's Ditch RI/FS (\$0.5M)

*Listed projects above do not include sediment remediation funding through the Great Lakes Legacy Act in FY13

Summary

- Work with your local AOC coordinator to develop ***necessary and sufficient*** plans that define the key management actions (i.e., projects) and rationale for actions
- If you have an AOC Management Action Plan in place, funding follows
- GLRI Agencies are here to help!!

**“The success story for each AOC
is yours to write”**



Ohio's AOC Delisting Guidance and Restoration Targets



Amy Jo Klei

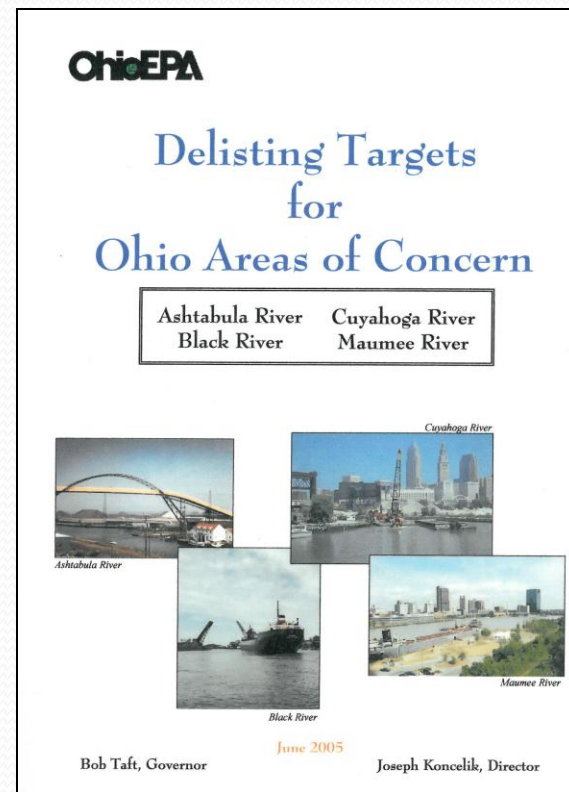
Ohio EPA Lake Erie Coordinator

May 15, 2014

Maumee AOC Spring/Summer Summit

Previous Target Development

- 2005 – Original Targets
 - 2 year effort (Ohio EPA only)
 - Used WQS where possible
 - Looked at other AOCs for ideas
 - Ended up with some fuzzy targets
- 2008 – Updates
 - Applied WQS updates and other new info
 - Housekeeping revision



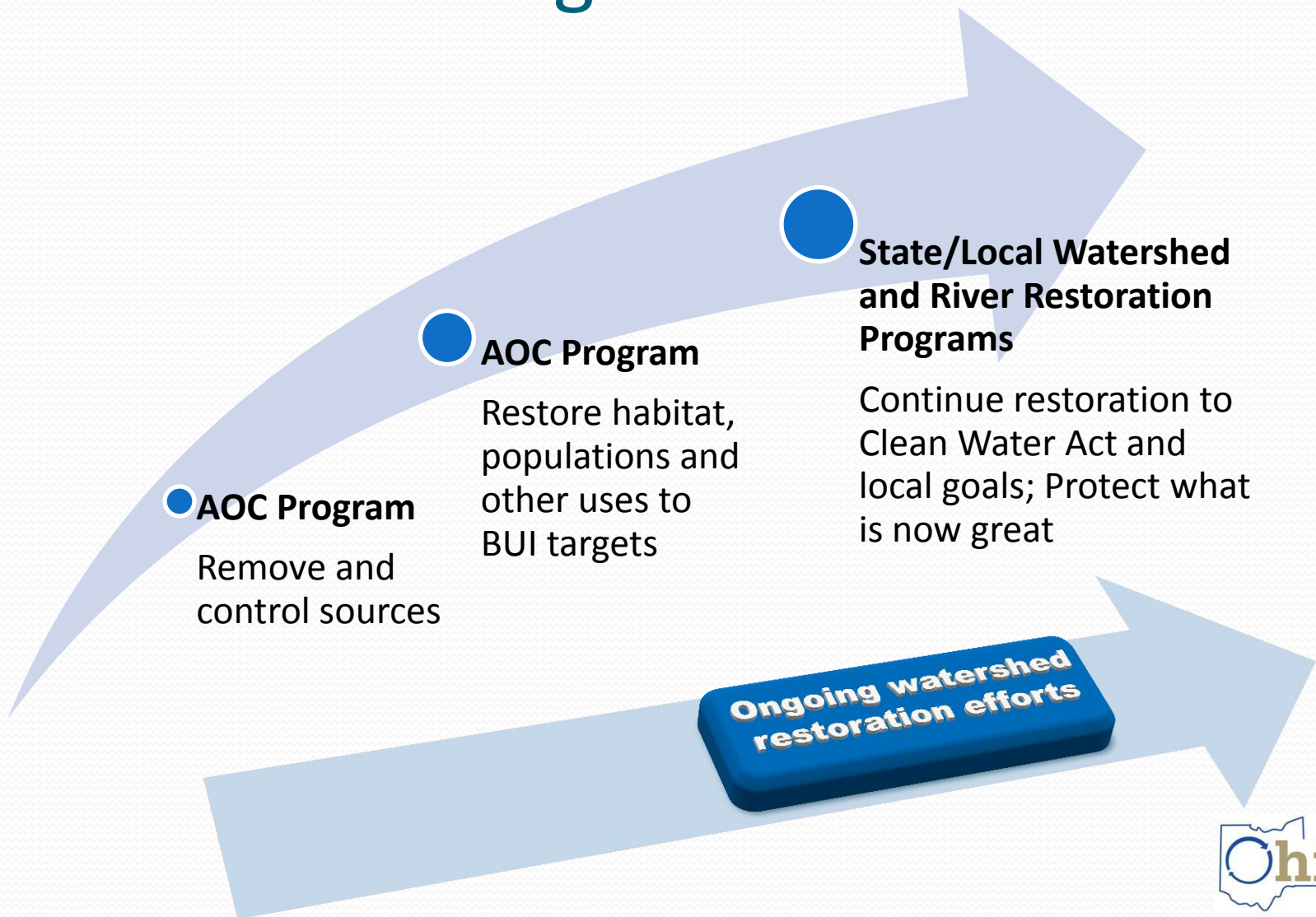
Problems with previous BUI targets

- Too subjective
- Lack of clarity on how to evaluate data
- Too stringent...bar too high for the AOC objectives
 - WQS not necessarily = AOC target
- Need a defined restoration vision
- Lacked description of how State/Local RAP will work together

2014 Revision – Need for Overhaul

- A lot has happened since 2008....
 - GLRI and the push to delist revealed deficiencies in our current targets
- Decided to conduct a comprehensive review of all BUIs and revamp State guidance to clarify the process
- 2+ year process with larger group involved (OEPA, USEPA, RAPs)
- Overarching objectives
 - ✓ appropriate
 - ✓ cost-effective
 - ✓ measurable
 - ✓ available

Role of AOC Program



Key Steps to New Targets

✓ Review and Revise

- Internal development and review
- USEPA and other federal agency review and comment
- Local RAP review and comment
- Clarify the role of AOC program in overall restoration picture

❑ Finalize – Ohio EPA management approval (pending)

❑ Formal request to local RAPs to decide if they will adopt targets in whole or intend to develop alternative targets

- If development of alternative need to include timeframe

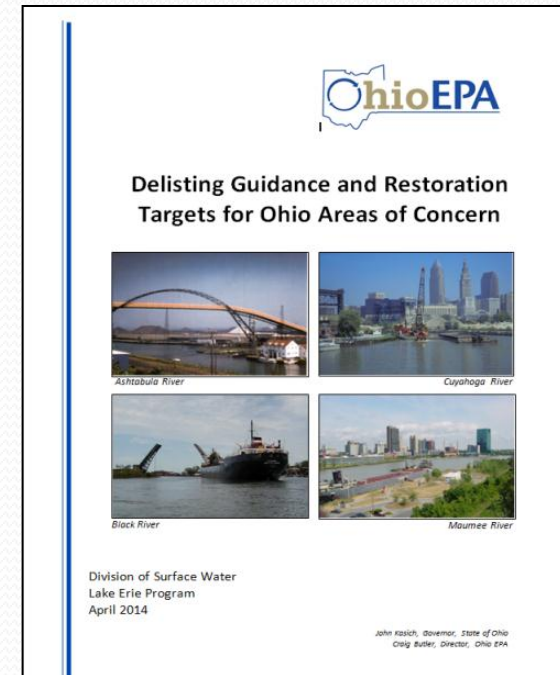
❑ Ohio EPA RAP Coordinators evaluate status of BUIs and present to local RAP for discussion and concurrence

Big Picture Changes

- Differentiated from Water Quality Standards and 303(d) when possible
- Redefined where BUI applies and handoff to other programs where appropriate
- Clarified how indicators should be averaged within the assessment units
- Considered realistic restoration potential based on type of waters and existing uses
- Identified potential data sources for each BUI

Document overview

- Path to Delisting
 - Explains the process and responsibilities of BUI removal, AOC delist, etc.
- Restoration Targets
 - IJC and Ohio Listing Guidelines and Ohio Restoration Target
 - Includes target, potential data sources, rationale and references
- Appendices
 - Ohio WQS, biological criteria, AOC HUCs, acronyms, etc.



Target Overview – minor edits

- BUI 1 – Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption
- BUI 2* – Tainting of fish and wildlife flavor
- BUI 5* – Bird or animal deformities
- BUI 7 – Restriction on dredging
- BUI 9* – Restrictions on drinking water

*Not impaired in an Ohio AOCs

Target Overview – major changes

- BUI 3 – Fish and wildlife populations
- BUI 4 – Fish tumors and other deformities
- BUI 6 – Degradation of benthos
- BUI 8 – Eutrophication or undesirable algae
- BUI 10 – Beach closings (recreational contact)
- BUI 11 – Degradation of aesthetics
- BUI 13 – Degradation of phytoplankton
- BUI 14 – Loss of fish and wildlife habitat

BUI 3 - Degradation of Fish Wildlife Populations



Fish Populations

- Still based on IBI and MIwb metrics
- BUI targets incorporate non-significant departure value
- Clarified targets for limited resource and modified warmwater habitat designated waters
- Average values within designated assessment unit

Wildlife Populations

- Coordinating with ODNR to utilize annual Wildlife Population Status Reports

BUI 4 – Fish Tumors and Other Deformities

- Adjusted target DELT % higher to reflect average conditions
- Adopted 5% bullhead liver rate as target
- Waiting on final brown bullhead liver tumor rates from Ohio EPA's GLRI study



BUI 6 - Benthos

- Added mayfly target for Maumee Bay
- Clarified targets for lacustrine, LRW, etc...
- Lacustrine ICI target revised to be more attainable
- Will not evaluate ICI metric for waters that are routinely dredged (target related to restoration potential)



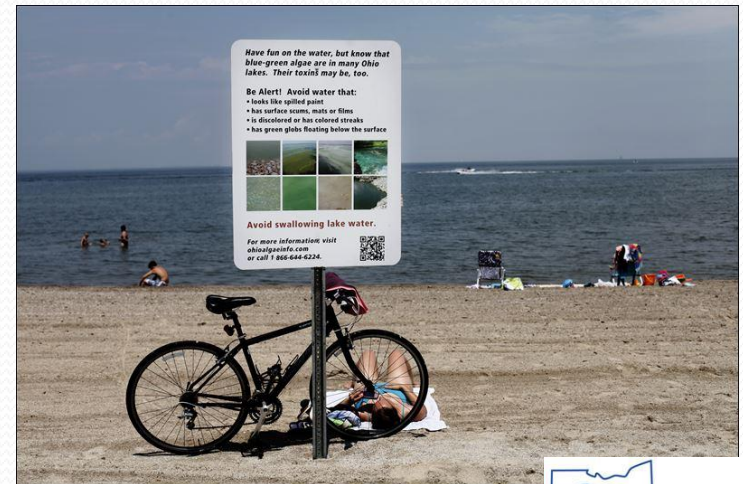
BUI 8 – Eutrophication

- Using the new Trophic Index Criterion where available for rivers
- If the Trophic Index is not available, then narrative condition of no persistent algal growths within the last three years due to sources within the AOC
- Lacustraries: D.O. criteria and same narrative condition

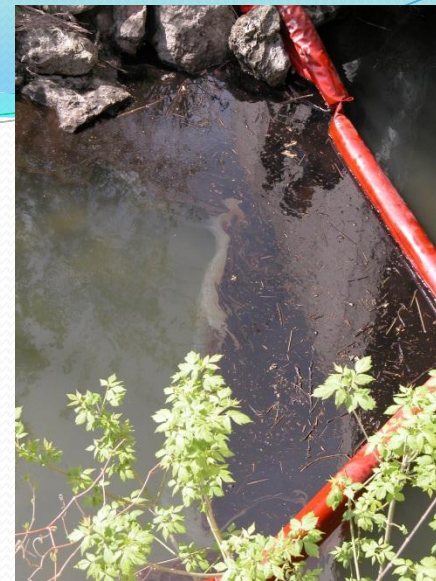


BUI 10 – Beach Closing

- Narrowed from whole AOC to just publicly monitored beaches and Class A streams
 - Follows language in IJC listing guideline
- Created CSO & TMDL targets to allow for other programs to “take over” if it is under their existing authority



BUI 11 - Aesthetics



- Former target focused on all “free froms” but some are covered under other BUIs, so now only conditions A-C
 - Examples: nutrient related impairment addressed by BUI 8, sewage by BUI 10.
- Created new targets to hand off implementation to other programs where appropriate
 - Examples: CSOs, MS4s
- Most subjective BUI and difficult to “measure”

BUI 13 – Degradation of plankton populations

- Ohio EPA considers this BUI not applicable to riverine systems
- Only place applicable in Ohio is Maumee Bay in Maumee AOC
- Due to lack of existing data to monitor this issues, BUI 3 – Fish was determined to be a surrogate
- Potential consideration for plankton metric but not available for near term assessment



BUI 14 – Fish & Wildlife Habitat

Fish Habitat

- still based on QHEI metrics
- average values within designated assessment unit

Wildlife Habitat

- New targets based on land use w/in Lake Erie basin, implementation of habitat restoration plan



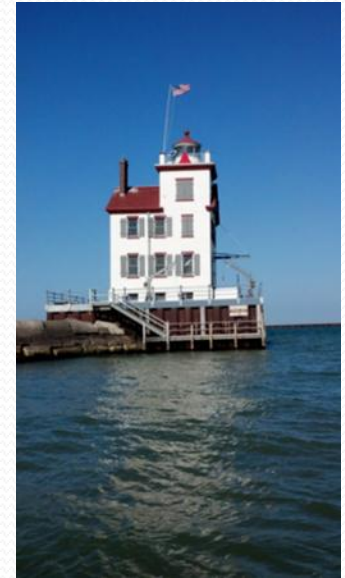
Local RAP Comments

PCS (Maumee), CRCPO (Cuyahoga) and City of Lorain (Black)

- Some concern about roles/responsibilities between Ohio EPA and local RAP
- Data: minimum requirements, averages, age, etc.
- Procedure to establish local targets
- Some want more specificity and others want local flexibility
- Some confusion with AOC vs. Clean Water Act targets/criteria

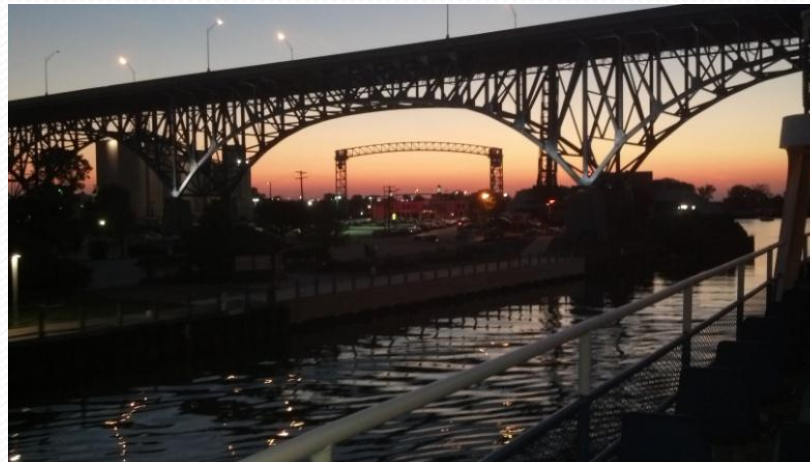
Local Targets – if needed

- Understand the data & documentation needs
- Appropriate for AOC Program
- Functionally equivalent to state targets
- Will require OEPA and USEPA agreement
- If based on unique data, local RAP may be required to provide data



Conclusion

- Targets should be appropriate for AOC program
- Agreement on the process, targets and restoration needs is critical
- Cannot remove all subjectivity
- A clear vision will accelerate BUI removal and AOC delisting



Questions...

“Delisting Guidance and Restoration Targets for Ohio Areas of Concern”

will be posted soon at:

<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/lakeerie/index.aspx>

Amy Jo Klei

Lake Erie Coordinator

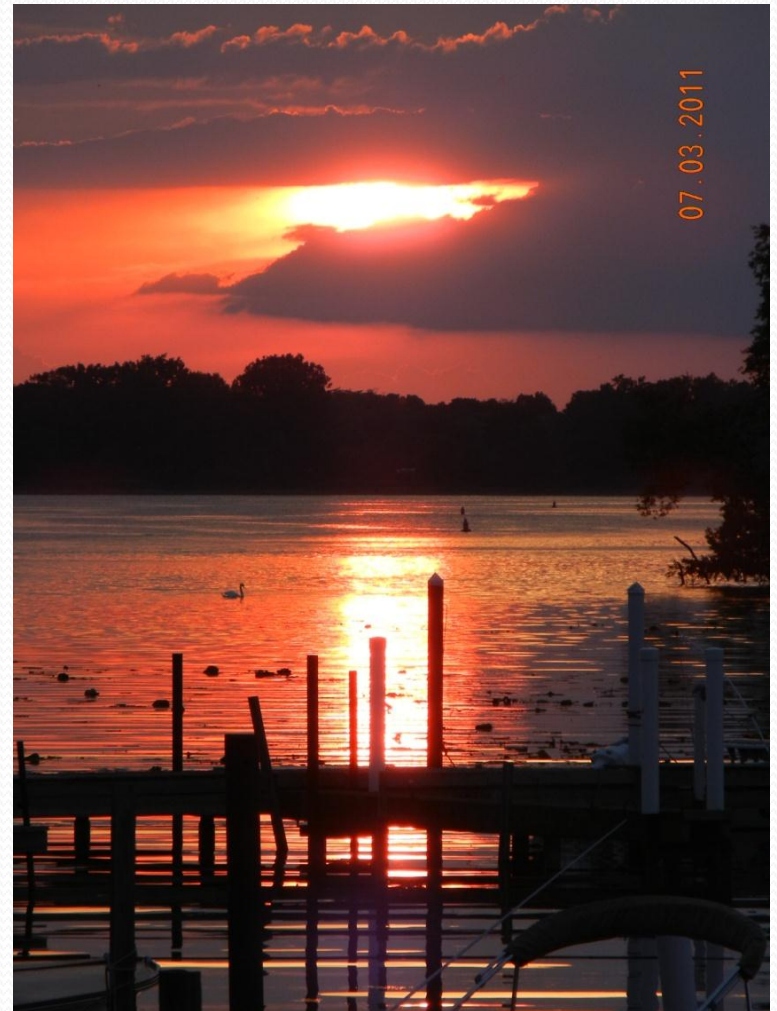
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Maumee AOC DMDS: Developing Tools to Facilitate Progress

Maumee AOC Spring/Summer Summit
May 15, 2014



Maumee DMDS: Purpose



The purpose of this project is to develop an information management system that:

- Provides **electronic tracking of the management actions**, *as well as other projects* and their status, including completed or active projects, funding status, and potential projects that will address BUIs;
- Has a **web-based presentation of the information** for stakeholders to review *analytical data* and projects, make inquiries about status or the location of projects, see a *graphical representation of the AOC/BUI status*;

Maumee DMDS: Purpose

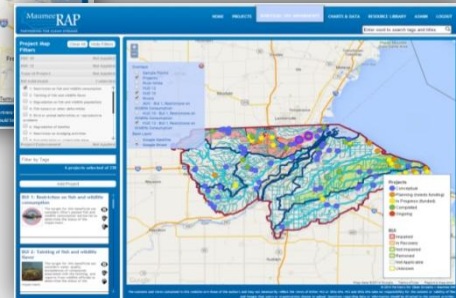
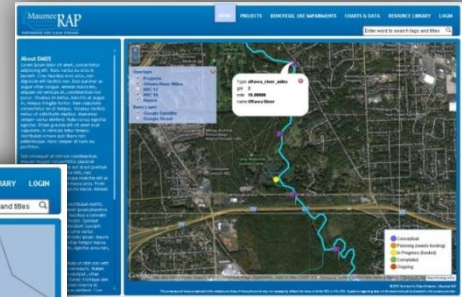


The purpose of this project is to develop an information management system that:

- **Co-located visual representation** of the status of **impairments and projects** provides valuable tools for setting priorities for targeting BUI removal.
- The DMDS is **expected to become an integral decision-making tool** for setting priorities for critical management actions that will help achieve the goal of removing BUIs.

Maumee DMDS: Modules

- The DMDS web site has four primary modules
 - **Projects**
 - Information on projects, funding, locations, etc.
 - **Resource Library**
 - library of reports, analytical data, maps, downloadable information, etc.
 - **Charts & Data**
 - Data Tables of analytical data needed for BUI evaluation
 - Bar & pie chart tools are still under development
 - **Beneficial Use Impairments**
 - Table and maps of BUI status
- Other components being developed
 - Home, Help, Admin (login, vetting, edits, etc.)



DMDS Update & Demo

www.DMDS.MaumeeRAP.org

Maumee DMDS: Workshop



- User Workshop on June 19
- Two sessions; both the same
- Limit of 24 people per session, register early
- More in depth look at system and how to use it
- Being held at UT computer lab
 - Everyone will have a computer
 - Developers will be present to answer questions and gather information for improvements & site instructions
 - Participants will complete exercises with REAL project information on their projects
 - A list of what information to bring with you will be provided when you register for workshop
- Site unlocked for public use in early August



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Questions?