

Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

October 13, 2016 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Conference Call # [614-644-4743](tel:614-644-4743)

MINUTES

- **Welcome & Introductions** (Tim Bollin, Vice-Chair): Participants introduced themselves on the phone.
Attendance: Cherie Blair, Kris Patterson, Tim Bollin, Daryl Dwyer, Jenny Carter-Cornell, Bill Buri, Jim Carter, Melanie Coulter, Tim Schetter, Sandy Bihn, Bryan Hinterberger, Cassie Lovall, Joey Sink-Oiler, Joshua Miller, Ted Smith, Katie Evans
- **Review Agenda/Approve Minutes** (Tim Bollin, Vice-Chair) See Handout
- **Updates on Biological Subcommittee:** Cherie reported that there have been two joint subcommittee meetings. With the overlap of several people it was determined that joint meetings would be the most efficient approach for now. The subcommittee expects to present recommendations at the Dec meeting.
BUI 3b: Sentinel Species Identification – The subcommittees worked from a list of 43 species monitored by ODNR and narrowed it to 9 species and added 7 species based on local conditions. Species were eliminated based on elusive or difficult to track/monitor, present in very small populations in the AOC, indicative of urban or suburban habitat or are generalists, migratory, managed as game, indicative of invasive plant or animal species, dependence on artificial platforms, towers, barns, buildings, etc.
BUI 3a, 6, 14a projects – The subcommittee briefly reviewed an example set of maps and Ohio EPA sample data. Additional maps will be created for each assessment unit and the group will review those in more detail. General discussion of types of projects or ones that were already underway (as examples, not priorities) were briefly discussed. The sub-committee will continue to work on this with support from Tetra Tech.
- **Update BUI 14b Projects:** Cherie updated the group on the recommended projects and timeline. Ohio EPA considered the MAAC's recommendations and sent only the Level 1 projects to US EPA for consideration. US EPA approved the Level 1 projects and in the process of funding them through agreements with Ohio DNR, Ducks Unlimited, Metroparks of the Toledo Area, and Ohio EPA. ODNR's Level 1 project is no longer viable. Since US EPA has funding, Ohio EPA is considering moving several Level 2 ODNR projects up to immediately implement. The 3 projects would end up with more acres towards the target for less money than the Level 1 project. Unless the committee objects, Cherie has had conversations with ODNR and recommends moving forward on this path. The committee briefly discussed these projects and the previously recommended one and does not have any objections. Melanie, with TOPS, noted that one of the Level 2 projects that they are the lead on, is no longer viable.

- **Discuss Summit:** Kris discussed the Summit. It is proposed for Dec. 8th but she asked for input on the location. The University of Toledo is still being considered but Scott Park may be a better fit (with high fees to outside groups deterring the use of main campus). Kris also asked for input on when to hold the meeting – immediately before or after the Summit, as set already at 2pm, or on another day. The group didn't have a strong preference. Cherie preferred keeping it as is on the calendar but the group is open to working it out based on location. Outside speakers would be invited to present but no specific presentations were proposed.
- **Discuss nominations process:** Kris proposed a similar but updated application. Four voting member's terms are ending. Anyone interested in returning would need to re-apply. The committee needs to stay generally balanced amongst the 4 categories. Ex officio & resource members just need to let Cherie or Kris know they are interested in participating. The application will be revised, shared with the committee, and then sent out widely. It would be due in Dec and reviewed by remaining committee members with new members starting in February. Kris invited people to share the announcement and application when it goes out and to volunteer for the selection team.
- **Ohio EPA Report:** Cherie reviewed her written report. See attached written report incorporated as part of the minutes.
- **Facilitating Organization's Report:** Kris reported that TMACOG will be submitting a project report & invoice soon on their Junction Ave project. It is expected to be on budget. PCS has organized and held several small stream cleanups and storm drain marking projects. Of the AOC support grant, Kris reported that as of Sept 30, there was approximately \$72,000 remaining. Kris mentioned that the SEP money could support future boat trips since that was so popular this summer. She also brought up an educational campaign that many local partners are considering here called Clear Choices Clean Water. The committee previously gave her the discretion to find or develop programs that met the general goals and guidelines that the committee adopted for the SEP funds. This new campaign is a ready-to-go digital campaign (with companion hardcopy materials customizable but available separately) that encourage people to adopt water-friendly practices, such as caring for storm drains and applying fertilizer carefully. For a low cost (a few thousand dollars) the SEP funds will help launch the campaign locally, tailored to our area, and in the future, could purchase educational materials to distribute alongside it. Other area partners, primarily storm water management districts would be funding the rest of the campaign. PCS, on behalf of the MAAC, would be one of the integral partners promoting, using, and distributing the education materials to raise awareness of good water quality practices and would support the program by contributing money from the SEP fund. Several committee members voiced support for the project and that the MAAC needs to do more general education and outreach. No one voiced objection on the call.
- **Announcements and/or Updates from Ex Officio & Resource Members** (open floor): None.
- **Future Meeting Frequency, Dates, Times** (Kris)
 - Bimonthly mtgs at 2pm on the following dates: December 8th (may be combined with the Summit) Location of Summit UT Scott Park campus, Room CC1300
 - Additional Sub-Committee Meetings are being scheduled as needed
- **Adjourn meeting**



John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Craig W. Butler, Director

Maumee AOC Coordinator Updates for the Maumee AOC Advisory Committee October 13, 2016

UPDATE on Biological Subcommittees (Fish & Bugs and Wildlife & Habitat)

- There have been two joint subcommittee meetings. With the overlap of several people, it was determined that joint meetings would be the most efficient approach for now.
- **Sentinel species selection:**
 - At the *first meeting*, a list of 43 species monitored through ODNR population surveys were discussed and narrowed to 9 species based on:
 - Elusive or otherwise difficult to monitor or track
 - Present in very small populations in the Maumee AOC
 - Indicative of urban or suburban habitat or are habitat generalists
 - Dependence upon artificial platforms, barns, buildings, or cell phone towers for nesting
 - Migratory
 - Managed as game
 - Indicative of invasive plant or animal species
 - Subcommittee members then added 7 species based on local knowledge.
 - At the *second meeting* the species list of 17 was discussed based on more detailed information and narrowed to 11 along with possible applicability (i.e. whole AOC, Oak Openings, Coastal Wetlands). Additional information is being gathered on these species.
 - The Subcommittee expects to determine a recommendation of a sentinel species for BUI 3b at the next Subcommittee meeting on October 25. This recommendation is expected to be presented to the MAAC for approval at the December meeting.
- **Projects identification to “move the needle” towards BUI removal for BUI 3a (fish populations), BUI 6 (benthos), and BUI 14a (fish habitat):**
 - At the first meeting, Ohio EPA and TetraTech briefly reviewed maps of each assessment unit in the AOC. Due to time, there was not much discussion on this topic.
 - At the second meeting, a sample map package was presented for discussion for two assessment units. The map packages show the conditions for each of the 3 BUIs for each sample location (provided data was available), the average conditions for each of the 3 BUIs for the assessment unit as a whole (which is what the restoration target is based upon), and the causes/sources for each based on past TMDLs/TSDs. The conditions of each assessment unit were discussed and the possible needs identified, if known.
 - It was decided that these map packages would be created for each of the assessment units and discussed at the next meeting on October 25. The intent it to review the needs of each assessment unit based on known conditions (i.e. biological criteria, causes/sources, personal knowledge) and known projects/partners. In subsequent meetings, additional projects will determined or a path to determine them will be formulated.

UPDATE on Recommended MAP for BUI 14b (Wildlife Habitat)

- Ohio EPA considered the MAAC's recommendations and sent the Level 1 Project List on to US EPA.
- US EPA considered that list and has approval to fund all Level 1 Projects (6 projects for \$3,977,000)
 - US EPA has assigned Project Officers to the projects and is in the process of working on agreements with Ducks Unlimited, Ohio DNR, Metroparks of the Toledo Area, and Ohio EPA.
 - ODNR's Level 1 State Forest Project is no longer viable. Since US EPA has funding approval, Ohio EPA is considering moving several Level 2 ODNR projects up in the implementation schedule. Based on conversations with ODNR, these 3 projects are viable and immediately implementable. They would increase the acres toward achieving the target from 70 to 180 for a cost of \$200,000 less than the Level 1 Project. Unless the MAAC has objections, I will prepare this revised recommendation for Ohio EPA leadership consideration.

Maumee AOC Coordinator Report

- **TetraTech** has been helping with data collection, map creation and minutes for the meetings of the Biological Subcommittees. The intent is to have a Sentinel Species recommendation package and an updated list of MAP recommendations for BUI 3a (fish populations), 6 (benthos), 14a/b (fish/wildlife habitat) to provide to Ohio EPA by the end of the year. It is understood that not all projects for all assessment units for all BUIs will be identified, but the new list would include more projects and needs than was provided on the EP/MAP (v.0.5) list from August 2016.
- Other than the progress on MAPs for BUI 14b (explained above), Ohio EPA has been working on some of the other **EP/MAP (v.0.5) projects**, including:
 - BUI 1a (fish consumption): Ohio EPA has collected fish samples in the Maumee and Ottawa Rivers and is awaiting lab analysis to determine if these advisories in the waterways can be reduced to meet the BUI restoration target. Expected results: Late winter/early spring 2017
 - BUI 1b (wildlife consumption): Ohio has considered the sampling requirements needed to re-evaluate the status of this advisory. It was determined that sampling would not be conducted in 2016, but is being considered for 2017.
 - BUI 10 (contact advisory): Ohio EPA has decided to wait until any changes to the fish consumption advisories have been determined before taking action on this MAP.
 - BUI 13 (phyto/zooplankton-Maumee Bay only): Ohio EPA has not taken action to develop the removal package for this BUI. Expected action: Spring 2017
- In February 2017, Ohio EPA's AOC Program staff and agency management will have our **annual AOC program meeting** with US EPA and the other federal agencies involved in AOCs (NOAA, USGS, USFWS, ACE). There will be discussion of each AOC including the progress being made, planning for the coming year, discussion of what help was needed from others (particularly federal agencies) and suggestions for what the locals should/could do to expedite the BUI removal process. I intend to share the current EPA/MAP the MAAC has developed and perhaps get the assistance of some federal agencies to accomplish some of recommended actions.
- Over the winter Ohio EPA will be preparing for sampling five of the six HUC-10s that make up the Maumee AOC. The Ottawa River, Maumee LRAU and Maumee Bay will not be included in this sampling event. I will be working with TetraTech to identify any AOC program data gaps and working to see that those needs are included in the study.
- Next year's US EPA's Annual **Area of Concern Conference** will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan on **March 29-30, 2017**. Members of the MAAC are highly encouraged to attend.
- Ohio EPA is making some **personnel changes**. As many of you know, from February to June of this year I was in a "Temporary Working Level" (TWL) assignment to help coordinate projects, grants, reporting, BUI removal, etc. in all Ohio AOCs. As of October 31, I will be assuming those duties full time. I will still be the Maumee AOC Coordinator, but it will only be part of my job duties going forward.