

Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

December 18th, 2018 2:30 – 4:00pm

Ohio EPA Northwest District, 347 N. Dunbridge Road, Bowling Green

CALL-IN NUMBER: 1-877-372-2917 with Meeting ID: 312 262

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Meeting number: 798 762 637

MINUTES

Attendance: Kari Gerwin (phone), Deanna Bobak (phone), Scott Butterfield (phone), Melanie Coulter, Matt Kovach, Jenny Carter-Cornell, Sally Gladwell, John Kusnier, Bill Buri, Lynn Garrity, Ashley Binion-Zuccaro, Josh Miller, Deborah Millsap, Cherie Blair, Kris Patterson

- **Welcome, Overview of Agenda** – The Chair, John Kusnier, welcomed everyone & had everyone introduce themselves, including those on the phone.
- **Vote: Minutes** - John Kusnier, Chair, proposed an email vote on the minutes (May & October) due to the lack of a quorum. Kris will send those out.
- **MAAC Membership Applications and Review Team Selection** – Kris Patterson informed the group that applications have been received and requested assistance from a few individuals to review the applications. Anyone (except applicants or their organizations), not just voting members, may review applications. Kari Gerwin volunteered.
- **Updates from BUI Sub-Committees**
 - BUI 3a, 14a, 6 Biological subcommittee: Josh Miller updated the group on progress. The sub-committee is planning a second workshop, covering these BUIs in the Swan Creek, Maumee River mainstem, and eastern tributaries, for mid-February. He invited more people to help & get involved in the sub-committee. The goal is to digest the information received from both workshops, and the extensive follow up afterwards by both consultants & sub-committee volunteers, into lists of potential projects that may directly benefit the BUIs. A sub-set of projects, that are highly viable and have lead implementers, would be recommended to Ohio EPA by November 1st. Ohio EPA would solicit endorsement from the MAAC by the end of the year on a final list to present to US EPA.
 - BUI 8 & 11: John Kusnier briefly noted that this sub-committee has been in hiatus for a while. Ohio EPA is working on a contract with several consultants to assist in doing research & making recommendations on these BUIs. The sub-committee has asked for assistance in determining the current status, how to measure impacts & progress, identifying a process for delisting these impairments. John invited others to join the sub-committee when it re-convenes to assist in the process. Recommendations would be presented to the full MAAC before the end of the year.
- **BUI Status Update and Timeline for 2019:** Cherie Blair gave a presentation outlining the current status of specific BUIs & the steps Ohio EPA is taking to evaluate status and/or identify next steps. For BUI 1, the fish target is met & the state Health Department and Ohio EPA are evaluating the turtles in lower part of Ottawa River. This BUI may be able to be removed in 2019. Several areas where fish populations & benthos are way below the targets were discussed and will be looked into more. Ohio EPA is also weighing whether the existing targets are all appropriate for evaluating conditions, such as in the lacustrine mouths of the tributaries, and considering if areas outside of the AOCs are meeting these targets or not. BUI 7 is meeting in the open

shipping channel areas. The unknown is outside of the shipping channel. BUI 10 is partially meeting. Bacterial days at MBSP are increasing but toxic algal days are meeting 2 out of 5 years. Recreational use on the mainstem Maumee and Ottawa River is meeting target while Hecky's Pond may need further investigation. BUI 14 fish target is not meeting in most of the AOC. This target seems to be the most heavily impacted, of the biological BUIs. The group discussed the next steps, especially the deadline to have all management actions implemented by 2024. Jenny asked if we count them as "done" when they are funded, started, or completed and the group discussed post sampling & confirmation. The most immediate step is to identify the list of Management Action Projects for the biological BUIs & Ohio EPA will be identifying a sediment MAP list by the end of 2019.

- **Army Corp Update on Otter Creek GLLA project:** Ashley Binion-Zuccaro, Army Corp, gave a brief update on the potential Otter Creek GLLA project. There is a design developed for removing sediments from the mouth & lower 1.5 miles (approximately). The Army Corp, in conjunction with US EPA, is working with a group of industries to plan for a potential sediment removal project in 2020 or 2021. Targeted stakeholder input is being sought during an upcoming meeting on the tentative design. A public meeting will likely be held sometime closer to when the project might get underway. A few questions were discussed, such as will the channel end up deeper and will that impact anything? Also, a suggestion was made to consider input from the partners working on sturgeon rearing & releases for this area to see if any habitat features that benefit sturgeon could be incorporated. Habitat restoration is a separate consideration and would be addressed sometime in the future.
- **US EPA Report,** Leah Medley wasn't able to attend or call in so Cherie covered her updates.
- **Ohio EPA Report,** Cherie Blair encouraged everyone to put the US AOC Conference on their schedule. Tentatively planned for Cleveland in Sept. 2019.
- **Facilitating Organization's Report:** Kris Patterson highlighted that PCS is continuing outreach activities to support the MAAC and recently has been promoting Clear Choices, Clean Water, working on the DMDS, and providing workshop planning support. The Ohio EPA grant is approximately 80% spent. Kris asked that if committee members have input on the tasks for the next facilitating support grant that they let her know. Although funding is undetermined at this point, Ohio EPA would like to have a draft proposal in February. PCS anticipates continuing many of the activities to support the sub-committees, DMDS, and some outreach activities. The next regular meeting will be scheduled via Doodle, likely for February.
- **MAP Reports (Lead Project Coordinators)**
 - Update on Projects – Black Swamp Conservancy (Melanie) reported that funds are in place for their project & they are doing due diligence. TNC (Matt) mentioned a project in Sandusky Bay that TNC is involved with regarding turbidity that may be applicable to areas in the Maumee AOC as well. He specifically mentioned Crane, Portage, and Turtle lacustrine zones. Cherie distributed an updates MAP project table showing the status of the approved projects.
 - Updates on NPS-IS Habitat Plans – Cherie mentioned that plans have all been approved for the AOC watersheds. MSG & Tetra Tech are working on a compilation document with overall maps.
- **Partner Reports (varies) – None.**
- **Public Comments & Adjourn –** No public comments received.

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