



## Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

March 15, 2019 9:30 – 11:30am

Mannik and Smith Group, 1800 Indian Wood Circle, Maumee Ohio

CALL-IN NUMBER: 614-387-7405

### MINUTES

**Attendance:** Melanie Coulter (phone), Matt Kovach, Deanna Bobak (phone), Jenny Carter-Cornell, Sally Gladwell, Bill Buri, Jim Carter, Mike Pniewski, Tim Schetter, Joey Sink-Oiler, Cherie Blair, Paul Chasco, Sara Guiher, Regina Collins, Kris Patterson

- Kris Patterson welcomed everyone & distributed materials.
- After discussion, Jenny Carter-Cornell and Mike Pniewski were elected as Chair & Vice Chair, respectively.
- As the new Chair, Jenny made a motion & called for a vote on the December minutes. Bill seconded and minutes were approved.
- Cherie Blair went over the expectations for the MAAC for 2019, including the following:
  - Active and Engaged Committee/Subcommittee
    - Attendance is critically important to doing business
    - Propose changing meeting schedule to quarterly for 2019, set dates? (May, Sept., Dec.) and discussion ensued on the dates. Meetings were tentatively set for May 15<sup>th</sup>, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>. Ideas were also discussed for holding a “Summit” or some public event to highlight projects & progress in the AOC. Suggestions for a boat trip, movie showing, and/or social gathering in the new tree houses were made. Kris, with input from the MAAC, will work out the details later for an event in Spring 2020.
  - Goal for 2019 is the Biological MAP List developed, which the Biological subcommittee will lead.
    - MAAC provides a list to Ohio EPA – Dec. 2019
  - Ohio EPA will lead a Sediment MAP List developed.
    - Ohio EPA provides a list to MAAC – Dec. 2019
  - Ohio EPA still needs to determine next steps/needs for BUI 4, 7, 10 by Dec 2019. Ohio EPA anticipates \$80,000 - \$90,000 in sub-contracts for technical work in the next multi-year US EPA Lake Erie award, with much of that to support work in the Maumee AOC. Ohio EPA is also going to get more support internally, through DERR, for sediment & contaminants sampling & technical support directly for the AOC.
  - Over the next 12-24 months, Ohio EPA will also be directly contracting out a Maumee AOC video highlighting the successes here. Their consultant may want interviews with locals.
  - Cherie expects that Ohio EPA will receive the next Lake Erie & AOC funding from US EPA soon & then will prepare the Facilitating Organization support grants for 18 months.
- **Updates from BUI Subcommittees**
  - BUI 3a, 14a, 6 Biological subcommittee: Josh Miller couldn't attend this meeting but the subcommittee worked hard to prepare for another workshop, held March 14. There is a lot of information to digest after the recent workshop. More will be shared later.



- BUI 8 & 11: John Kusnier - Contractual work is beginning. No new update.
- **US EPA Report** - Leah Medley was unable to attend so Cherie reminded everyone about the US EPA AOC Conference in September. More information should be available soon.
- **Ohio EPA Report (Cherie)**
  - Update of Ohio EPA-led BUIs (BUIs 4, 7, 8, 10, and 11)
    - Work is progressing, through a sub-contract, on BUI 8 & 11 research & next steps.
    - Chad Ferguson was working on some ship channel data from the Army Corps of Engineers but now that he left that will need a new staff person.
    - New sampling will occur this summer at Heckinger's Pond for BUI 10. A new project might be proposed for Maumee Bay State Park as well.
    - Several existing wildlife habitat MAPs need funding still. Engineering & design is beginning on several. One project, Olander's, needed to be replaced. The Metroparks has proposed a new project. Another MAP project, with Ducks Unlimited (28-17), needs some new parcels as others have fallen through.
- **Facilitating Organization's Report (Kris)**
  - DMDS: New version 3.0 recently launched. It has a few new features, such as showing current sampling locations and a new Charts pop-up feature. Kris noted that another major update coming later this year with added functionality.
  - PCS continued outreach activities, such as (but not limited to) promoting Clear Choices, Clean Water, newsletter, AOC website, AOC social media, & recently shared new videos highlighting projects that were accelerated or augmented with AOC funds (based on the tours PCS & partners put together earlier).
  - Grant spending update – completely spent in late February. PCS has continued supporting activities & tasks for the MAAC with their own funding, above & beyond the Ohio EPA grant, so that progress & administrative functions were maintained between grants.
  - Next Ohio EPA Support Grant – Draft application has been submitted. Kris may still be able to make revisions so if you have suggestions or priorities, please let her know asap. It is undetermined when it will come through but it will likely be delayed beyond April 1.
- **MAP Reports**
  - Cherie distributed an updated MAP 14b Status Sheet and reminded everyone that the NPS-IS Habitat Plans, including those by the Ohio EPA contractors, were completed and when approved they are located on Ohio EPA's 319 webpage.
  - No new updates on MAP Projects
- **Partner Reports (varies)**

Sara, with TMACOG, shared information about a new program coming to Toledo called Canoemobile. Canoemobile is targeted to youth programs & will be here at various launching locations June 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> and on June 29<sup>th</sup> there will be a watershed festival downtown that is open to the public. Sara also highlighted TMACOG's ongoing work to coordinate partners working on updates & developing a strategy for keeping the NPS-IS plans current.



Matt, with TNC, highlighted some work that TNC is doing in Sandusky Bay & how it might be applicable to lacustrary areas of the AOC and that TNC may be developing a citizen science sampling program for river mouths, such as Toussaint.

Lucas County shared that the 10-Mile drainage project is beginning. Trees are down and construction begins this year. LC SWCD mentioned Senate Bill 299 and that funds are starting to become available for sign ups at the SWCDs. It pays well & has a new buffer program. Some discussion ensued about potential changes in the ditch maintenance rules coming, such as wider maintenance easements that could provide some buffer (grasses probably). The question arose – could it be native prairie grasses and on one side only?

- **Public Comments** – none received
- **Adjourn**