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## Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

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May 15, 2019 9:30 – 11:30am

Ohio EPA Northwest District, 347 N. Dunbridge Rd, Bowling Green, OH

CALL-IN NUMBER: 614-752-7418

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### MINUTES

**Attendance:** Melanie Coulter, Matt Kovach, Deanna Bobak (phone), Jenny Carter-Cornell, Sally Gladwell, Jim Carter, Mike Pniewski, Tim Schetter, Joey Sink-Oiler, Cherie Blair, Leah Medley (phone), Josh Miller, Lynn Sherman, Russ Terry, Paul Chasco, Regina Collins, Kris Patterson

- Kris Patterson welcomed everyone & distributed materials.
- Joey made a motion & called for a vote on the December minutes. Sally seconded and minutes were approved.
- **Updates from BUI Subcommittees**
  - BUI 3a, 14a, 6 Biological subcommittee: Josh Miller shared that the sub-committee is working hard to digest the information from the second workshop, held March 14. There is a lot of information to follow up on after the recent workshop. A few projects have been identified and there are draft project lists from most of the breakout sessions. USGS is working towards ramping up some support for this task through a contractor & is working towards have a full list of recommended BUI14b projects for the MAAC's review in December.
  - BUI 8 & 11: John Kusnier - John presented two documents prepared by Mannik and Smith Group under contract from Ohio EPA. These documents were shared with Ohio EPA (Cherie), Jenny, & Kris earlier for comments and feedback and then some revisions were incorporated. The documents summarize the information that the Mannik & Smith Group team reviewed in order to prepare a recommendation on the removal of BUI 8 & 11. John briefly discussed the process & results. BUI 11 is being recommended for removal once the Otter Creek GLLA project is complete, at some future date. The consultants recommended more information be gathered and evaluated before making a recommendation. The committee asked for a more detailed and robust discussion of these documents at the next meeting. John distributed the full documents electronically for anyone interested.
- **MAP Reports**
  - Various partners reported brief updates on their MAP (AOC GLRI funded) projects. Tim – Phase 2 for Howard Marsh is being designed & planned. Several other projects are in various stages of planning or purchasing. Ducks Unlimited & US FWS (via Russ Terry) have been actively engaging landowners to find new, similar parcels to replace some that weren't viable as they continue work on Toussaint East & West. They are also working on dike upgrades & removals for Toussaint Wildlife area and Navarre Unit at the Ottawa NWF. Black Swamp Conservancy has identified a new project along Turtle Creek for their AOC restoration funds. Cherie has a more detailed update available regularly from the MAP partners if anyone is interested.



- **US EPA Report** - Leah Medley encouraged the MAAC to keep working on the MAP lists to get them to US EPA. She reminded everyone about the US EPA AOC Conference in September. More information should be available soon. *Note: Registration was open the next day.*
  
- **Ohio EPA Report (Cherie)** – *see Cherie’s written report, incorporated here as part of the minutes & attached accordingly.*
  - Update of Ohio EPA-led BUIs (BUIs 4, 7, 8, 10, and 11)
  - Program Capacity Funding Status & Subawards
    - Facilitating Organizations
    - Project Success Video
      - Volunteers needed for Resource Group/Focus Group Involvement?
    - Viability Checks, Concept Plan Preparation for next MAP list (BUI14b)
  
- **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 fall with added functionality. She asked for beta testers to help identify any glitches or confusing aspects of the newly re-vamped DMDS.
  - PCS continued outreach activities, such as (but not limited to) promoting Clear Choices, Clean Water, newsletter, AOC website, AOC social media, & will be preparing success story highlights for projects that were accelerated or augmented with AOC funds over the winter.
  - 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 – This was delayed beyond April 1 but will hopefully be secured soon and might be retro-active.
  
- **Partner Reports (varies)**

Matt Kovach shared about work the TNC is undertaking in Sandusky Bay & how it could apply to the mouths of eastern tributaries within the AOC. He is brainstorming ideas for adding shelves, benches, or other ways to increase habitat along lacustrian areas that are deep and without a lot of macro-invertebrates & vegetation. There was also a brief discussion about beneficial reuse of dredge materials for these types of projects. 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 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** – Lynn Sherman brought up sludge management from wastewater treatment plants, historic metals or other contamination, & dredge material. There was a brief discussion on those topics.
  
- **Adjourn**