



## Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

August 13, 2020 9:30am – 11:30pm

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### AGENDA

- **Welcome & Meeting/Call Logistics** (Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA) (5 mins)
- **Overview of Meeting & Agenda** (Mike Pniewski, Chair) (5 mins)
- **Vote: Minutes** (Mike) (5 mins)
- **Pre-Release Showing of Maumee AOC video – MAAC Exclusive** (Cherie & Kris) (15 mins)
- **Ottawa River NRD Habitat Project** (Deborah Millsap, US FWS) (10 mins)
- **Update on Ohio DNR H2Ohio Projects in AOC** (Scott Butterworth, ODNR) (10 mins)
- **Update from BUI 3a, 6, 14a Biological subcommittee** (Josh Miller, USGS) (15 mins)
  - Status of TBD projects
  - Status of Maumee River projects
  - Timeline/process to prepare the MAAC for Dec. meeting vote
- **US EPA Task Force Leader Report** (Leah Medley, GLNPO) (5 mins)
- **Ohio EPA AOC Coordinator Report** (Cherie) (10 mins)
  - Field Work
  - BUI Status
  - MAP Updates
- **Facilitating Organization's Report** (Kris Patterson, PCS) (10 mins)
  - Financial update
  - Support grant update
  - Outreach activities
  - Update on future activities
- **MAP Spotlight:**
  - WildMAP 24-17: Penn 7 Wetland Restoration (Jenny Carter – Cornell, Vice Chair) (10 mins)
- **Next meetings for 2020** (5 mins)
  - December 10<sup>th</sup> 9:30 – 12:30  
(*IMPORTANT MTG – VOTE to recommend Aquatic MAP TBD projects and all remaining MAP lists*)
- **Public Comments & Adjourn** (5 mins)

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Microsoft Teams Meeting

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### MINUTES

**Virtual Attendance:** Lynn Ackerson, Ashley Binion-Zuccaro, Cherie Blair, Deanna Bobak, Scott Butterworth, Jim Carter, Jenny Carter-Cornell, Regina Collins, Melanie Coulter, Ryan Darnton, Kennedy Doro, Sally Gladwell, Amanda Kovach, Matt Kovach, Chris Kline, Leah Medley, Josh Miller, Kris Patterson, Mike Pniewski, Tim Schetter, Joey Sink-Oiler, Beth Sparks-Jackson, Russ Terry

- **Welcome, Overview of Agenda:** Cherie Blair welcomed everyone and explained meeting logistics.
- **Vote: Minutes:** Joey Sink-Oiler moved and Chris Kline seconded the motion to accept the June minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Pre-Release Showing of Maumee AOC video – MAAC Exclusive (Cherie & Kris):** Cherie shared the date for the Ohio EPA Maumee AOC video premiere (Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>) and Kris explained the social media outreach that PCS will be doing to promote the video ahead of the premiere. Cherie then showed the four preview clips to the MAAC and described the logistics behind the premiere.
- **Ottawa River NRD Habitat Project (Deborah Millsap, US FWS; Cherie):** Cherie spoke on behalf of Deborah, who was unable to attend the meeting. More money was allotted to the program and Ducks Unlimited (DU) secured bids for four projects. Russ Terry (DU) gave an overview of the four projects, two of which are in the AOC, (Pickerel Creek, Moxely Marsh, Magee Marsh, and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge) and answered questions from the group.
- **Update on Ohio DNR H2Ohio Projects in AOC (Scott Butterworth, ODNR):** Scott provided Phase 1 project updates, focusing on the eight H2Ohio projects within the AOC. Questions were asked about the dredge material being used in the Grassy Island project and about future program funding. Scott asked MAAC members to send future project ideas to him as they arise.
- **Update from BUI 3a, 6, 14a Biological subcommittee (Josh Miller, USGS)**
  - Status of TBD projects: Amanda Kovach gave a brief summary of the status of each HUC-12 that has placeholder money (i.e., TBD). HUCs include Headwaters Tenmile Creek, Fewless Creek, Upper Blue Creek, Lower Blue Creek, and Crane Creek; work will continue through the fall to identify AquaMAP projects in these HUCs.
  - Status of Maumee River projects: Josh Miller informed the group that the final Maumee River project report would be available at the end of October and would be distributed to the MAAC via email.
  - Timeline/process to prepare the MAAC for Dec. meeting vote: Josh Miller provided details regarding the December meeting AquaMAP project vote. The process will be similar to the Spring vote; MAAC voting members will have a chance to review the recommended projects and ask questions in November, ahead of the December vote.
- **US EPA Task Force Leader Report (Leah Medley, GLNPO):** Leah did not have major updates to share at this meeting but did mention that she would be attending a budget meeting with her management in a

couple of weeks. At least one focus of this meeting will be to determine the amount of money that would be distributed this year to the newly-approved AquaMAP project effort.

- **Ohio EPA AOC Coordinator Report (Cherie)**
  - Field Work: Cherie shared that while some Ohio EPA sampling is currently on-going, a lot of planned Summer 2020 sampling activities have been postponed due to COVID concerns. Ashley Binion-Zuccaro summarized the CDF sediment sampling in Otter Creek is occurring this summer and said that dredging in that area should occur in Spring 2021.
  - BUI Status: Cherie shared an overview of the BUI assessment work by various partner agencies for BUIs 1b, 4, 7, 10a, & 8b & 11. Some work was delayed or put on hold due to COVID (e.g., US FWS fish sampling) but updates on several management actions are expected this fall and will be shared at the December meeting.
  - MAP Updates: Cherie summarized the status of all MAP lists.
  
- **Facilitating Organization's Report (Kris Patterson, PCS)**
  - Financial update: Kris shared that as of the end of June, PCS has approximately \$50k remaining with 3 months left. The grant is underspent, largely due to outreach efforts that have been put on hold or re-worked due to the pandemic. The grant will be extended through March 2021 and outreach activities will continue with guidance from Ohio EPA.
  - Outreach activities: A number of publications have been finalized in 2020, including the 2019 annual report and set of project highlight rack cards (3 out of 4). Social media posts (>50) highlighting project/partner work have also been added to the MAAC pages, and a projects highlight page has been added to the MAAC website. An article summarizing Maumee AOC project highlights was also drafted and submitted for the Buckeye Bulletin (Ohio Water Environment Association).
  - Update on future activities: Ohio EPA Maumee AOC video promotion planning, management action project work spotlights, and DMDS updates all continue to progress.
  
- **MAP Spotlight:**
  - WildMAP 24-17: Penn 7 Wetland Restoration (Jenny Carter – Cornell, Vice Chair): Jenny summarized the Penn 7 site history, project planning, and current status. Her presentation also included site photos and design drawings. Per the current project schedule, construction should begin in September and should be completed by the end of the year (2020). Kris Patterson asked about the status of the mussel surveys done at the site this summer; Jenny shared that Stone Environmental did the mussel work (survey/relocation) and would be sharing the report and photos soon.
  
- **Next meetings for 2020**
  - December 10th 9:30 – 12:30, virtual: (IMPORTANT MTG – VOTE to recommend Aquatic MAP TBD projects and all remaining MAP lists)
  
- **Public Comments & Adjourn:** No further comments/questions were received from the committee. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.

## Maumee AOC Coordinator Report for the Maumee AOC Advisory Committee *August 13, 2020*

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- **WildMAPs** (*BUI 14b: Wildlife Habitat*)
  - Funding was awarded to ODNR – Forestry (MAP 28-17) for the last Wildlife Habitat MAP in June. The last project to begin construction will be Howard Marsh Phase 2 (MAP 25-17) in 2021. Progress continues to be made on the implementation of the approved BUI 14b MAPs.
  - Detailed project tracking narratives are available for the WildMAPs upon request.
- **AquaMAPs** (*BUI 3a, 6, 14a: Fish Pops, Benthic Pops, Fish Habitat*)
  - The MAAC Recommended Aquatic Project List has been **APPROVED!!!** We are working with local implementers of the project expected to be funded first to begin developing their grant applications, so they will be ready as soon as the funding becomes available. At this time, we do not know how many projects will be funded in the Maumee AOC during FFY21 (Oct. 2020 to Sept. 2021). We have ask for at least 10 project that would total about \$8 million.
  - A narrative tracking of the AquaMAPs (similar to the WildMAP tracking) is expected to be available next month upon request.
- **SedMAPs** (*BUIs vary by project site, GLLA contaminated sediment*)
  - The MAAC Recommended Sediment Project List has been **APPROVED!!!** We continue to work with federal partners to make progress on these projects.
    - Ottawa River: 10-Yr Remedy Effectiveness Study starts next week.
    - Otter Creek: Remedy and Restoration Baseline Study began this week.
    - Swan Creek: Data Gap sampling is expected this Fall; a Focused Feasibility Study is funded and expected to begin once the data gap sampling results are available.
    - Maumee-Sway Bridge & WWTP: Data Gap sampling plan is in development. Sampling is being planned for Spring 2021.
  - A narrative tracking of the SedMAPs (similar to the WildMAP tracking) is now available upon request.
- **Misc. MAPs** (*BUIs 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11*)
  - **BUI 1b: Wildlife Consumption** – Ohio EPA and Ohio Lake Erie Commission leadership are discussing next steps for this BUI. I hope to have more information at the next meeting.
  - **BUI 4: Deformities & Tumors** – No recent activity. US FWS bullhead and fish community sampling on hold until 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions.
  - **BUI 7: Dredging** – Ohio EPA and ACE are compiling and reviewing data per the revised BUI 7 rationale. We expect a status update this Fall and to determine mgmt. actions needed (if any) for Dec. MAAC meeting.
  - **BUI 10a: Beach Closings (advisories)** – USGS is collecting samples weekly for human marker microbial source tracking in Berger Ditch. We have done one adjustment to narrow in on potential sources. We hope to determine any mgmt. actions needed (if any) for Dec. MAAC meeting.
  - **BUI 8b: Eutrophication** – Ohio EPA has hired MSG to conduct data gap sampling in the Ottawa River HUC-10 and a survey of professionals in the water quality field for this BUI. Ohio EPA personnel and MSG will then determine the status of this BUI. We hope to determine any mgmt. actions needed (if any) for Dec. MAAC meeting.
  - **BUI 11: Aesthetics** – no recent activity, removal pending Otter Creek GLLA project.

- **Maumee AOC Progress/Success Video**
  - The videos are complete! There is 1 long (13 min) and 4 short (1 min) videos. PCS is coordinating with Ohio EPA to release via social media a short video each week in September, with two live, interactive online sessions the first week in October to release the long video and answer AOC related questions. Watch the Maumee AOC Facebook and Twitter for these videos and how to register for the live session.
- **Field work and Sampling**
  - As of this week, Ohio EPA-DSW is conducting Lake Erie related sampling, but no other field work.
  - So far this summer, US FWS has not conducted Maumee AOC field work due to COVID-19. They hope to reevaluate in early September and to be able to collect fish community samples in Otter Creek and the Ottawa River in coordination with the US EPA ORD sampling efforts.
  - US EPA – ORD will be sampling in Otter Creek and the Ottawa River this summer/fall; including sediment, water and benthos.
  - USGS (Columbus) has been conducting bacteria sampling and microbial source tracking analysis on Berger Ditch this summer.

### Progress:

At the top of the achievement list is the completion of a long-running Committee goal - the finalization of Maumee AOC Subcommittee recommendations regarding projects needed to address BUIs 3a, 6, and 14a. The list was approved by US EPA and PCS continues to reach out to landowners & partners to help develop specific placeholder projects for the December meeting. PCS also participates on the committee working to identify Maumee River mainstem projects.

Work was also done to share AOC progress with the public. The following publications and social media posts have either been completed or are in progress as a result of work done by Partners for Clean Streams staff, along with valuable review from the MAAC president and Ohio EPA Maumee AOC Coordinator.

- 2019 Annual Report: Complete & Available (<https://maumeeaac.org/resources> - see the first document under the "Miscellaneous" category). This has been shared digitally first, then available in limited print copies later this year or as needed.
- Quarter 2 MAAC Newsletter: Distributed June 2020
  - Articles announced the new “rack cards” summarizing MAP projects, the digital annual report, and upcoming meeting schedules, and also summarized a partner’s project in the AOC (non-MAP project) and a BUI 14b project highlight. Sign up for the quarterly e-news under Get Involved on [maumeeaac.org](https://maumeeaac.org)
- Project Highlights: Four BUI 14b projects are being highlighted in a suite of products;
  - Social Media Posts: Complete and posted to Maumee AOC Facebook and Twitter pages
  - BUI 14b Project “Rack Cards”: 3 are complete & available digitally with 1 pending approval. These are 5x7 front & back “cards” for putting out in displays & at table events. Available in limited print copies later this year or as needed.
  - New MaumeeAOC.org page that highlights MAP projects. Check it out soon!
  - BUI 14b Virtual Project Site Tours: planning has begun to shift these to Facebook Live or pre-recorded short videos for social media
- Social Media Posts: 56 posts were made to the Maumee AOC’s Facebook and Twitter pages from April through June regarding the current status of several BUIs, the 2019 Maumee AOC Annual Report, project highlights, interesting stories from other AOCs, etc.
- Several website updates for the calendar, agendas, minutes, & security settings.
- Continued work on the DMDS, trouble-shooting, addressing a few project revisions & adding additional projects, & incorporating the information into BUI subcommittee work & deliverables.

### Administrative:

- PCS staff also completed the grant reporting, planning for the series of April MAAC meetings & participated in numerous BUI sub-committee meetings & document review. The staff transitioned to a work-from-home environment mid-March & continue to support the MAAC.
- As of the end of June, PCS has approx. \$50k remaining (50%) with 3 months left (17%). We are significantly underspent. We have started working with Ohio EPA to decide how to address activities & funding moving forward through an extension & workplan revision. The grant will be extended through March 2021 with additional funding to continue activities.

Upcoming work:

- We will continue working on outreach, such as the video premiere, newsletter, & social media, as well as planning more project highlights and possibly small, video streamed on site tours. We will also be participating in the AquaMAP sub-committee meetings & reviewing documents and working on the grant reporting & modifications to the workplan & grant agreements.
- Fall 2020 – The Maumee AOC success video should be released this October. We are working with Ohio EPA on how to release this virtually & on a series of social media posts, e-news, email announcements, etc with promo videos released over 4 weeks leading up to the main premiere.