



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GREAT LAKES NATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICE
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

Ms. Joy Mulinex, Executive Director
Ohio Lake Erie Commission
P. O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216

Dear Ms. Mulinex:

Thank you for your December 15, 2020 letter requesting EPA's approval of the final management action list needed to remove all remaining Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) in the Maumee Area of Concern (AOC) including: *Beach Closings, Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption, Fish Tumors or other Deformities, Restrictions on Dredging Activities, Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae, and Degradation of Aesthetics*. In your letter, you identified only one new project, which will address the *Beach Closings* BUI. Additionally, your letter clarified the "to be determined" projects contained in previously approved management action lists for the *Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations, Degradation of Benthos, and Loss of Fish Habitat* BUIs. We acknowledge and appreciate that this final list was developed through the concerted efforts of the partnership made up of the Lake Erie Commission, Ohio EPA and the Maumee AOC Advisory Committee.

GLNPO has reviewed this final management action list and commends the State of Ohio on its effective, targeted approach for selecting projects. We agree that the newly identified project, in conjunction with the now-clarified projects contained in previously approved management action lists, will be necessary for remediating contaminated sediment and removing the remaining BUIs at this AOC. Therefore, I am pleased to tell you that EPA approves this final management action list.

Thank you for the dedication and hard work that the Commission and its partner agencies and organizations have applied to this AOC. We are eager to continue working with the Commission and all the Maumee AOC partners to achieve our mutual goal of completing these agreed-upon and approved management actions, pending the availability of funds.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Leah Medley at (312) 886-1307 or medley.leah@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Chris Korleski, Director
Great Lakes National Program Office

cc: Lynn Garrity, OLEC
Cherie Blair, OEPA
Archie Lunsey, OEPA

December 15, 2020

Chris Korleski, Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Great Lakes National Program Office
77 W. Jackson Boulevard (G-17J)
Chicago, IL 60604-3511

RE: Maumee Area of Concern Final Management Action List

Dear Director Korleski,

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission in partnership with Ohio EPA is submitting and confirming to U.S. EPA its Management Action List for the Maumee AOC. In February 2018, U.S. EPA approved a Management Action List for the Wildlife Habitat BUI. In July 2020, U.S. EPA approved Management Action Lists for: Degradation of Fish Populations, Degradation of Benthos, Loss of Fish Habitat, and various BUIs related to contaminated sediments.

After a review and evaluation of the Maumee AOCs remaining BUIs, the Ohio AOC program provides the following updates and associated Management Actions:

- New Management Action - Beach Closings (Recreation Use): One Management Action (\$200,000)
- Updated Management Actions - Fish Populations, Fish Habitat, and Benthos – Two updated actions (no additional funding requested) and three actions removed (reduced request by \$1,200,000) from approved July 2020 list.
- No additional Management Actions for the following five (5) BUIs – Fish and Wildlife Consumption, Fish Tumors and Deformities, Restrictions on Dredging Activities, Eutrophication and Undesirable Algae and Degradation of Aesthetics.

Please find enclosed a summary and location map of the new and updated actions for reference. Ohio is confirming that there is one additional management action beyond those in the previously approved lists.

Therefore, Ohio is recognizing that the Management Action List for the Maumee Area of Concern is complete and that no further actions will be added to the current list other than the one additional action recommended in this correspondence. This fulfills GLRI Action Plan III measure of progress 1.1.3 (Management Action Lists) for the Maumee Area of Concern.

The state has received concurrence from the local Maumee AOC Advisory Committee in reaching this recognition. In cooperation with many local, state, and federal partners, the Maumee Area of Concern is

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preparing for completion of its Management Actions in 2024 and looks forward to implementing the actions set forth on the list in the coming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joy Mulinex". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Joy Mulinex
Director, Ohio Lake Erie Commission

cc: Lynn Garrity, OLEC
Marc Tuchman, USEPA - GLNPO
Amy Pelka, USEPA- GLNPO
Leah Medley, USEPA – GLNPO
Archie Lunsey, Ohio EPA - DSW
Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA – Northwest District

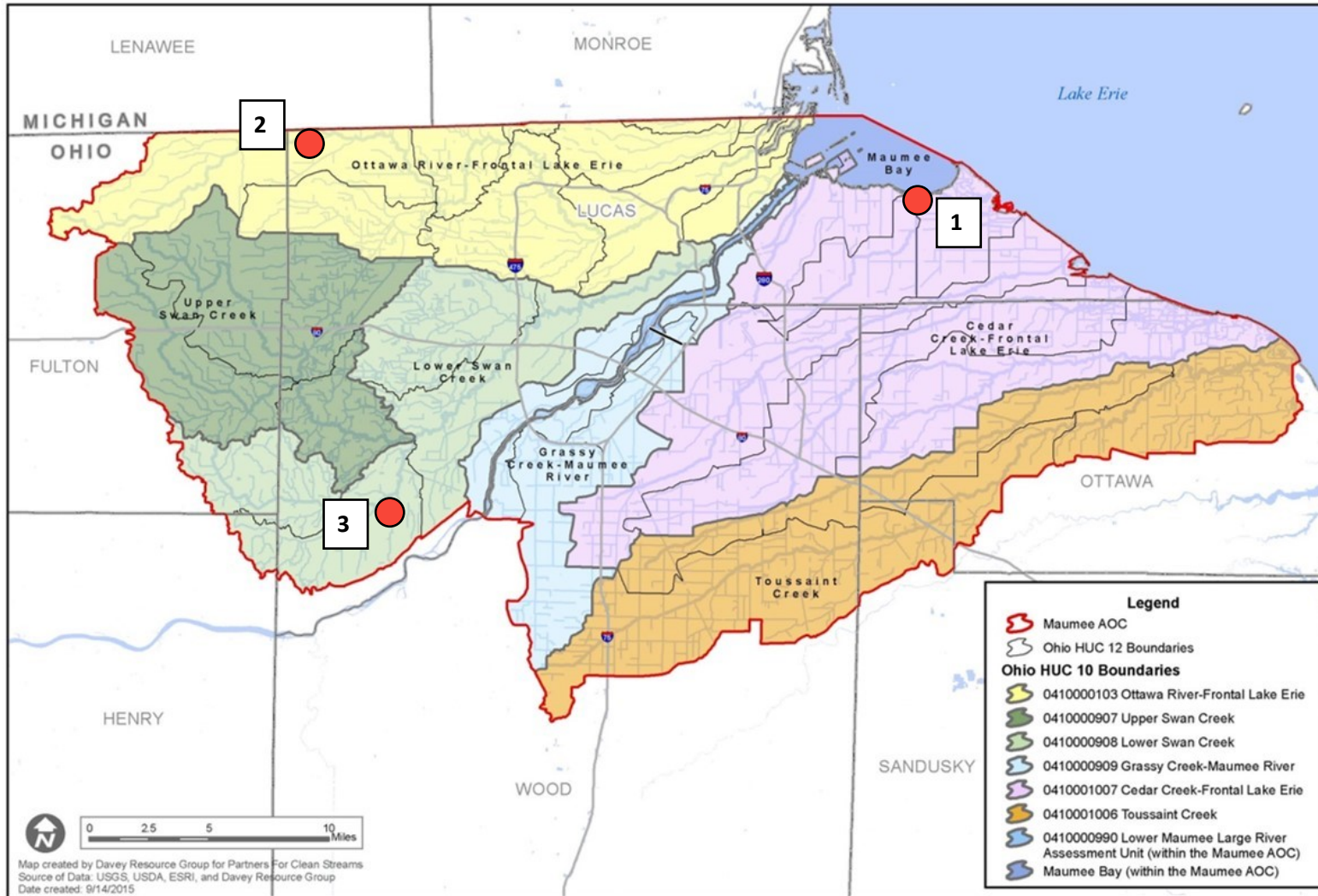
Maumee Area of Concern Management Action New and Updated Management Actions Summary

December 2020

BUI	Management Action	Project Description	AOC GLRI Funding	Project Implementer
New Management Action				
Beach Closings (Recreation Use)	Maumee Bay State Park Inland Lake Waterfowl Deterrent	The project goal is to deter waterfowl through habitat modifications to minimize areas that attract geese. This project will stabilize 850 ft of shoreline, install a 20-foot vegetative area around a portion of the inland lake and planting 21 acres of pollinator and native grasses. This project will address the BUI that remains for the Inland Lake Beach.	\$200,000	Ohio Dept of Natural Resources
Updated Management Action from TBD to Specific Project from approved July 2020 List				
Fish Habitat Benthos	Stream Restoration at Lathrop Park	Restore and stabilize a 900 feet riparian area and 600 feet of streambank along Ten Mile Creek. The project includes enhancement of 165 feet of in-stream and riffle habitat.	\$500,000 <i>(no change in budget from approved management action)</i>	Village of Berkey
Fish Habitat	Blue Creek Restoration at Blue Creek Metropark	Stabilize and develop streambank habitat and develop riffle and pool habitat along 1,450 feet of Blue Creek.	\$500,000 <i>(no change in budget from approved management action)</i>	Metroparks Toledo
Removal of three Management Actions from approved July 2020 List				
Fish Habitat, Benthos	Instream and Riparian Projects in the Riverine Headwaters of the Fewless Creek		\$200,000	
Fish Habitat	Instream and Riparian Riverine Headwaters of the Upper Blue Creek		\$500,000	
Fish Habitat, Benthos	Instream and Riparian Riverine and Headwaters of Crane Creek		\$500,000	

Maumee Area of Concern—New and Updated Management Actions

December 2020



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New Management Action -
Maumee Bay State Park Inland
Lake Waterfowl Deterrent
(Beach Closings BUI)

2

Updated Management Action -
Stream Restoration at Lathrop
Park (Fish Habitat & Benthos
BUI)

3

Updated Management Action -
Blue Creek Restoration at Blue
Creek Metropark
(Fish Habitat BUI)

Map created by Davey Resource Group for Partners For Clean Streams
Source of Data: USGS, USDA, ESRI, and Davey Resource Group
Date created: 9/14/2015

Document Reference: Watershed Characterization for the Watersheds of the Maumee Area of Concern