

Mike DeWine, Governor Jon Husted, Lt. Governor Laurie A. Stevenson, Director



## Maumee AOC Coordinator Report for the Maumee AOC Advisory Committee *February 10, 2022*

- WildMAPs (BUI 14b: Wildlife Habitat)
  - The Kitty Todd Expansion project will wrap up this month. It was extended from December to February due to issues with Toledo Edison removing power and poles.
  - ODNR Division of Forestry is still looking for replacement project acreage to acquire for enhancement, restoration, and protection. If you know of any possible property in western Lucas, eastern Fulton, or northeastern Henry counties, please let me or Don Schmenk know ASAP.
  - An updated Summary Table of the WildMAPs will be provided at the next MAAC meeting.
  - A detailed narrative tracking of the WildMAPs is available upon request.
- AquaMAPs (BUI 3a, 6, 14a: Fish Pops, Benthic Pops, Fish Habitat)
  - All of the FFY21 funded projects are underway. Many are preparing or have distributed RFPs for E&D. Six projects were sent for Section 106 Tribal Consultation in late January. Four additional projects will be sent out later this Spring.
  - Ten AquaMAPs were submitted for direct GLNPO-GLRI funding consideration in January
    - Ohio's AOC Program hopes to hear what allocations the Maumee AOC received (if any) later this month.
    - The AOC Program plans to make additional funding request for Maumee AOC projects in March and/or May.
  - Three projects were submitted for NOAA Partnership funding consideration via the Great Lakes Commission and Ducks Unlimited.
    - The AOC Program doesn't expect to hear about these projects for several months.
  - An updated Summary Table of the AquaMAPs will be provided at the next MAAC meeting.
  - A narrative tracking of the AquaMAPs is available upon request.
- SedMAPs (BUIs vary by project site, GLLA contaminated sediment)
  - Ohio continues to work with federal partners to make progress on these projects.
  - LOTS of data was collected in 2021. It is starting to come back from the labs. I will update the committee when more information is available.
  - An updated Summary Table of the SedMAPs will be provided at the next MAAC meeting.
  - A narrative tracking of the SedMAPs is available upon request.
- Misc. MAPs (BUIs 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11)
  - **BUI 1: Fish & Wildlife Consumption** BUI removal package to be prepared in 2022.
  - **BUI 4: Deformities & Tumors** Ohio EPA is reviewing a report from US FWS regarding the brown bullhead and fish community data collected in 2021. I will update the committee at a future mtg.
  - **BUI 7: Dredging** Waiting for sediment data collected in 2021 to be available.
  - BUI 10a: Beach Closings (advisories) Project is funded. QAPP is approved. Project is underway.
  - **BUI 8b: Eutrophication** Ohio EPA is reviewing the data collected in 2021. I will update the committee at a future meeting.
  - **BUI 11: Aesthetics** BUI removal package to be prepared in 2022.
- AOC Program Updates
  - Ohio EPA is working on our next "capacity" grant with GLNPO. This award will be for 5 years, instead of 3 as the last two awards. We will be incorporating Environmental Justice and Climate Resiliency into this award, so expect more discussion of these topics in the future.

- Ohio AOC Summit Feb. 22: This event is expected to have virtual and in-person options. Inperson will be in the Lorain area. Several MAAC members have committed to attend and represent the Maumee AOC.
- State of Lake Erie Conference March 16-17 in Cleveland: This event has both virtual and inperson options. There is an AOC Session that will include several Maumee AOC related presentations. <u>https://iaglr.org/sol/sole22/</u>
- US AOC Conference May 24-26 in Muskegon, MI: The details and format are still in being determined. I will let you know when there is more information on logistics, agenda, in-person vs remote participation and travel scholarships for local advisory members. <u>https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3308\_3333-547532--,00.html</u>

## • Other Updates

- At the last MAAC meeting there was in inquiry about the status of the Ottawa River NRD settlement funded projects. Here is what I was able to find to share with you.
  - Ducks Unlimited received an \$850,000 NRDA grant.
  - The proposal was to buy up to three properties depending on budget. One of the target properties (in Ottawa County) fell through as the landowner decided not to sell. At this time, it looks like DU will just buy two tracts with the NRDA funds.
  - DU has purchased one property in Sandusky County thus far (as described below) and have a signed purchase agreement to buy the second. The second property is a 99.6-acre property in Erie County that will be transferred to ODNR-Division of Wildlife.
    - <u>Kathryn Pearson Trust.</u> The original acquisition target was a 27.53-acre parcel. However, Gary Pearson, sole Trustee for the Kathryn Pearson Trust, offered an additional 9.55 acres of adjacent forested property with direct access off State Route 6. The Ohio Division of Wildlife (ODOW) wanted the additional acres, so DU entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement with the seller in mid-December 2020 to acquire 37.08 acres. A boundary survey was required to split the 9.55 acres from a larger parcel and to combine the 37.08 acres into one new parcel. DU acquired the 37.08-acre Kathryn Pearson Trust property in March 2021. Transfer to ODOW was completed in June 2021 to expand the adjacent Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area.