



## Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

May 13, 2021 9:30am – 11:30am

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### **AGENDA**

- **Welcome & Overview of Meeting & Agenda** (Mike Pniewski, Chair) (5 mins)
- **Vote: Minutes** (Chair) (5 mins)
- **Update from BUI 3a, 6, 14a Biological subcommittee** (Josh Miller, USGS) (15 mins)
  - Status of TBD projects
  - Status of Maumee River projects
- **Other Federal Partner Update:** (Ashley Binion Zuccaro, USACE) (5 mins)
- **US EPA Task Force Leader Report** (Leah Medley, GLNPO) (5 mins)
- **Ohio EPA AOC Coordinator Report** (Cherie) (10 mins)
  - Field Work -2021
  - BUI Status
  - MAP Updates
- **Facilitating Organization's Report** (Kris Patterson, PCS) (10 mins)
  - Financial update
  - Support grant update – annual report online
  - Update on future activities: Island Paddle with Metroparks
- **MAP Spotlight:** ODNR Division of Forestry MAPs (John Mueller, ODNR) (15 mins)
- **Next meetings for 2021** (5 mins)

*August 12 9:30am*
- **Public Comments & Adjourn** (5 mins)



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### MINUTES

- **Attendance:** Cherie Blair, John Mueller, Scott Butterworth, Jim Carter, Andrea Beard, Kris Patterson, Amanda Kovach, Beth Sparks-Jackson, Melanie Coulter, Chris Kline, Vanessa Steigerwald Dick, Ryan Darton, Jenny Carter-Cornell, Josh Miller, Archie Lunsey, Shawna Towns, Keith Shane, Deanna Bobak, Sondra Prchlck, Paul Hotz, Leah Medley, Bryan Hinterberger, Mike Pniewski, Tim Schetter, Lynn Ackerson, Don Schmenk, Sally Gladwell, Jessica Wilbarger
- Mike Pniewski (Chair) gave a brief welcome & overview of meeting agenda.
- Mike asked for a vote on the minutes distributed via email. Chris Kline made a motion to approve the minutes, Melanie Coulter made the second, and the motion carried. February minutes approved.
- Josh Miller, USGS, gave a brief update from BUI 3a, 6, 14a Biological subcommittee. Josh reminded the group that there were 12 potential projects. The sub-committee has done some reviewing & refining and found that 7 of those would benefit from more feasibility analysis and potential conceptual details. A potential feasibility study would work towards defining a suite of projects that are ready for Engineering & Design and have some of the uncertainties better refined or understood. The agency leads are continuing to coordinate outreach & engagement of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. The group discussed the feasibility study components and what to consider and the aggressive timeline needed, as most work would need to be completed this year, with 2-4 designs prepared by February in order to keep moving on GLNPO's schedule. Ohio EPA, GLNPO, and other agencies are discussing what funding will be used for this phase and if that will impact the \$9 million estimate for the lower Maumee River BUI improvements.
- Other Federal Partner Update: Cherie Blair gave a short update (for Ashley Binion Zuccaro, USACE) about the Otter Creek GLLA project progress. Dredging is underway in the lower mile of the creek.
- Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA, gave her coordinator report. A written report was included in the meeting packet. Overall, 8 of the 12 WildMAP projects are completed. USEPA GLNPO has approved 10 projects for \$8.2 million of FFYQ2 allocations. And additional money is available for Q3 now, even though previously it appeared that GLNPO was out of AOC monies for the federal fiscal. Three more projects will be fully funded sometime and 2 will get partial funding for acquisition only, which is very time critical. Ohio EPA is asking for \$10 million for FFY22 for the Maumee AOC. For GLLA work, Ohio EPA is adding more funding to the GLLA project agreements to leverage GLNPO funding. The agencies have also entered into a unique agreement to allow H2Ohio project funding, once awarded to a project in the AOC, to be used to provide non-federal match for future GLLA work in Ohio.
- Leah Medley, with GLNPO, announced that all Q3 projects were approved. Going forward, GLNPO doesn't anticipate having the funds available to fully fund all Tier 1 AOCs even if fully funded. They are asking states to determine how they would prioritize their AOCs and/or identified projects with more limited funding.



- Kris Patterson, PCS, gave a brief Facilitating Organization's Report and discussed future ideas for outreach with the committee. PCS is approximately 40% spent with the grant, but there are some additional funds obligated but not yet billed for DMDS support from the consultant. The 2020 MAAC annual report is online now & will be printed as needed. PCS has continued ramping up digital outreach and is happy to share the great updates by the USACE on the Otter Creek GLLA project. We also put together, with input from Ohio EPA, a website section about the four GLLA projects in this AOC (past, present, & potential ones). Kris is also working to plan an Island Paddle with Metroparks, but the group may be limited in size. Other ideas suggested by meeting participants for outreach include driving tours with a pre-determined with a pre-made map & description of MAP projects that people could complete on their own (maybe with temporary signs and/or QR codes on signs that go to a website page about the project).
- **MAP Spotlight:**
  - John Mueller, ODNR Division of Forestry, gave a presentation on the AOC projects that ODNR Forestry is leading. He highlighted 3 completed projects: WildMAPs 7-16 (Rusin/Carter), 8-16 & 9-16 (Hight projects). He also discussed some future project ideas for a 90 degree bend of Blue Creek that runs near their properties. He noted that they need some replacement parcels near ODNR Forestry properties to meet their AOC goals, in particular about 100 acres in the region of SW Lucas Co, SE Fulton Co, & NE Henry Co. If anyone knows of potential parcels or owners, please reach out to John.
- **Next meetings for 2021**
  - August 12 at 9:30am
  - December 9 at 9:30am
- **Public Comments & Adjourn**

None given

**Maumee AOC Coordinator Report  
for the Maumee AOC Advisory Committee  
May 13, 2021**

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- **WildMAPs** (*BUI 14b: Wildlife Habitat*)
  - We have 8 WildMAPs that are complete totaling ~310 acres as of April 2021
  - There are 4 more expected projects totaling 557 acres expected complete by end of 2021
  - An updated Summary Table with a new Location Map of the WildMAPs is attached.
  - A detailed narrative tracking of the WildMAPs is available upon request.
- **AquaMAPs** (*BUI 3a, 6, 14a: Fish Pops, Benthic Pops, Fish Habitat*)
  - We have received two rounds of funding since the last meeting for AquaMAPs.
    - Allocated in FFY21-Q2 (10 projects) (\$8.2M)
      - 1 submitted in Grants.gov
      - 2 pending NOAA Partnership
      - 5 finalizing applications with GLNPO
      - 2 application in development (3 projects)
    - Allocated in FFY21-Q3 (5 projects) (\$2M) (*announced last week!*)
      - 3 fully funded
      - 2 funded for acquisition only
  - Expected funding request in FFY22 (8 projects + 2 partials) (\$9.7M)
  - Projects after FFY22 (6 projects + 2 TBD) (\$4.3M+\$12M)
  - An updated Summary Table with a new Location Map of the AquaMAPs is attached.
  - 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.
    - Ottawa River: 10-Yr Remedy Effectiveness Study was completed this winter by US EPA-ORD and US ACE-Chicago District. Data is expected in the spring/summer.
    - Otter Creek: Remedy and Restoration Baseline Study was completed this winter. Remediation began in March and habitat restoration is expected this fall.
    - Swan Creek: Data Gap sampling is planned for this summer by a GLNPO contractor and US EPA-ORD/FWS. The funding was the allocated in FFY21-Q2 and sampling plan is being finalized. The Focused Feasibility Study is partially funded, as Ohio EPA decided to expand the scope. Ohio EPA is providing cash match for the additional work. We hope to have the Agreement in place this summer so the work can begin once the data gap sampling results are available later this year.
    - Maumee River-Sway Bridge & WWTP: Data Gap sampling is planned for this summer by US ACE and US EPA-ORD/FWS. The funding was the allocated in FFY21-Q2 and the sampling plan has been finalized. Focused Feasibility Studies for both sites are being negotiated with GLNPO. Ohio EPA is providing cash match for these studies. We hope to have the Agreement in place this summer so the work can begin once the data gap sampling results are available later this year.
    - Lower Maumee River (upstream) & Halfway/Silver/Shantee Creeks: Decision memos for no additional GLLA work are expected to be final by fall 2021. These memos are similar to what was created for Duck Creek several years ago.
  - Ohio is working to secure non-federal cost-share funding to match future project funding needs (*i.e.*, remedial design, remediation) for these contaminated sediment projects through community partnerships, responsible parties, and cost-share projects (*i.e.*, H2Ohio).
  - An updated Summary Table with a new Location Map of the SedMAPs is attached.
  - A narrative tracking of the SedMAPs is available upon request.

- **Misc. MAPs** (*BUIs 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11*)
  - **BUI 1: Fish & Wildlife Consumption** – Ohio EPA expects to begin drafting this BUI removal document soon. We expect to have a removal package for the next MAAC meeting in August with a goal of removal before the end of 2021.
  - **BUI 4: Deformities & Tumors** – US FWS is scheduled to sample the bullhead tumors and fish community in most of the impaired HUCs (not Otter due to ongoing dredging) next week. This was scheduled for 2020 but delayed due to COVID.
  - **BUI 7: Dredging** – ACE have finalized a sampling plan for within the navigation channel for this summer.
  - **BUI 10a: Beach Closings (advisories)** – Funding for this Waterfowl Deterrent project was allocated in FFY21-Q2 and the application has been submitted in Grants.gov
  - **BUI 8b: Eutrophication** – Ohio EPA has developing a sampling plan to collect water samples for this BUI in the Maumee River and Bay this summer. This sampling began last week.
  - **BUI 11: Aesthetics** – BUI removal is pending the Otter Creek GLLA project which is underway. Expect BUI removal package to be prepared in 2022.
- **AOC Program Updates**
  - Congratulations to the Ashtabula River AOC! Ohio's first AOC delisting recommendation is out for public comment. The comment period ends on June 6. Federal and state agencies will hold a one-hour virtual public meeting starting at 6 p.m. EDT on Monday, May 17. [Register for the virtual public meeting](#). To view the draft delisting report, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-aocs/ashtabula-river-area-concern-draft-final-delisting-report>
  - US AOC Conference has been scheduled for Sept. 28-30. The details and format have not been finalized. More information on logistics/agenda/in-person or remote event will be determined by the end of July. If it is held in person it will be in Muskegon, MI.



# ODNR Division of Forestry AOC Projects Summary 2017-2021



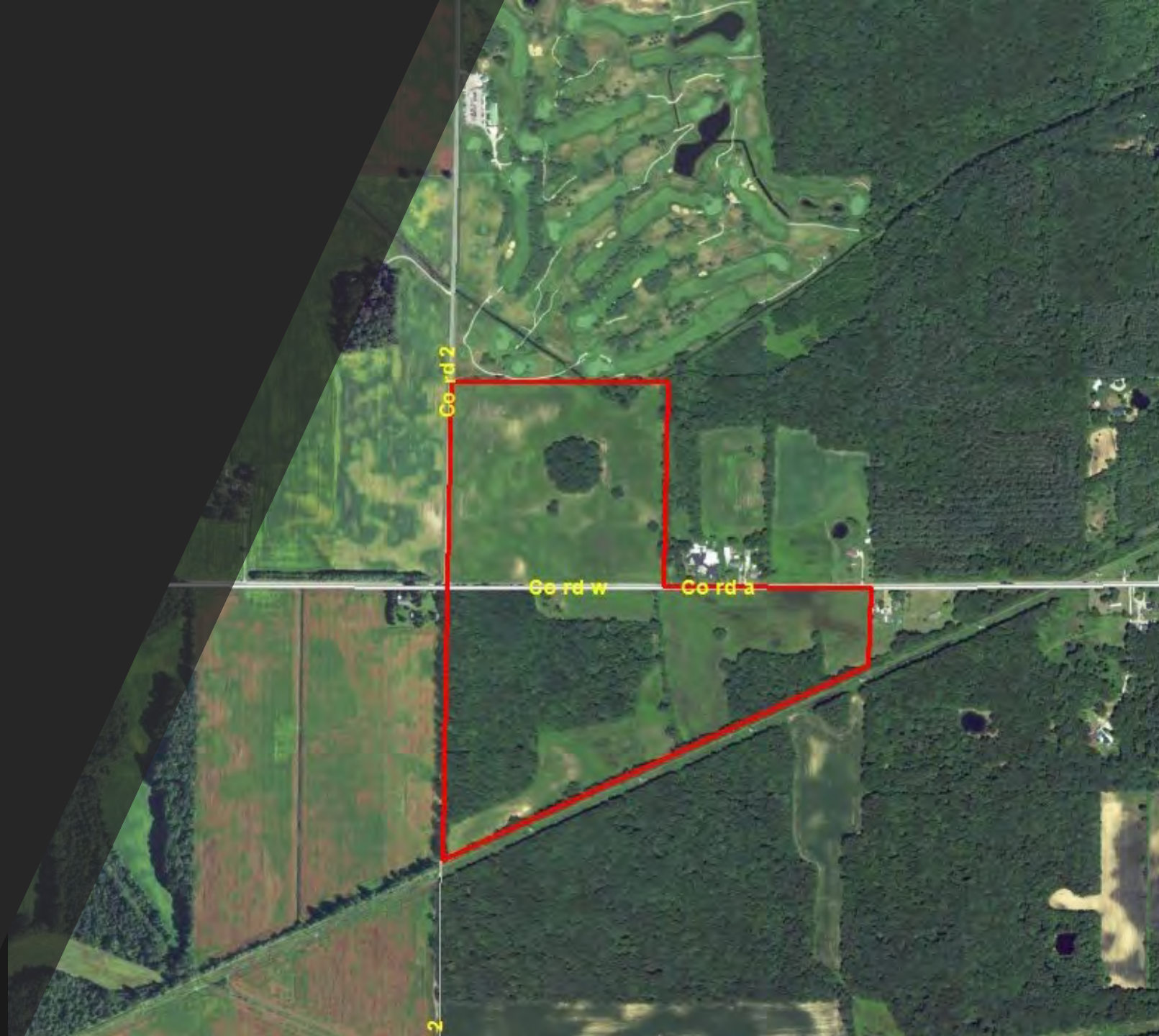


# Properties...

- Hight
- Rusin
- Carter
- Maumee State Forest
- Et al

# Hight Property

- 113 Acres
- Fulton and Henry Counties
- Mix of cropland, woodland, wetland
- Adjacent to Blue Creek





ODNR Division of Forestry received financial support in the amount of \$456,000 from the EPA for this project and others.



- Tree Planting
- Wetland Restoration
- Timber Stand Improvement
- Invasive Plant Control
- Native Prairie Restoration



# Hight Projects

- Tree Planting
- Upland and lowland native prairie
- Wetland pools
- Hydrology restoration
- Woodland Enhancement







Hight  
continued



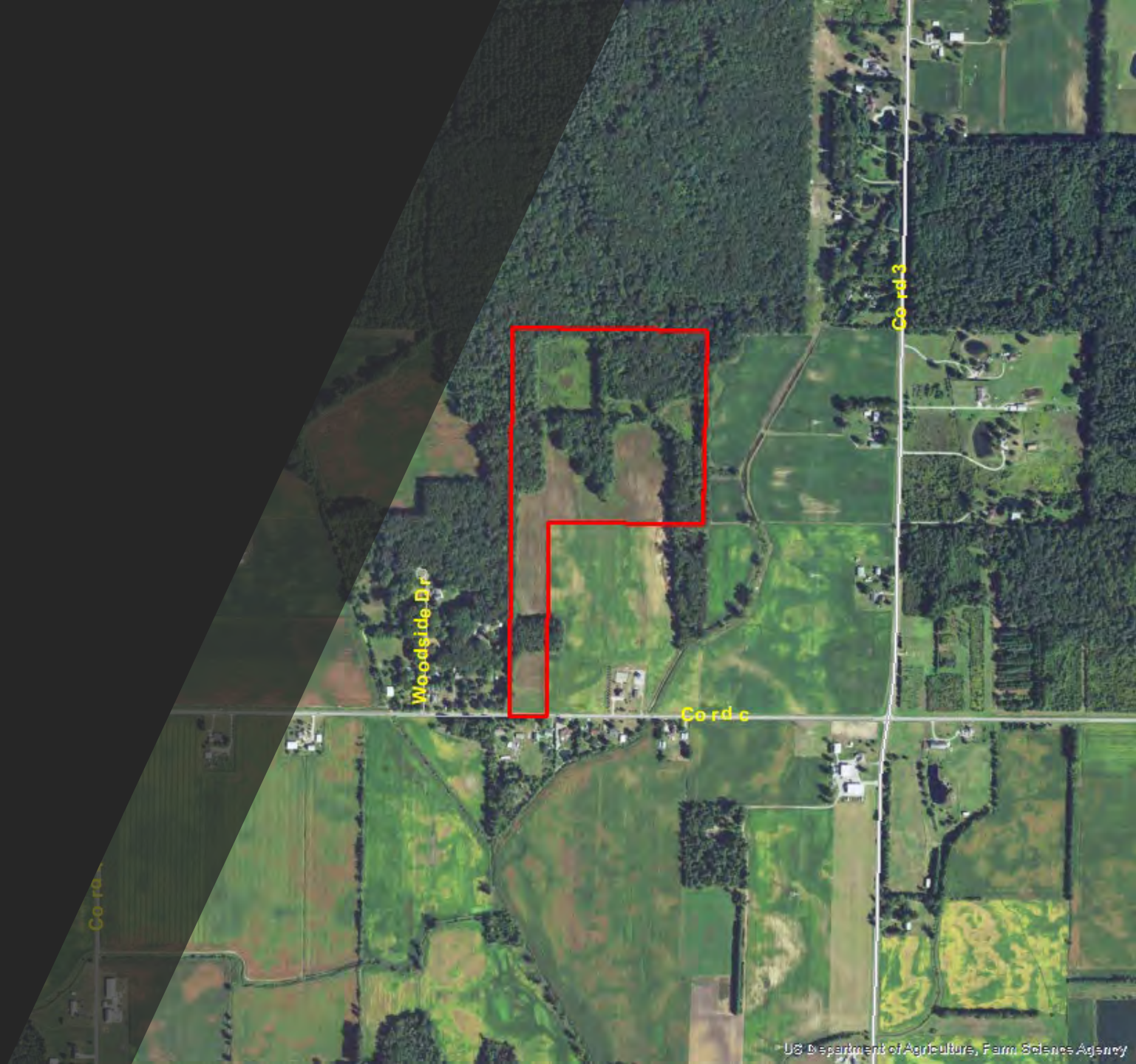


# Hight Summary

- 9000 trees planted (white oak, red oak, black oak, black walnut, butternut, black cherry).
- 1200'+/- Drainage tile replaced and laterals plugged
- Wetland enhancement (pools) app. 3.5 acres
- Woodland enhancement 37.5 acres
- Wet and dry prairie seeding (TNC Sub award)

# Rusin Property

- 48 acres
- Fulton County
- Mix of cropland, woodland, old field reversion







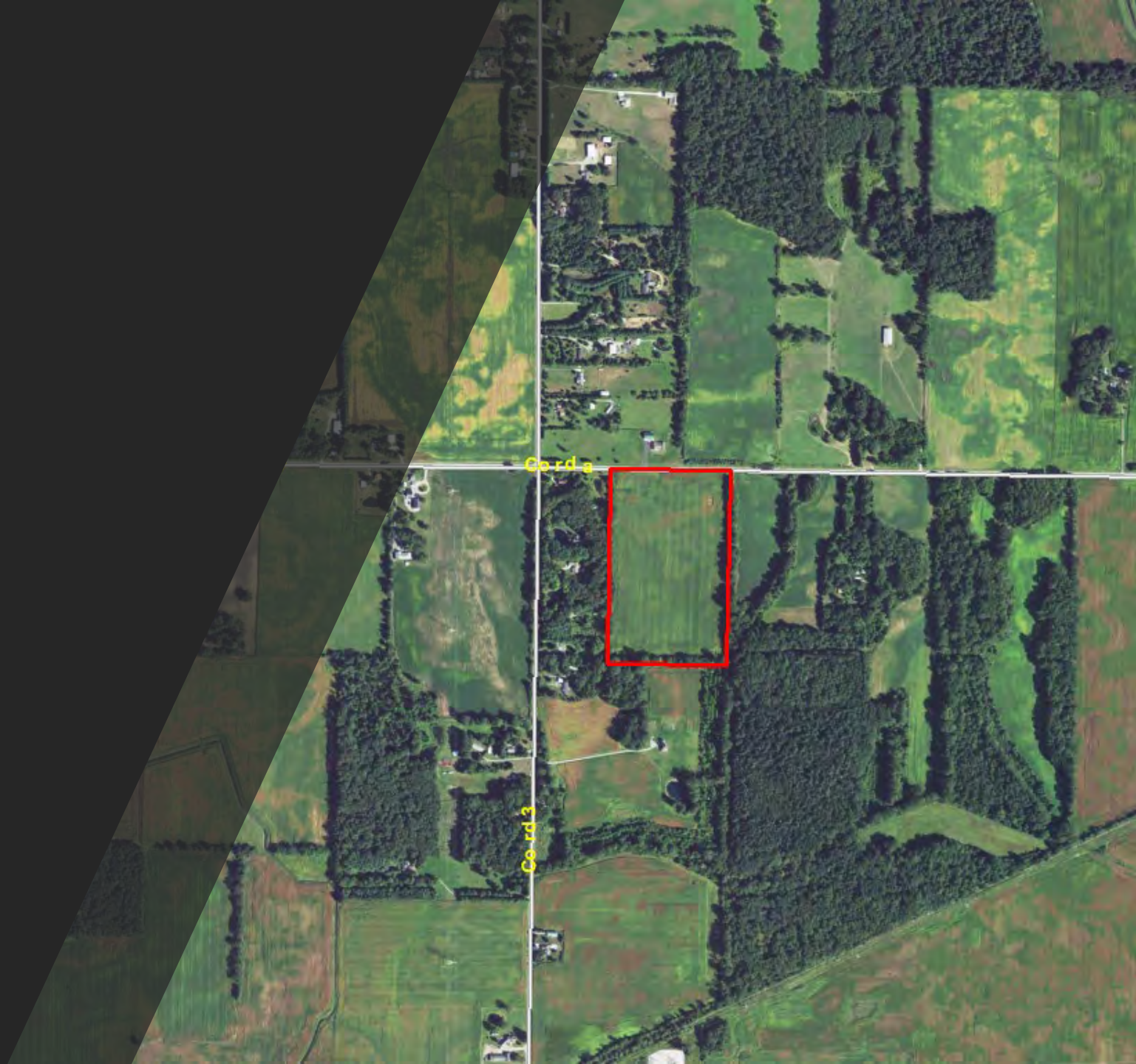
# Rusin Tree Planting

- Approximately 14 acres
- Included American chestnut



# Carter Property

- 24.8 acres
- Henry County
- Nearly all cropland







## Carter Projects

- Tree Planting 8400 trees
- Native wet prairie 2 acres
- Hydrology restoration
- Culvert Installation





Allowed us to accomplish woodland enhancement  
on 55 acres of existing MSF

# Maumee State Forest



Looking to the  
future...

- We are working on a second grant
- Originally included acquisition of 4 parcels from separate owners
- Have secured 2 purchase agreements, received one refusal, have limited response from the fourth
- Actively searching for suitable replacement parcels



Questions?

