



## Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

February 9, 2023 9:30am – 11:30am

In person at Ohio EPA NWDO or  
Click to [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Audio Call in [+1 614-721-2972](#) Phone Conference ID: 122 789 068#

### MINUTES

**Attendance:** Cherie Blair, Beth Sparks-Jackson, Amanda Kovach, Scott Butterworth, Vanessa Steigerwald Dick, Kris Barnswell, Lynn Garrity, Corey VanStratt, Jenny Carter-Cornell, Jim Carter, Paul Hotz, Ryan Allison, Sally Gladwell, Eric Ellis, Shawn Duke, Jenny Keffer, Phil Hicks, Leah Medley, Josh Miller, Kari Gerwin, Tim Schetter, Andrew Sankowski, Liv Simkins Bullock, Regina Collins, Deanna Bobak, LaShawna Weeks, Edith Kippenhan, Deborah Millsap, DJ Mears, Eric Ellis

- Cherie welcomed everyone and Kris informed everyone that we would work to get the Chair and Vice Chair elections done and then hand off the meeting.
- **Vote:** Three applications were received for Returning Voting Members from Jenny Carter-Cornell, Sally Gladwell, and Tim Schetter. Ashlee made a motion to accepted all three, Mike seconded, and the vote passed.
- **Vote:** Mike Pniewski was nominated for Chair & Jenny Carter-Cornell for Vice-Chair. Both accepted, Sally made the motion and Ashlee seconded. Both were elected as the motion passed.
- **Vote:** Jenny made a motion to accept the minutes, Sally seconded, and minutes were accepted.
- Beth Sparks-Jackson, USGS gave an update from BUI 3a, 6, 14a Biological subcommittee. Cherie would like to reform the committee for a short time to make recommendations for projects within the lacustrary area of the Ottawa River, where the former GLLA sediment removal project was. In the original Management Action Project list there was a placeholder project of \$3 million until post-remedy sampling data could be evaluated and more specific project(s) for fish and wildlife benefits could be developed. There have been continued delays with the various agency data sets and the new committee may not have all that information but could move forward trying to identify suitable potential projects this year. The subcommittee will have a deadline of August or September of this year so that recommendations can be presented and approved in December. Let Beth know if you are interested and willing to help. New committee members are needed.
- Leah Medley, GLNPO, US EPA Task Force Leader noted that EPA has \$368 million from the Infrastructure law in this federal year. Decisions are still being made about how to use it but it could include accelerating work in AOCs. Marc Tuchman retired and Amy Pelka is serving in a temporary assignment in that role. The next AOC Conference will be in September in Green Bay, WI. More information to come. Kris asked if there was any information about GLRI Action Plan IV. Leah said there would be some stakeholder outreach in the spring or summer.
- Cherie reviewed her written Ohio EPA AOC Coordinator Report. See meeting handouts for the full report. US EPA has reviewed Ohio's BUI 11 Removal document and provided comments. Ohio EPA and Lake Erie Commission will work on the revisions. A discussion ensued about how long to post the document for public comment and whether a formal public meeting was necessary. The MAAC will have a review period for 2 weeks before the removal recommendation document would be public. The MAAC suggested that the public have 2 to 3 weeks for public



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comment and a meeting wouldn't be scheduled unless there was significant interest or comment. The MAAC would like a "heads up" on when these periods would be and Kris will work with OLEC and Ohio EPA to share the opportunities for comment with both the MAAC and the public. Cherie provided updated MAP tables, showing the additional projects that had funding allocated or recently completed work. ODNR is still looking for approximately 60 more acres near Maumee State Forest for restoration projects. Multiple RFPs are currently open for MAP projects in the AOC. The Delaware and Clark Island projects are having another Open House on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Agency work continues on the SedMAPs on Swan Creek and lower Maumee River. There may be more follow up on the Ottawa River to further investigate potential sediment contamination and the post remedy evaluation of Otter Creek. The SedMAPs may have additional reports available later this year and may hold public meetings. Cherie mentioned that the AOC Conference is looking for topics; let Lynn know if you have any.

- **Facilitating Organization's Report** (Kris)
  - Financial update: The Erie22 grant is approximately 15% spent so far. PCS utilized the extended Erie19 grant funds before utilizing the Erie22 grant so spending is expected to accelerate.
  - Future MAAC activities
    - A Knowledge Sharing Session about restoration projects is planned for late February. Please let Cherie or Kris know if you are participating. More information will be sent out soon.
    - Kris is considering scheduling a Summer kayak trip on Ottawa River if this would be useful for scouting potential restoration projects.
    - PCS is considering scheduling an August boat tour on the Maumee River. More details to follow.
    - PCS is also undertaking developing a new & improved maumeeaac.org website by mid summer.
  
- **MAP Spotlight:** Verdantas staff gave a Clark Island & Delaware Island Complex Restoration project presentation. The designs are underway and were previewed as drafts in the presentation. Clark Island is further along, as an H2Ohio project, and the permit has been submitted. The projects are being collaboratively designed and aligned. A few questions were asked about sediment capture/retention and invasive plant management.
  
- **Partner Updates:**
  - Corey VanStratt, with Ducks Unlimited, updated the group that they have amended their NOAA Regional Partnership agreement to include Camp Sabroske. An agreement is being finalized with the landowner for brush clearing and survey (prior to acquisition). Navarre at ONWR is moving along; Pool 2/3 connecting design is done and permitted and work will be underway this year. The Pool 1 & 2 pump basins are underway.
  - Mike Pniewski, Lucas County Engineer, mentioned that the VanFleet and Heldman 2 stage projects are done. Four more are planned this year and six more in design.
  - TNC has a project underway for Wiregrass Ditch and one in Ottawa Hills (a non-MAP project) has been funded.
  - PCS has two MAP projects underway. For the Chlorides Reduction project, we organized and led a Salt Awareness week here and developed online content that partners shared and used. We're also working to incorporate new data and updates for NPS-IS plans that will enhance opportunities for more restoration projects in the AOC. We are also beginning a stream restoration project at Lathrop Park in Berkey.
  
- **Public Comments & Adjourn: no comments**
  
- **Next meetings for 2023** – hybrid format, Ohio EPA NWDO plus Teams  
*May 25 (new date), August 10, December 14 at 930am*