



Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

May 25, 2023 9:30am – 11:30am

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MINUTES

Attendance: Cherie Blair, Mike Pniewski, Beth Sparks-Jackson, Kris Patterson, Lynne Parsh, Jenny Carter-Cornell, Scott Butterworth, Jim Carter, Liv Simkins Bullock, DJ Mears, Patti Donnellan, Sara Guiher, William Hintz, Archie Lunsey, Edith Kippenhan, Corey VanStratt, Mark Schwab, Andrew Sankowski, Amanda Kovach, Joshua J Miller, Ryan Allison, Zuri Carter, Amber R Bellamy, Leah Medley, Sally Gladwell, Andrew Timmis, Vanessa Steigerwald Dick, Deanna Bobak, Kennedy Okioghene Doro, Alexis Sakas, Ashlee Decker

- Mike Pniewski welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- **Vote:** to approve the meeting minutes from 2-09-23

Mike Pniewski motioned to approve minutes. Kris Patterson clarified that Jenny Carter-Cornell corrected two minor typos in the minutes but the minutes were otherwise unchanged from what was sent out via email. Moved by Sally Gladwell, and seconded by Jenny Carter-Cornell. Minutes were approved unanimously.

- Beth Sparks-Jackson, USGS, gave an update from **BUI 3a, 6, 14a Biological Subcommittee**. She informed the MAAC that the subcommittee reconvened to meet in March. The subcommittee started with nine potential project locations for lower Ottawa River projects and visited seven in-person last week. They determined that some locations have logistical access/landowner willingness concerns, and between 2-4 locations look feasible for projects. The subcommittee will meet in May to determine next steps for how they will move forward on the feasible locations. The subcommittee's goal is to develop concept plans for any feasible sites that remain, and is on-track to present to the MAAC either at the August or December meetings on their final project recommendations.
- **Map Spotlight:** Bill Hintz, University of Toledo, presented on chloride pollution in the Maumee Area of Concern. He presented specific research findings from chloride concentration sampling of Maumee AOC waterways as part of MAP 2.0 Fish and Benthos Improvements Urban Chloride Reduction, as well as an overview of the causes and effects of excess road salt on freshwater ecosystems. He concluded with salt use best management practices and steps to reduce road salt use currently underway in the Maumee AOC.
- Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA, gave an update on **BUI 11 Removal**. Cherie thanked everyone on the MAAC who provided comments on the BUI 11 draft document, and said she incorporated many comments into the draft that went out for public comment. There was only one public comment during the public comment period, which pertained to a topic that the Maumee AOC does not address, so no further revisions were made following the public comment period. Cherie requested a letter of support from the MAAC, and Mike asked for any questions or comments. The MAAC had none.
- **Vote:** for the MAAC to offer a signed letter of support for the removal of BUI 11.



Mike Pniewski asked for the motion, moved by Jim Carter, and seconded by DJ Mears. The motion carried unanimously.

- Leah Medley, GLNPO, offered a US EPA Task Force Report. She noted that the AOC Conference will be held Sept 12-14, 2023. Registration is currently open. The link is available in written OEPA AOC coordinator report. Regarding the GLRI Action Plan IV, it is anticipated to be out for public comment in Spring 2024. The nearest public engagement session to the Maumee AOC is planned for Cleveland on June 7. It will be in-person only, but there will be future public participation and comment opportunities with options for hybrid or virtual-only. Leah concluded by stating that the quarter three approval meeting was held, and the AOC's \$5 million Delaware/Horseshoe Island Restoration project was approved for GLRI funding.
- Cherie reviewed her written **Ohio EPA AOC Coordinator Report**. See meeting handouts for the full report. Major updates on Management Action Projects include:
 - WildMAPs – Only four projects are left to complete, and 3 of those 4 are expected to complete this calendar year.
 - AquaMAPs – Many AquaMAPs are getting underway. Many have released RFPs for engineering and design in the last 3-4 months. There will be another round of federal tribal consultation letters sent out this summer. Cherie asks that if MAAC partners are involved with a project that plans to go to construction this fall, make sure Cherie has state SHPO determination application and response letter by June 30.
 - SedMAPs – Ohio continues to work with federal partners for make progress on sediment projects. Work is underway on the Lower Maumee River Focused Feasibility Study as well as the Swan Creek Focused Feasibility Study, with public meetings for both occurring this year.
 - MiscMAPs – BUI 4 – US FWS conducted bullhead liver tumor sampling in April on Toussaint River, but the boat broke down and Otter Creek still needs to be sampled. Turtle Creek and a portion of the Ottawa River will be sampled for fish community and habitat (BUI 3a, 14a) this summer.
- Cherie informed the MAAC about upcoming activities, including a hybrid-meeting knowledge sharing session about restoration project permitting on June 5, 12:30-2:30pm. It will be followed by an in-person only Q/A and networking session from 2:30-3:30pm. On August 10, there will be a GLAA Maumee River Feasibility Study public meeting at Glass City Metropark.
- Kris Patterson, Partners for Clean Streams, offered the **Facilitating Organization's Report**
 - Financial update: PCS's grant from Ohio EPA is 30% spent, which is underbudget for where PCS would normally be at this point, but the organization didn't start spending this pot of grant money until the last grant one was expended. PCS will probably be revising the budget formally with Ohio EPA because they've been asked to take on some additional activities, like supporting Ottawa River conceptual design and project determination.
 - Future activities:
 - PCS is working on coordinating an August boat tour on the Maumee River. Right now, the tentative plan is an abbreviated virtual MAAC meeting in the morning on August 10, and then doing a cruise on the Sandpiper. Ideally, the cruise may get to look at future GLLA work along Maumee River. That afternoon is GLLA public meeting downtown. After we get logistics worked out, we will be reaching out via email.
 - PCS is working with web developers on a new and improved Maumee AOC website. They are looking at the website both as a repository of information and a resource both for the MAAC and for the public. Looking to have this site fully launched before September. Hoping to do a soft launch and share with the MAAC before August meeting.



- **Partner Updates**

- Sara Guiher, TMACOG, updated the MAAC that TMACOG has developed policy boilerplate language for reducing road salt use for both local level and state level. It has been sent out to the Stormwater Coalition for review and they plan to ask the coalition to give feedback and formally endorse at the July meeting. She also stated that TMACOG is planning a larger training for the Student Watershed Watch with new teachers participating. The Summit will be November 15.
- Corey VanStratt, Ducks Unlimited, updated the MAAC that Navarre at ONWR is moving along and pool project pump permits are currently under review by FWS. The Camp Sabroske acquisition is underway; DU recently sent an updated purchase/seller agreement.
- Scott Butterworth, Division of Wildlife, informed the MAAC that they are looking for H2Ohio projects, and that if MAAC members know of willing landowners, the Division of Wildlife is currently working on a riparian corridor projection project.
- Ashlee Decker, The Nature Conservancy, said that TNC is moving ahead with Blue Creek restoration project. There were quite a few proposals submitted and they are currently under review.

- **Public Comments & Adjourn:** There were no comments given. Mike adjourned the meeting.

- **Next meetings for 2023** – hybrid format, Ohio EPA NWDO plus Teams
August 10 (it might be a boat trip!), December 14 at 9:30am