Lake Erie West
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Stormwater Coalition Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2026

Submitted for approval on October 15, 2026

Members and Alternates Present: Eric Barnes, Andrea Beard, Josh Belnap, Lorie Haslinger, Mike Hill, Andy Hohlbein, Mark Hummer, Doug Holland, Chris Kirk, Dave Kuhn, April McDonald, Kelly Moore, David Myerholz, Matt Miles, Rob Nash, Kylie Nissen, Melissa Petrea, Mike Pniewski, Lauren Rush, Rachel Sizer, Jackie Steel; **Members Excused:** Ryan Breininger, Colby Carroll, Amanda Gamby, Edith Kippenhan, Kevin Laughlin, Jim Ludwig, Alex Lytten, Allyson Murray, Paul Roman, Joe Tillison; **Partners**: Lynette Hablitzel; **Guest**: W. Mark Wolford, Village of Portage; **Lake Erie West Regional Council Staff**: Tiara Gonzalez, Kari Gerwin, Kingsley Kanjin, Jennifer Allen

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Call to Order/Welcome – The Stormwater Coalition met on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 1 p.m. in the Grand Lobby of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza, Toledo. Chair Andrea Beard called the meeting to order. Introductions were made around the room.

Approval of Minutes – A ***motion*** was made by Doug Holland and ***seconded*** by Rob Nash to approve minutes from the April 16, 2026, meeting. ***The motion passed unanimously***.

Stormwater Coalition 2027 Dues – Tiara Gonzalez, Lake Erie West's environmental education coordinator, presented the proposed FY 2027 Stormwater Dues Schedule. Mrs. Gonzalez noted that member dues are based on the number of parcels within the political boundaries of each member community. Updated parcels are calculated every two years. Kingsley Kanjin, a Lake Erie West environment planner, presented the parcel count process that was used to calculate member dues. The rate per parcel was indexed by 2.5%. The 2026 parcel rate for NPDES Phase II communities was $0.841 per parcel and $0.246 per parcel for Non-NPDES Phase II communities. The 2027 parcel rate for NPDES Phase II communities is $0.862 per parcel, and $0.252 per parcel for NPDES Non-Phase II communities. A ***motion*** was made by Mark Hummer and ***seconded*** by Rachel Sizer to accept the proposed dues as presented. ***The motion passed unanimously***. SWC members will receive invoices in November for their CY 2027 dues.

Lake Erie Starts Here 2027 & 2028 Mass Media Campaign – Mrs. Gonzalez gave an update on the Lake Erie Starts Here mass media campaign and presented a breakdown of the CY 2027 and CY 2028 cost share or each SWC member. The cost share is based on parcel count. Since parcel counts are updated every 2 years, Lake Erie West is moving to a 2-year cycle to lock in advertising rates and to give communities time to build the cost into their budgets. The agreement with 13 ABC is on an annual basis. Staff will seek proposals from other vendors at the request of the SWC. A ***motion*** was made by Melissa Petrea and ***seconded*** by Mike Pniewski to approve the continuation of the LESH Northwest Ohio Mass Media Campaign for CY 2027. ***The motion passed unanimously***. A ***motion*** was made by April McDonald and ***seconded*** by Eric Barnes to approve the Stormwater Coalition CY 2027 and CY 2028 LESH Cost Share. ***The motion passed unanimously***. Mrs. Gonzalez will discuss deliverables and present a proposal at the October 15th meeting.

2026 MS4 General Permit Renewal Comments – The draft 2026-2030 MS4 permit was released on June 4th. On June 17th, Lake Erie West hosted a working meeting to review the draft MS4 permit. The meeting was attended by SWC and SWAG members and participants. There were few significant changes to the permit besides TMDLs updates and the addition of salt education as one of the five minimum themes under MCM 1 Public Education. Storage and application of de-icing salts is one of the goals that SWC members are already achieving through LESH as smart salting is one of the featured LESH topics.

Ohio EPA Update – Lynette Hablitzel gave an update on the MS4 permit. The public comment period closed on August 4th. OEPA is reviewing comments and preparing responses. No final issuance date has been announced. Ms. Hablitzel reported on the Multi-Sector Industrial Stormwater Permit and the Construction General Permit that are due to expire in the spring of 2027 and 2028 respectively. SWC members were encouraged to submit comments via email or telephone as early stakeholder outreach begins. OEPA is considering hosting listening sessions and looking at ways to engage residents. Ms. Hablitzel touched briefly on President Trump's Executive Order "Removing Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Home Construction" that was signed in March 2026. Region 5 sought feedback from USEPA on how the executive order will impact stormwater permit requirements. To date, there has been no comment from USEPA.

Lake Erie West Staff Report – Tiara Gonzalez reported on the LESH mini exhibit that was on display at the National Museum of the Great Lakes from May to June 2026. The banners --one focuses on nutrients and the other on non-nutrient stormwater pollution--are available for SWC members to use. Mrs. Gonzalez reported on SWAG tour of the Bandore Park Restoration and the September 30th Student Watershed Watch sampling. SWC members were asked to reach out to Mrs. Gonzalez if they are interested in volunteering to assist a teacher during SWW sampling or if there are schools in SWC member communities that aren't currently involved with the SWW. Mrs. Gonzalez will send a list of the participation schools to SWC members.

Member Updates – There were no updates from Stormwater Coalition members.

Public Comment Period – There were no representatives from the public present for comments.

Any and All Other Business – There was no other business discussed.

Next Meeting/Adjourn – The next Stormwater Coalition meeting will take place on Thursday, October 15th at 1 p.m. in the Lake Erie West Boardroom. A ***motion*** was made by Mark Hummer at 1:56 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Andrea Beard

Andrea Beard, Chair, Stormwater Coalition
Lake Erie West Regional Council

Tiara Gonzalez

Tiara Gonzalez, Environmental Education Coordinator
Lake Erie West Regional Council