

**Resolution Updating and Adopting the 2025 Areawide Water Quality Management Plan –
STAFF REPORT**

**TOLEDO METROPOLITAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING AGENDA
DECEMBER 5, 2025**

The Areawide Water Quality Management Plan (AWQMP or “208 Plan”) lays out sanitary sewage planning areas and establishes TMACOG policy on both point and non-point source water quality issues. The purpose of Areawide planning is to foster communication and cooperation among local governments, allow for coordination on Water Quality issues that cross political boundaries, and promote efficient and effective use of public funds. The 208 Plan has served as the basis for TMACOG’s continuing water quality program. The Plan identifies Designated Management Agencies — local governmental agencies who have responsibilities in the 48 Facility Planning Areas that cover portions of northwest Ohio (Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Wood counties), and southeast Michigan (Bedford, Erie, and Whiteford townships in Monroe County).

The original 208 Plan was prepared between 1976 and 1980, and major revisions to the entire plan were completed in 2003. Since that time, individual chapters have been updated as needed to maintain current information. TMACOG is conducting a multi-year comprehensive update and has made a few key changes in 2025 as described below.

- Chapter 1 - AREAWIDE OVERVIEW – **No Changes**
- Chapter 2 - DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING AREA – **No Changes**
- Chapter 3 - TMACOG WATER QUALITY POLICIES – **No Changes**
- Chapter 4 – FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS AND TMACOG POSITION STATEMENTS – **No Changes. Chapter to be archived following 208 Comprehensive Update**
- **Chapter 5 - PUBLIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT – FPA Updates**
- Chapter 6 - ON-SITE SEWAGE TREATMENT– **No Changes**
- Chapter 7 - AGRICULTURE, DRAINAGE, AND HABITAT – **No Changes**
- Chapter 8 - STORMWATER MANAGEMENT – **No Changes**
- **Chapter 9 – Public Drinking Water – New Chapter**

Descriptions of the major updates to the 2025 Areawide Water Quality Management Plan are included as an attachment at the end of this resolution and may be found at:

<https://tmacog.org/water/208plan>

**A RESOLUTION OF
UPDATING AND ADOPTING THE AREAWIDE WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) is a voluntary association of local governments and non-governmental partners in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, organized on May 31, 1968, and established under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Michigan Public Act No. 7 (EX-SESS), and has carried out comprehensive metropolitan and regional planning since that date; and

WHEREAS, the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) is designated as the Areawide Water Quality Planning Agency for Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Wood counties in Ohio and Bedford, Erie, and Whiteford townships in Monroe County, Michigan, under Section 208 of the Clean Water Act of 1972; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, PL 92-500 and the Clean Water Act of 1977, PL 95-217, the *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* was developed and adopted on December 19, 1976, by TMACOG; and

WHEREAS, the *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* has been developed and maintained annually by TMACOG; and

WHEREAS, the TMACOG Board of Trustees adopted the previous *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* on November 8, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* is comprehensive in scope, and many streams in the region fail to meet the Clean Water Act “fishable and swimmable” goals due to point and nonpoint sources of water pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Governors of Michigan and Ohio have certified the *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* as part of the State Water Quality Management Plans for Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Wood counties, Ohio; and Bedford, Erie, and Whiteford Townships in Monroe County; and

WHEREAS, the *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* Chapter 1 describes the history and legal basis for the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* Chapter 2 describes the region’s geology, geography, and natural resources, establishing the setting for the entire Plan; and

WHEREAS, the *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* Chapter 3 codifies the Water Quality policies adopted by TMACOG; and

WHEREAS, the *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* Chapter 4 outlines Federal and State Laws and TMACOG Position Statements; and

WHEREAS, the *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* Chapter 5 delineates Sewage Facility Planning Areas (FPAs) for which sanitary sewerage service should be considered within the next twenty years and identified responsibilities of Designated Management Agencies (DMAs); and

WHEREAS, Chapter 6 of the *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* discusses onsite sewage

treatment systems, summarizes state programs, regulations set at the county level, and identifies “Critical Sewage Areas” to recommend priorities for addressing failed onsite sewage systems; and

WHEREAS, the *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* Chapter 7 discusses the water quality impacts of drainage and runoff from agricultural lands and recommends best practices for Agriculture, Drainage, and Habitat; and

WHEREAS, the *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* Chapter 8 discusses the water quality impacts of urban runoff and recommends best practices for stormwater management; and

WHEREAS, TMACOG staff have developed for approval the new *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* Chapter 9, which discusses drinking water treatment infrastructure and ways to make drinking water systems more resilient to evolving threats; and

WHEREAS, this resolution was recommended for approval by the TMACOG Water Quality Council on November 10, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments Governing Board that:

Section 1: The TMACOG *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* be updated and adopted, with this update superseding all previous versions; and

Section 2: The Executive Director is hereby authorized to submit this amendment to Ohio EPA and Michigan DEQ for certification into their respective Statewide *Water Quality Management Plans*.

Adopted by the TMACOG Governing Board on December 5, 2025.

Yea _____, Nay _____, Abstain _____

Date of Adoption: _____

Edward L. Schimmel, Chair
Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG)

Attest:

I, **Sandy Spang**, TMACOG Executive Director, do hereby certify that this is a true and accurate copy of Resolution No. 2025-26, adopted on _____.

Sandy Spang, Executive Director