



**Ag Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2021– 1:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting
Utilizing GoTo Meeting**

Welcome:

Mike Libben, Ottawa SWCD Ag Committee Chair, welcomed all and called the meeting to order.

Virtual Meeting Intro:

Sara Guiher, TMACOG, explained the meeting would be recorded. Everyone logged in was asked to enter their name and affiliation in the chat box. This will be used to keep track of attendance. Roll Call was taken to establish a quorum. Quorum established. Those in attendance will be listed on the Ag Committee roster at the end of these meeting minutes.

Approval of FY22 Work Plan:

Mike Libben stated that the FY22 Work Plan is the same as last years, with 1 addition. Sara Guiher gave a brief overview and explained the additional work item would be in coordination with the Watersheds Committee to work together on projects. After discussion, it was decided that the language would be reworded to clarify the expected activities. Hearing no objections, Mike Libben asked for a motion to approve the FY22 Work Plan. Laura Campbell *moved to approve*; Ron Snyder *seconded*. **Motion carried.**

Planning for April 21 and August 18 meetings:

Mike Libben asked for ideas for a web-based presentation for the April 21st meeting. Ron Snyder suggested education for farmers on the applications for and importance of soil health. Mike Libben asked Ron Snyder to send a list with names and affiliations to Sara Guiher to follow up.

For the August meeting, Sara Guiher suggested a tour at BGSU's lab researching dewatering manure. Also suggested were on-site visits of a green house or farm. Mike Libben asked Sara Guiher to follow up with BGSU and report at the April meeting.

Agenda for Lake Erie: UPDATE

Discussed comments and recommendations that were sent out before the meeting. Decide the committee would want further information where they could see the original Agenda for Lake Erie next to the recommended changes. Also suggested they use this for future updates rather than making changes to the current agenda.

Member Update:

- Ohio agriculture update

Mike Libben, Ohio Governor is pushing for state funding of the H2Ohio program. \$5 Million dollars as part of H2Ohio to expand wetlands and buffers.

- Michigan agriculture update

Laura Campbell Michigan is reauthorizing the MEEP program which expires every 5 years. This is a water quality protection program

Public Comment:

Wade Smith, OFB The USDA has agreed to another five year contract on the demonstration farms.

Staff Report:

WQC meeting March 8th, Dr Bob Midden and Alexis Ostrosky presenting. Title Low Cost Treatment for Improving the Environmental Sustainability of Manure Used as Fertilizers.

Future Meetings:

April 21st, August 18th

Adjournment:

Mike Libben adjourned the meeting at 2:35.

Ag Committee Roster			2021 Ag Committee Meetings			
Category	Appointee	Jurisdiction/Organization	2/17/2021	4/21/2021	8/18/2021	11/17/2021
Chair (M)	Mike Libben	Ottawa SWCD	X			
Vice - Chair (M)	Jim Carter	Wood SWCD	X			
(M)	Joey Sink-Oiler	Lucas SWCD	X			
(M)	Megan Grammer	Sandusky SWCD	X			
(M)	Catherine Acerboni	Monroe Conservation District	X			
(M)	R Jay Finke	Ottawa County Farmer				
(M)	Ron Snyder	Wood County Farmer	X			
(M)	Laura Campbell	Michigan Farm Bureau	X			
(M)	Wade Smith	Ohio Farm Bureau	X			
(M)	Roger Wise	Ohio Farmers Union	X			
(M)	Andy McCain	Monroe County Community College	X			
(M)	Scott Chalfin	Sandusky County Farmer	X			
Guests and Participants						
	Clark Hutson	H2Ohio	X			
	Doug Deardorff	USDA	X			
	David Myerholtz		X			
	Marjorie Mulcahy	Lake Erie Water Keeper	X			
	Don Sahloff	Township of Whiteford	X			
	Aaron Heilers	Blanchard River Demonstration Farms	X			
	Eric Kostecky	University of Toledo	X			
TMACOG Staff						
TMACOG Staff	Sara Guiher		X			
TMACOG Staff	Kari Gerwin		X			
TMACOG Staff	Matt Kennedy		X			
TMACOG Staff	Ann Nair		X			