



Water Quality Council Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2025

Submitted for approval February 9, 2026

Members and alternates present: Andrea Beard, Joe Cappel, Zuri Carter, Garrett Chamberlain, Matt Choma, AJ Coleman, Mike Hill, Bill Hintz, Dennis Kennedy, Brittney Klockowski, Kevin Laughlin, Mike Libben, Randy Mahlman, Andrew McClure, Ben Pushka, Tom Stalter; **Partners and guests present:** Emily Arthur, Ohio Environmental Council, Erika Buri, Boden Fisher, Sally Gladwell, Jennifer Mayer, Civil & Environmental Consultants; **Members of the Public:** Josh Wehring, City of Fremont; **TMACOG staff present:** Kari Gerwin, Tiara Davis, Melissa Hopfer, Kingsley Kanjin, Jennifer Allen

Welcome and Call to Order – The Water Quality Council met on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 1 p.m. in the TMACOG Boardroom. Chair Kevin Laughlin welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order, noting a quorum had been reached.

Approval of Minutes – Minutes from the February 10, 2025, meeting were amended under the attendance list to correct Marissa Bechstein's first name. A **motion** was made by Ben Pushka and **seconded** by Brittany Klockowski to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously. Since there wasn't a quorum at the May and August meetings, no minutes were recorded for these meetings.

Updating and Adopting the Water Quality Operating Procedures – Kari Gerwin presented the updated Water Quality Operating Procedures, which proposes the elimination of alternates or proxies from the council. This update aligns with TMACOG's other councils and boards. A **motion** was made by Andy McClure and **seconded** by Mike Libben to adopt the updated Water Quality Operating Procedures. The motion carried unanimously.

Nomination for 2026 Water Quality Council Leadership – Kevin Laughlin and Mike Libben expressed their willingness to continue serving in 2026. There was a call for nominations from the floor. Seeing none, a **motion** was made by Brittany Klockowski and **seconded** by Dennis Kennedy to close nominations. The motion carried unanimously. A **motion** was made by Dennis Kennedy and **seconded** by Matt Choma to recommend reappointing Kevin Laughlin and Mike Libben chair and vice chair respectively. The motion carried unanimously.

2026 Meeting Schedule – The proposed 2026 meeting schedule was presented. A **motion** was made by Ben Pushka and **seconded** by Mike Libben in favor of meeting on February 9, May 11, August 10, and November 9 at 1 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Areawide Water Quality Management “208 Plan” 2025 Update – Water Quality Planner Kingsley Kanjin presented the proposed updates to the 208 Plan. A **motion** was made by Tom Stalter and **seconded** by Matt Choma to approve the 208 Plan 2025 update as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Opportunities to Prioritize Water Quality Projects in the TMACOG Region – Melissa Hopfer, Water Quality Program Manager, reported on plans for a WLEB Nonpoint Source Planning data analysis tool to assist with prioritizing projects and line them up with funding sources. Erika Buri, executive director of Outdoor Sylvania Community Parks, discussed the process by which restoration projects are scored through the Natural Resource Assistance Council. Dave Gedeon, TMACOG's director of transportation, discussed how transportation

projects are prioritized in the TMACOG region in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and the TMACOG Long Range Transportation Plan. After the presentations, Ms. Gerwin gauged the Council's interest in exploring the transportation department's prioritization process. There was a consensus from WQC to move forward with this objective in 2026.

Staff and Advisory Group Reports – Kari Gerwin announced TMACOG's plan to change the WQ department's name back to Environment Department to reflect the staff's role in coordinating air quality work funded through TMACOG's Transportation department program. This will not result in a name change to Water Quality Council. Gerwin announced that as a result of a shift in Tiara Davis's job duties, her job title has changed to Environmental Education Coordinator. Davis will continue to fill her role with the Stormwater Coalition and the department's education and outreach efforts. Brief updates were given regarding the work of the WLEB Advisory Group, Community Water Resources Advisory Group, and Stormwater Coalition and Stormwater Action Group as well as a recap of the Student Watershed Watch.

Next Meeting/Adjournment – The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Water Quality Council will take place at TMACOG on Monday, February 9th at 1 p.m. Kevin Laughlin adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Kevin Laughlin, Chair, Water Quality Council
Toledo Metropolitan Area
Council of Governments (TMACOG)

Kari Gerwin, Director Water Quality Planning
Toledo Metropolitan Area
Council of Governments (TMACOG)