



Stormwater Coalition Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 16, 2025

Submitted for approval on January 15, 2026

Members and Alternates Present: Eric Barnes, Andrea Beard, Josh Belknap, David Bench, Bob Bethel, Matt Choma, Amanda Gamby, Lorie Haslinger, Mike Hill, Andy Hohlbein, Doug Holland, Josh Hollinger, Steve Kessler, Chris Kirk, April McDonald, Matt Miles, Kelly Moore, Mike Moulton, Rob Nash, Kylie Nissen, Jason Sisco, Rachel Sizer; **Partners:** Mackenzie Bailey, Jerry Bingham, Tracy Brown, Madeline Dyer, Lynette Hablitzel, Joselyn Markins; **TMACOG Staff:** Tiara Davis, Melissa Hopfer, Jennifer Allen

Call to Order/Welcome – The Stormwater Coalition met on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 1 p.m. in the TMACOG Boardroom. Chair Andrea Beard called the meeting to order, noting a quorum had been reached. Jennifer Allen, TMACOG executive assistant and the notetaker for the meeting, was introduced. Introductions were made around the room.

Approval of Minutes – A **motion** was made by Matt Miles and **seconded** by Matt Choma to approve minutes from the July 17, 2025, meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Nominations for 2026 SWC Leadership and Water Quality Council Representation – Andrea Beard accepted an invitation to continue serving as chair in 2026. However, Alexa Vogel is stepping down from the vice chair position. Chair Beard asked if anyone on the Coalition was interested in serving as vice chair or if they wish to nominate someone for the position. Since there were no nominations from the floor, the vice chair position was tabled for the next meeting. A **motion** was made by David Bench and **seconded** by Mike Moulton to nominate and recommend reappointing Andrea Beard as chair. Chair Beard abstained from voting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

2026 Meeting Schedule – The proposed meeting dates for 2026 were presented: January 15, April 16, July 16, and October 15th at 1 p.m. A **motion** was made by Matt Choma and **seconded** by Bob Bethel to approve the 2026 meeting schedule as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Stormwater Educational Programming – Tiara Davis gave an update on Lake Erie Starts Here and some of the work and deliverables anticipated for next year. She sought action from the SWC on the following items.

Approve the Use of SWC dues to Purchase Lake Erie Starts Here Banners for the National Museum of the Great Lakes Mini Exhibit – Staff proposed displaying a mini exhibit from May to June 2026 at the National Museum of the Great Lakes. Staff proposed using 2025 SWC dues (and some 2026 dues) to purchase two banners at an estimated cost of \$200 each. The banners would be available for Coalition members to rent in July 2025. TMACOG's in-house graphics team would design them, which would result in significant cost savings. Since this project was not included in the FY 2026 annual work program, approval was requested by the SWC. A **motion** was made by Mike Moulton and **seconded** by April McDonald to approve the use of SWC dues to purchase the banners. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Approve 2026 Lake Erie Starts Here Mass Media Campaign – Miss Davis gave an overview of the proposed mass media campaign with 13 ABC. She highlighted details of the 6-month campaign, which would include video ads, display ads, YouTube ads, PSAs, and website native articles. Six topics will be featured each month of the campaign, including: smart salting, fertilizers, leaf collection, septic systems, litter, and pet waste. The proposed cost of \$30,000 for the campaign and a breakdown of the cost share information for each SWC member based on parcel count for 2026 were outlined. A **motion** was made by Amanda Gamby and **seconded** by Doug Holland to approve the campaign for 2026 and execute memoranda of understanding between TMACOG and dues paying members of the Coalition. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Health Department Illicit Discharge and HSTS Updates – Representatives from the Ottawa County, Toledo-Lucas County, and Wood County health departments gave updates on illicit discharge and HSTS in their respective counties.

Ottawa County Health Department – Jerry Bingham and Tracy Brown stated that Ottawa Soil and Water Conservation District oversees illicit discharge and dry weather screening. HSTS are inspected every year. Plans are underway for a Curtice-Williston sanitary sewer system. EPA is scheduled to meet in December to review and discuss design plans. David Bench, Jerusalem Township, expressed an interest in attending the meeting. Jim Bingham said he would pass along this request to the Sanitary Engineer's Office. The Ottawa County health department would be happy to provide operation and maintenance updates in future meetings.

Toledo-Lucas County Health Department – Mike Butcher stated the TLCHD just hired an O&M inspector who will be the contact person for community inspections. They assist the Lucas County Engineer's Office with their EPA permit. Their focus is on IDDE, critical sewage areas known for past failures like Maul Henry County Road and Rosalyn Street (off Flanders Road). They also focus on certain types of septic systems and MBSs. There are 20 of them in Lucas County. Homes are inspected for improper plumbing and wet bars. Gray water accounts for 95 percent of the illicit discharge, primarily attributed to improper connections in homes. The health department conducts sampling and updates their GIS. They receive complaints and track areas. Their O&M permits are for 5 years. The City of Toledo maintains records of sewer inspections.

Wood County Health Department – Madeline Dyer noted a large sanitary sewer project in Dunbridge. Wagner and Tracy Road are large nuisance areas. Any systems created after 2007 are on file at the health department. Working on getting Liberty Township tapped and a tile repaired due to sewage damage. With regards to O&M, the health department has incorporated 1,500 systems since 2024 and continues to update new systems, and 50 national pollutant discharge elimination systems post 2007 inspected twice a year. Their O&M permits are for 5 years. With regards to the mass media campaign, she noted that free SepticSmart education materials can be obtained from USEPA. The commissioners endorsed SepticSmart week in Wood County.

After the health department updates, Miss Davis asked some additional questions.

After initial inspection, are educational materials sent to homeowners?

OCHD does not follow up after inspections. They will, however, quiz homeowners either when they visit the health department's office or during installation of their septic system. OCHD suspects that homeowners don't read the materials even when they're mailed to them. Years ago, TMACOG had a grant program that issued pump-out vouchers for Wolfe Creek residents who participated in maintaining their systems. However, that program was a specific grant funded project that has since been completed. WQ staff is researching ways to offer incentives to homeowners who maintain and know their septic systems.

WCHD constantly re-educates homeowners. Homeowners are issued O&M permits, guides, and pumping frequency charts. TLCHD does similar work to educate its homeowners.

Who receives pumping reports from haulers? Is it possible to have apps to electronically read them for the SW annual report? (Septic RX, a septic inspection app.)

OCHD: They receive and file them for each property, but there is no state-wide electronic filing rule for these. They are transitioning to using an electronic database for these hard copy forms.

WCHD: Ms. Dyer pointed out issues with an external app. Databases should have the same features that an app would provide. Haulers are required to submit reports, but again there is no formal electronic filing rule. They are in the process of scanning and filing pump-out reports.

TLCHD: Haulers are required to submit reports, but there is no formal electronic filing rule. They would like to speed up the process of scanning and filing reports, since most pumpers submit physical forms.

TMACOG is currently brainstorming ways to report pump out records. Could pumpers have an app to use for pump-out reports? How can we speed that up? Could we identify this as part of the permit process? Doesn't have to have a GIS layer, only want to view pump-out reports/inspections. Each health department representative agreed that it would be beneficial if there was an app that pumpers could use to complete pump-out reports.

How useful would it be if TMACOG provided educational materials as part of the Lake Erie Starts Here campaign?

OCHD: Educational Materials could be sent with permits or distributed during inspections. Social media could be used to share information. Miss Davis noted that TMACOG has a social media tool kit that health departments could use. OCHD works closely with municipalities and engineers on tapping into sanitary sewers. They send out information ahead of time. They don't have a specific deadline to complete those projects.

TLCHD: They use social media sites. The health department gives homeowners a year to tap in. They got rid of the 200 ft. rule for sanitary sewer tapping. The issue is with the tap being available but not accessible. Chair Beard noted that in Oregon, homeowners pay a minimum sewer bill whether they're tapped or not.

WCHD: Educational materials are incorporated in their operational plan. If a public sewer line is within 200 ft., a homeowner has 120 days to tap in. The health department will work with a homeowner if they have financial difficulties. It is sometimes challenging to get a quote from contractors in a timely manner.

Staff Report – Tiara Davis shared a PowerPoint, which included an update on Municipal Inspectors and Contractors training scheduled in March 2026. Training will also include a mock inspection with contractors and municipal inspectors. Attendees will be eligible for professional development hours. Finally, the Water Quality Department will work on the FY 2027 annual work program by the end of the year. She asked everyone to email her suggestions for potential work activities.

OEPA Update – Lynette Hablitzel reported that OEPA is still in the process of updating the MS4 permit. Attachment A regarding TMDLs for specific watersheds is currently being reviewed for standards. A draft will be released at the end of the year.

Member Update – There were no updates from Coalition members.

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

Any and All Other Business – Miss Davis stated that the FY 2026 third quarter Lake Erie Starts Here report will be available next week. An invoice showing new payment will be sent before the end of the year for mass media campaign cost sharing.

Next Meeting/Adjourn – The next meeting will take place on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 1 p.m. in the TMACOG Boardroom. A **motion** was made by Mike Moulton and **seconded** by Kylie Nissen at 2:10 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. **The motion carried.**

Andrea Beard, Chair, Stormwater Coalition
Toledo Metropolitan Area
Council of Governments (TMACOG)

Tiara Davis, Environmental Education Coordinator
Toledo Metropolitan Area
Council of Governments (TMACOG)