

TMACOG Community Water Resource Advisory Group Meeting

January 22, 2026

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

TMACOG Boardroom

300 Martin Luther King Jr Drive, Suite 300

Toledo, Ohio 43604

Welcome and Introductions

Kingsley welcomed everyone and asked for round-table introduction

Attendance

- Ryan Gierhart, OEPA
- Mike Hill, Village of Whitehouse
- Tom Vasinski, City of Toledo
- Archie Lunsey, OEPA
- Paul Fletcher, Kleinfelder
- Alexandra Slawinski, Lucas County WRRF
- Elizabeth Buening, Ottawa County Sanitary Eng.
- Chuck Campbell, City of Toledo
- Stephen Yankiera, UToledo
- Fayeza Humaira, UToledo
- Shamiha S. Shneya, UToledo
- Bhuiyan Alam (PhD), UToledo
- Hossain Idrash, UToledo
- Tiara Gonzalez, TMACOG
- Kari Gerwin, TMACOG
- Kingsley Kanjin, TMACOG

Water and Wastewater Operator Training Planning

- Kingsley called on Tiara to speak about operator training planning.
- Tiara gave an overview of the planning process for the upcoming operator training and asked for topic ideas and suggestions.
- Paul from Kleinfelder indicated that he and one of his staff will cover microplastics and funding. He will cover microplastics, and he will speak to someone at his company to cover funding.
- Ottawa Solar array at WWTP – can present – county or contractor can present – kokosing

Water Workforce Coalition – Recommendations for next steps

Kari Gerwin, TMACOG

- Kari Gerwin gave a review of the Water Workforce Coalition including outcomes and next steps.
- Worked with Owens Community College to develop a Water Professionals Certification that has now been approved by the Ohio Department of Higher Ed. 65 students went through the program; 24 are now employed.
- **Next steps:** formally organize the Water Workforce Coalition to transfer to the next phase of the program. Steering group would like the next phase to incorporate career advancement past Class 1, to provide resources on succession planning, and identify opportunities to standardize incentives and pay scales among members.
- **CWR Recommendations for WQC:** Utilities need to evaluate the value (COT saw massive value and would like to see it formalized but not sure about this being a due paying coalition).

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- TMACOG needs to communicate the value of the WWC program (not just hiring but also the other recommended resources).
 - **Recommendation to continue the program and move forward with considering the next steps.** An Ad Hoc could be formed to consider any questions moving forward. Preset to WQC as is and include potential funding sources.

Staff Update - 208 Plan

- Kingsley gave an update on the 208 plan. The 2025 FPA update and the drinking water chapter have been submitted to OEPA. A comprehensive update for Wastewater chapter is currently being worked on. Kingsley has been working on analysis of severe weather impacts on wastewater treatment plants. Kingsley gave an overview of how the vulnerability analysis was calculated.
- **Feedback:** 2025 Ice jam that causes flooding impacted Lucas County. Winter weather and flooding cause different problems than drought and heat, but they are still impactful.
- How have facilities responded? Can we expand the survey?
- **Education** – explain what results mean and put minds at ease that treatment impact is not negatively impacting them
- According to R.J, the analysis is a good resource from an educational standpoint. The public will be interested in the net effect. What is the cost? Narrative around forecasting, planning and prioritizing is recommended.
- Paul was interested in knowing how the vulnerability results will be useful for funding requests and justifying expenditures.

Regulatory update – OEPA

Ryan – new division of surface water chief Holly Tucker. 2025 annual report on P general permit. Find a website. 2 new facilities added – AquaBounty and First Quality Tissue. Biosolids rules. New certification process with exam – 2028. Triennial review for WQ standards

Partner Updates –

Kleinfelder projects for small systems, maybe outside regions. Ottawa Sanitary – secondary feed loop water line project for redundancy in an area near abandoned mine (sinkholes) Danbury solar project. Design for Marblehead regionalization (demo, new service lines to bring some up to Ottawa's rules/regs. Toledo testing of new chlorine facility, rehab chemical building project underway. 30+ active engineering projects. Collection system – Arlington needs to be replaced. Lucas – upgrades to grit removal. UV upgrades

Public Comments

Dr. Alam from the University of Toledo and his students expressed their experience about the meeting and how important this meeting will help them in formulating their academic research topics

Recommendations for Water Quality Council – No additional recommendations

Kingsley called for recommendation to the WQC but there was none made

Adjourn

Kingsley thanks everyone for attending and contributing. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm

2026 Meeting Schedule

January 22, April 23, July 23, October 22, at 1:00 p.m.