

TMACOG Infrastructure Planning Group

Meeting Notes

January 25, 2024, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

The Northwestern Water and Sewer District, 12560 Middleton Pike, Bowling Green, OH 43402, USA

Attendance

Kevin Aller, Andy McClure, Mike Somerville, Mike Fields, Don Nelson, John Motycka, A.J. Coleman, Matt Choma, Tom Jasinski, Jim Ludwig, Rob Binkley, Jim Shaw, Tom Stalter, Jerry Griener, Zach Mulder, Craig LaHote, Lana Gore, Ryan Gierhart, John Hull, Tom Borck, Paul Fletcher, Brad Lowery, Todd Saums, Brent Meek, Garret Chamberlain, Liz Buening
TMACOG Staff: Sara Guiher, Zoe Quisenberry, Kari Gerwin, Eric Kostecky, Ann Nair

Welcome

Kari Gerwin introduced the combined planning group and its goals. She explained the TMACOG by-law changes and how they affect membership.

Nomination of leadership for Public Water Supply

Andy McClure self-nominated for Public Water Supply Chair. Jim Shaw *moved to approve*. Zach Mulder *seconded*. **Motion carried.**

Kevin Aller informed the group that he is retiring from public service in May and moving to a job in the private sector. He has enjoyed being the chair of the Wastewater committee but with his new role, he will no longer be able to continue after the April meeting.

Presentation – Working to attract a Potential Industrial Mega-Site

Tom Stalter, Northwestern Water and Sewer District, (the District) introduced himself. He gave an overview of the District, their board of trustees makeup, service area, and local government partners. Economic Development follows infrastructure – highways, electric, gas, water. The District provides collection and distribution and has contracts with regional plants. He discussed how the district supports and purchases from area jurisdictions, how they work with agriculture, how they help with development, grant funding problems to build infrastructure and find solutions. Types of funding include grants, loans, assessments on developers. He gave tips – plan, be prepared, education about funding, master plan, take advantage of new programs, apply early and often, be creative. The presentation was followed by Q and A.

- Do jurisdictions have to join the district to be served? No
- Have you used tax increment financing? Yes, Brownfield funding.

Feedback requested – Annual Work Program Kari Gerwin gave an overview of the FY25 annual work programs. She discussed the new format that explains work items that the committee will provide feedback on and the staff support that will be provided. No comments on AWP as presented. Committee members interested in giving presentations or tours should contact Eric Kostecky.

Feedback requested – 208 Overhaul Activities and Deliverables

Kari Gerwin stated that the plan would include:

- Environmental Justice, Climate Resiliency, and Emerging Contaminants focus.
- Working on public engagement process.
- 208 plan structure and chapters - Add drinking water chapter.
- 208 policies – proof of concept, prescriptions.

We will be looking for this committee to give feedback on the last 2 items.

TMACOG will be hiring a consultant to complete some of the 208 Overhaul analysis.

The drinking water chapter is not required in the 208 Plan, but TMACOG aims to develop a more holistic water quality plan for the region. We will start with compiling map data. We want an overview of drinking water systems. We will be asking for data:

- Age of system
- Production
- Source water.
- Population served
- Point of contact
- Map of service area (if possible, don't want to risk security)

Adding this information to the 208 plan will not create legal requirements for drinking water but will provide a guide for the region.

Paul Fletcher from the Kleinfeld Group asked about Small Community Environmental Infrastructure. Members explained what it is, and Kari Gerwin stated that if it is no longer relevant, it can be removed. If it is relevant, we can ask someone to present about this, maybe OWEA.

Prescriptions:

Kari Gerwin outlined the plans to create conceptual wastewater prescriptions for the TMACOG region using NOACA's prescriptions as an example. Wastewater prescriptions involve -

- Local community agreement
- Plans for sewer area for the next 20 years
- Defines areas that will not be sewerred.
- More detail than just sewerred and non-sewerred.

It also includes a larger group of stakeholders in the planning. TMACOG is looking for a pilot community to create proof of concepts prescriptions that will later be shared with other TMACOG DMAs. Jim Shaw volunteered Lucas County.

Discussion of future standing agenda items

Kevin introduced the idea of having standing items. Andy McClure suggested linier infrastructure as an annual topic for this year.

Member and partner reports

Zach Mulder, Ottawa County. Working on water line extension to Elmore. ¼ way through, completion expected in June. Secondary feed line Catawba, Portage and Danbury through Port Clinton. Gypsum mines are collapsing. Tunnels under roads.

Andy McClure, City of Toledo, looking to reuse water to free up drinking water recycling.

Ryan Gierhart. OEPA, land applied bio solids new worksheet calculation on website.

March 1st starts the first season of the Maumee TMDL agreement. Point source loading general permit March 1st through July 31st. Will send reminder to the 39 permittees to remind them. PTI system is being worked on- might change submission process.

Mike Fields, Bowling Green – CO2 project completed – sedimentation repairs.

Lana Gore Wood County Health Department – working on failed systems.

Matt Choma, City of Perrysburg, Digester improvement project – capture methane gas- Collection CSO's are SSO's now. Water is replacing undersized lines and repairing leaks.

Craig LaHote, Wood County Board of Commissioner, - We have \$10 million in ARPA funds - District needs more.

Jim Shaw, Lucas County – looking for staff – engineers, GIS, Design. Federal Funding in Solid Waste application asked if community contacted their local COG.

Tom Jasinski, City of Toledo, working with panel of experts for Bay View upgrades. Green Work.

John Motycka, City of Oregon, Grit removal & retro Chlorine to UV install by May 1st. \$2.5 million grant project for Curtis Williston. Lucas county has project shovel ready. Pumping to the facility to be determined. Looking for someone to get the work done.

Mike Somerville, City of Toledo, Alum upgrade is in design phase. Working on Carbon Upgrade. Looking at potassium upgrade this year. Water and Sewage rates update in May.

Kevin Aller, City of Sylvania, 2 projects this year in neighborhoods. Rebuilt pumps in water, sanitary next year

Staff report

Kari Gerwin, TMACOG has a job posting for a Water Quality Planner. Water Workforce first cohort has started - students in facilities on Fridays.

If any facilities have expected opening, send the information to Ann Nair.

Public Comments

None

Adjourn at 2:52 PM