

TMACOG WLEB Water Quality Advisory Group Meeting/ Site Tour

Meeting Notes

September 23, 2025

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Magee Marsh Visitors Center

Business Meeting

Attendance

Mike Libben, Becky Simpson, Sara Guier, Kris Patterson, Edith Kippenhan, Wei Zhang, Ben Pushka, Boden Fisher, Alexis McCarter, Christina Kuchle, Melissa Hopper, Kari Gerwin,

Welcome and Introductions

Melissa Hopper, TMACOG, started the meeting with a welcome and asked for roundtable introductions.

Staff Update

LESH HSTS content developed (angle is maintenance), prepared to be one of the topics for our campaign next year. A native article was published on 13ABCs website about septic system maintenance.

NPS-IS planning tool, preparing to apply for grants to complete the NPS-IS work, some analysis will overlap with NPS chapter of 208.

Working with communications to determine best format for the autogenerated legislative letter. Should be ready to go live in December.

The next Water Quality Council meeting is Monday, November 10. We will be updating the agenda for Lake Erie in 2026.

Roundtable

- 208 Plan NPS Chapter outline will be sent out in the next month for this group to review and provide feedback. From there, the chapter text will be updated.
- 2026 Annual Work Program- please be thinking about ideas!
- Meeting cadence- 2026, we will be meeting about this as a staff, stay tuned.

Partner Updates

Clean your Streams Day took place Saturday, September 27. The Partners for Clean Streams website has information about the annual event if you are interested in participating.

ODA: Cropland Management Program enrollment is good. The conservation ditch program has a rolling application; applicants must be an entity that do ditch maintenance.

ODNR Division of Wildlife: The future of the Wetland program is uncertain due to H2Ohio cuts. Looking to software companies to potentially support wetland projects (Google, Volumetric)

OSU Extension: Michigan hosts a bi-monthly “HABS Chat” webinar type event. Looking to host one in Ohio on the off months of the Michigan one.

City of Toledo: Bandor Park is nearing completion. The stream was widened, wetlands were put in, and the area was beautified. The City is doing before and after water quality monitoring.

Hill Ditch restoration projects are three projects in a chain. The projects are on TPS and Toledo Botanical Garden Property. There may be some Student Watershed Watch sampling going on at the project site. City staff are happy to do classroom presentations, and all are welcome to come visit the projects.

Collins Park has some projects taking place. Duck Creek restoration is being done by a NOAA grant and Detwiler Creek restoration work is being done with 319 and GLRI funding.

Ohio Lake Erie Commission: Lake Erie Community Grant, large and small grants are available again. The funding is provided by GLRI. The grant can fund projects that involve collaboration with underserved communities and partnership is important in an application.

Public Comments

None

Recommendations to Water Quality Council

None

Adjourn

Site Tour

Ottawa County and the Ottawa Soil and Water Conservation District have selected 2 sites for us to visit.

Hemminger Marsh— St. Rt. 19, Oak Harbor (Toussaint Wildlife Area Parking Lot use this link to navigate: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/YrUna5frhPfBdPgZ8>)

This marsh is one of the first ARTS (Ag Runoff Treatment System) projects in the county. The wetland treats the water before it is released back into the Toussaint River and flows a short distance to Lake Erie.

Tice Wetland – 10980 W. St. Rt. 2, Oak Harbor

This newly constructed wetland was enrolled in Lake Erie CREP with additional funding from a 319 grant, ODNR 816 funds, and the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program used to enhance the project. This 90 plus acre site was farmed but had to be diked and pumped to keep Lake Erie at bay. Construction began in July 2025.