

TMACOG Agriculture Committee

Meeting Notes

November 18, 2020

1:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via GoToMeeting

Attendees:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>
Laura Campbell	MI Farm Bureau	Tim Brown	President TMACOG
Deanna Bobak	Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc	Barbie Kalta	TMACOG
Matt Kennedy	TMACOG	Kirk Hines	ODA
Mark Coppeler	Ottawa County Commissioner	Mark Sattler	Trustee, Jerusalem Township
Sandra Kosek-Sills	Ohio Lake Erie Commision	Clark Hutson	ODA DSWC, H2Ohio WELB Program Coordinator
Ben Tirrell	MI Farm Bureau	Laura Page	Hull & Associates
Rebecca Singer	CIFT	Terry Mescher	ODA, DSWC, H2Ohio Program Manager
Megan Grammer	Sandusky SWCD	Jim Carter	Wood SWCD
Amy McCain	MSU Ag Program Coordinator	Kari Gerwin	TMACOG
Chris McGibbeny	City of Toledo	Stephanie Singer	The Nature Conservancy
Mike Libben	Ottawa SWCD	Elizabeth Murawski	CIFT
Rick Johnson	Applied Environmental Solutions	Ron Snyder	Wood County Farmer

Welcome and Introductions:

Mike Libben, Ag Committee chair, welcomed everyone. Since this is a virtual meeting, attendees were asked to enter their name and affiliation in the chat box. The chat box record serves as the record of attendance. Those in attendance are so noted in the table above.

Nominate Chair and Vice-Chair for 2021:

Sara Guiher stated that Mike Libben, 2020 Chair, and Jim Carter, 2020 Vice-Chair were willing to stay on in their respective roles. No other members responded to an email asking for interest in serving in either role. Ms. Guiher then proceeded with the action item:

- Ron Snyder moved to open nominations; Joey Sink-Oiler seconded.
- Members were asked to self-nominate or nominate others for the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair. Laura Campbell nominated Mike Libben as Chair and Jim Carter as Vice-Chair for 2021.
- Ron Snyder moved to close nominations; Joey Sink-Oiler seconded.
- Sara Guiher asked for a motion to approve Mike Libben as Chair and Jim Carter as Vice-Chair for 2021. Laura Campbell moved; Ron Snyder seconded.

- Any members opposed to the appointments were asked to state their name; none opposed. **Motion carried.**

Approve 2021 Meeting Schedule:

Mike Libben asked for a motion to approve the proposed 2021 meeting schedule: 1:00 pm (virtual until further notice) on February 17, April 21, August 18, November 17. Joey Sink-Oiler moved; Laura Campbell seconded. **Motion carried.**

H2Ohio Update:

*Dorothy Pelanda, Director
Kirk Hines, Chief, Soil and Water Conservation Division
Terry Mescher, H2Ohio WLEB Program Coordinator
Clark Huston, H2Ohio Program Coordinator*

ODA Director Dorothy Pelanda made opening remarks about the H2Ohio program:

- For the first biennium they focused on 14 counties and offered compensation for 7 different practices to improve water quality and nutrient management
- Over 1.1 million acres in the lower Maumee basin signed up for the 3-year commitment.

Clark Huston went over the general overview of the H2Ohio program:

- The 7 practices it compensates farmers for:
 - Voluntary nutrient management plan – up to \$8/acre over the 3 years
 - Variable rate phosphorus application - \$8/acre per year
 - Manure incorporation - \$35/acre for poultry manure, \$60/acre for all other manure
 - Conservation crop rotation
 - Small grains - \$35/acre per year
 - Forages - \$35/acre per year
 - Overwintering cover crops - \$25/acre per year
 - Drainage water management - \$1500 per site without main installation, \$4000 per site with main installation, \$200/structure per year
- Over 2,000 applications were received during the initial sign-up, there were 1,918 agreements, and 1,800+ have been signed by the producer.
- Year 2 funding for H2Ohio has also been approved

Kirk Hines went on to explain the OACI certification program. Terry Mescher followed with remarks about how they're going about securing year 3 funding for the program. Looking to the state for funding, USEPA for GLRI funding, and looking into federal funding also.

Following the presentation for the ODA members, a Q&A session was held.

Member Updates:

Mike Libben stated that ODNR is kicking off an incentive program for farmers to enroll in Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Laura Johnson added that Michigan recently allocated \$5 million to CREP, with focus areas in the Western Lake Erie Basin, Saginaw Bay, and Lake Macatawa.

Public Comments:

None

Staff Report:

Sara Guiher provided the following updates from TMACOG:

- The Agenda for Lake Erie was approved by Water Quality Council on November 9, the Executive Committee approved November 18, and final approval will come from the Board of Trustees on December 9.
- The 2021 TMACOG General Assembly will be held virtually on January 19-22. The keynote speaker will be Jack Marchbanks (Director, Ohio Department of Transportation), speaking about the Gordie Howe International Bridge
- Attendees were invited to visit the TMACOG Student Watershed Watch website for the virtual Student Summit, which will be active 11/16-11/20.

Adjourn

Future Meetings:

February 17, 2021