

TMACOG WATERSHEDS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 23, 2019
TMACOG Boardroom

Attendees:

Chair: Tim Murphy, CEC. **Attendees:** Deanna Bobak, CEC; Gordon Bowman, Chair-PRBC, Village of Pemberville; Jim Carter, Wood SWCD; Marisa DeLancey, City of Toledo Environmental Services; Melissa Hopfer, Lucas County/Sustainability Commission; Tahree Lane, LEW; Mike Libben, Ottawa SWCD; Steve May, RRWC; Brian Miller, Lucas County Engineer; Kris Moazed, LEW/ACLE; Marj Mulcahy, LEW; Kris Patterson, PCS; Jordan Rofkar, Hull & Associates; Paul Roman, City of Oregon; Lauren Sandhu, BRWP; Pat Wright, LEW/ACLE
Staff: Kris Barnswell, WQ Planner; Tatiana Burkett, Water Quality Associate; Kari Gerwin, Director of WQ; Sara Guiher, Water Quality Planner; Joy Minarcin, WQ Administrative Assistant

Welcome:

Tim Murphy, CEC Consultants, and Chair of the Watersheds committee welcomed those present, and round table introductions were made. Those in attendance are so noted on the sign-in sheet, and are listed above.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Tim Murphy, chair, asked for a *motion* to approve the meeting minutes from the January 23, 2019 meeting. Gordon Bowman, Mayor, Village of Pemberville, *moved to approve*. Mike Libben, Ottawa SWCD, *seconded*. **Motion carried.**

River Raisin Watershed Council :

Steve May, Executive Director of the River Raisin Watershed Council (RRWC), discussed the mission and programs of the organization. Mr. May shared facts about the River Raisin Watershed and its place within the Great Lakes Basin, along with details about RRWC's structure and financials. Then a 2019 update was given, covering RRWC's many activities in the watershed and current programs, such as Farmer-Led Watershed Conservation. Presentation is available on the TMACOG Watersheds Committee website: http://www.tmacog.org/WQ/Watershed_committee.htm

Update on Nine-Element NPS-IS Advisory Group:

Sara Guiher gave a brief presentation on the activities of the TMACOG 9-Element NPS-IS Advisory Group during Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019), the first year of the project. The advisory group approved a planning area, chose criteria to prioritize HUC 12 watersheds for plan NPS-IS development/update, established a communication network structure, and hosted a workshop. Deanna Bobak then updated the committee on NPS-IS work occurring outside of the TMACOG planning area in the WLEB. Ms. Guiher's presentation and 9-Element NPS-IS Advisory Group materials can be found on the TMACOG Watersheds Committee website.

Discussion of Watersheds Committee and Agricultural Committee:

Kris Barnswell introduced the newly forming Agricultural Committee and their overarching goal/objectives. The committee will "facilitate communications on water quality, economics, innovations, and operations with agriculture and related industries." The Watersheds Committee FY20 Work Plan and Operating procedures were referenced for a brief discussion on potential collaboration between the two committees in the future.

Legislative Update:

Tim Murphy stated that the H2Ohio funding was included as part of the State of Ohio budget during the prior week. Ms. Gerwin then gave an update on legislation that TMACOG Water Quality staff has been following. A handout summarizing Senate Bill 2 (Create the Statewide Watershed Planning and Management Program under the administration of the Director of Agriculture) was included with meeting packets. Written testimony provided by TMACOG to the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee was also given to attendees. The bill was passed by the Senate, and TMACOG will remain involved (including traveling to Columbus to provide testimony) as the bill moves into the House. Gerwin

TMACOG Staff Report:

Sara Guiher, TMACOG

- Ms. Guiher referenced two handouts available to attendees:
 - Blanchard River Farm Tour flyer: committee members are encouraged to register for the tour, which will showcase multiple agricultural BMPs. Kris Barnswell is the TMACOG staff lead for the tour and he explained the details of the day. Registration closes August 30, 2019.
 - TMACOG Upcoming events, including Summer Caucuses, October TMACOG Tech and November Student Watershed Watch Summit.

Member and Partner Reports

- Kris Patterson informed the committee that the annual Clean Your Streams event will be held on September 21, 2019.
- Partners for Clean Streams and Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District are hosting a Water Quality Cruise aboard the Sandpiper on August 4, 2019. Registration is available on the PCS website.

Public Comment

- Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie's next meeting, will be held on August 8, 2019, 7:00 pm, at the Toledo Yacht Club (3900 N Summit St). A presentation by Sandy Bihn will focus on the Toledo Harbor Lighthouse, to be followed by a roundtable discussion about the health of Lake Erie.
- ACLE will host a program at the International Park Gazebo on the 5th Anniversary of the Toledo Water Crisis, August 3, 2019, 11:00 am.

Meetings:

The next meeting for the **Watershed Committee will be held October 23, 2019.**

This will be the final meeting of 2019.

Adjourn

Tim Murphy, chair, called the meeting adjourned.