

TMACOG WATERSHEDS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
October 23, 2019
TMACOG Boardroom

Attendees:

Chair: Tim Murphy, CEC. **Attendees:** Deanna Bobak, CEC; Brian Miller, Lucas County Engineer; Kris Patterson, PCS; Pat Wright, LEW/ACLE; Rachel Tippett, Lucas County/TLCSC; Doug Deardorff, NRCS; Sally Gladwell, Mannik & Smith Group; Regina Collins, City of Toledo Environmental Services; Stephanie Singer, The Nature Conservancy
Staff: Kris Barnswell, WQ Planner; 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.

For future meetings, it was suggested to send out a meeting reminder much closer to the date of the meeting. Hopefully this will help with attendance.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Tim Murphy, chair, asked for a *motion* to approve the meeting minutes from the July 23, 2019 meeting. Brian Miller, Lucas County Sanitary Engineer's Office, *moved to approve*. Deanna Bobak, CEC, *seconded*.

Motion carried.

2020 Meeting Schedule:

Tim Murphy, chair, asked for a *motion to approve* the proposed meeting schedule for 2020, as outlined on today's agenda. The meeting dates for 2020 are January 22, April 22, July 22, and October 28. These dates reflect the 4th Wednesday, quarterly. Brian Miller, Lucas County Sanitary Engineer's Office, *moved to approve*, Deanna Bobak, CEC, *seconded*. **Motion carried.**

Leadership 2020:

Tim Murphy, current chair, and Deanna Bobak, current vice-chair, agreed to continue the chair and vice-chair seats for 2020. Murphy stated after 2020, he will be stepping down as chair. Murphy also opened the floor to nominations. Hearing none, Brian Miller, Lucas County Engineer's Office, *moved to approve* Tim Murphy as chair, and Deanna Bobak as vice-chair for 2020. Sally Gladwell, Mannik & Smith, *seconded*. **Motion carried.**

Legislative Update & Watershed Projects:

Stephanie Singer, Outreach Education Specialist, The Nature Conservancy Ohio

Singer began the presentation with a brief history of the Conservancy. Defiance, OH is the local office for the WLEB and Kitty Todd is the local office for land protection and restoration. Singer explained the WLEB agriculture strategy are infield, edge of field, and in stream practices. A few of the goals for the WLEB include, restore 1% of the WLEB acreage to natural infrastructure, engage in policy work at the state level (H2Ohio, ditch proposals, clean energy, nutrient stewardship (4R's and soil health), HB340 (change the required buffer width from 4 ft. to 10ft.), and strengthen their partnership with farmers. TNC has field guides for farmers available, as well as, many other valuable resources. The presentation was followed by Q & A.

Discussion of 2020 Focus:

A full update of the Agenda for Lake Erie will begin in January 2020, with content reflecting copy for 2021-2022. A link to the current ALE was sent to members. During this and future updates of the ALE efforts will be made to engage partners and stakeholders, besides members for input. The ALE is meant to be a working document and will be updated as needed.

TMACOG Staff Report:

Sara Guiher, TMACOG Planner

- There is a NPS-IS advisory group meeting scheduled for November 13 at the Wood County EMA office. The group will be planning for a workshop to be held in early 2020.
- The Toledo Zoo will host this year's SWW, celebrating its 30th year! The event takes place November 18, 2019
- Heidelberg University Workshop – Ms. Guiher attended a workshop to provide feedback on research needs for Lake Erie water quality improvements. She will update the committee on any follow-up from the researchers.
- Guiher called attention to the TMACOG Upcoming Events flyer which was enclosed in today's meeting packet.

Kris Barnswell – TMACOG Planner II

The next Ag Committee will be held November 6, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the TMACOG Boardroom. Leadership will be discussed as well as focus areas. The Ag Committee does have some overlapping goals with the Watersheds committee, and inter-connectivity is very possible.

Kari Gerwin, TMACOG, Water Quality Director

- An update was given on the meeting with Joy Mulinex, Director of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission, with TMACOG leadership, water quality staff, and water quality committee chairs and vice-chairs.
- Congressman Mike Sheehey, and Congressman Ghabari spoke at the July Water Quality Council meeting, Gerwin gave an update
- HB& passed the house and the 1st hearing in the Senate is stated for next week

Member and Partner Reports

Doug Deardorf – NRCS:

- And update was given on the work completed through 9/30/19 through USDA
- The USDA sign up for the conservation reserve program is December 1 – a voluntary program for farmers

Public Comment

None

Meetings:

The next meeting for the **Watershed Committee will be held January 22, 2020.**

Adjourn

Tim Murphy, chair, called the meeting adjourned.