

TMACOG WATERSHEDS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2020
Grand Lobby of the TMACOG offices

Attendees:

Chair: Tim Murphy, CEC. **Attendees:** Deanna Bobak, CEC (Vice-Chair); Kris Patterson, PCS; Pat Wright, LEW/ACLE; Doug Deardorff, NRCS; Sally Gladwell, Mannik & Smith Group; Donald Sahloff, Whiteford Township; Ed Crawford, ODA-DSWC; Sandra Kosek-Sills, Ohio Lake Erie Commission; Laura Johnson, Heidelberg; Alan Pfaff, Lucas County; Don Nelson, City of Oregon; Julie Thomas, CT Consultants; Laura DeYoung, CT Consultants; Joey Sink-Oiler, Lucas SWCD; Theresa Lane, LEW; Dr. Ted Bowlus, Wood County Commissioner, Scott Butterworth, ODNR, Division of Wildlife; Alexis Sakas, TNC; Marjorie Mullahy, LEW/ACLE; Melissa Hopfer, Lucas County; Doug Deardorff, USDA-NCRS; Jim Carter, Wood SWCD; Cyndee Gruden, University of Toledo; Christina Kuehle, ODNR

Staff: Kari Gerwin, Director of WQ; Sara Guiher, Water Quality Planner; Joy Minarcin, WQ Administrative Assistant; Barbie Kalta, Water Quality Associate

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 October 23, 2019 meeting. Sally Gladwell, Mannik & Smith, *moved to approve*. Melissa Hopfer, Lucas County, *seconded*.

Motion carried.

FY2021 Annual Work Plan:

Sara Guiher, TMACOG, reviewed the Watershed Committee's annual work plan for FY2021. A copy of the work plan with tracked changes was included in the meeting packet that was distributed. After Guiher's review, Tim Murphy, asked for a *motion to approve* the FY2021 Watershed Committee Plan as outlined. Deanna Bobak, *moved to approve*, and Laura DeYoung *seconded*. **Motion carries.**

PRESENTATIONS:

2019 Harmful Algal Bloom Season

Dr. Laura Johnson, Director, National Center for Water Quality Research

Dr. Johnson discussed the Heidelberg tributary loading program that samples on the Maumee River. The focus of today's discussion was on dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP) and total particulate phosphorus (TPP). Dr. Johnson's talking points included:

- Maumee River particulate P as decreased over time whereas dissolved P increased 2X
- Maumee River spring load drives bloom severity
- The bloom forecast for 2019 was 7.5 and a 7.3 bloom occurred
- Less farming application because of wet farmland helped with lower phosphorus levels in 2019
- Fertilizer applied within the water year (October 1 – September 30) has a large influence on spring and summer DRP load
- Agricultural soils are typically managed to bank P and did not expect a drop in soil test P – the big reduction in DRP was surprising
- Perhaps a combination of surface placement and loosely sorbed P contribute 30% DRP loads
- Working with edge-of-field researchers and modeling teams to better identify a management response
- From the 4R's, right rate and right place are extremely important

H2Ohio Agriculture BMPs and Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan

Sandra Kosek-Sills, Environmental Specialist, Ohio Lake Erie Commission

Kosek-Sills began her presentation reviewing the 10 best management practices that will be focused on with H2Ohio monies. The top four practices; soil testing, VRT, subsurface nutrient application and manure incorporation are closely related to the 4R practice already established. In order to receive H2Ohio monies, farmers must submit a nutrient management plan that will be reviewed and approved by the Ohio Agricultural Conservation Initiative (OACI). The first 2 years of the program will focus on implementation. Fourteen counties of the Maumee Watershed are the initial priority funding areas.

TMACOG Staff Report:

Sara Guiher, TMACOG

- Please refer to the TMACOG Upcoming Events flyer distributed in the meeting packet
- A 2020 Nine Element Plan workshop will take place on March 31, 2020
- The Agenda for Lake Erie will be updated this year
- TMACOG is interested in becoming paper-free for many committee materials, or – at a minimum – to reduce the amount of paper used. Staff will work with their respective committees to determine the best approach for members.

Member and Partner Reports

- The TMACOG 2020 General Assembly will be held Monday, January 17 at the Hilton in Levis Commons. Please contact Jennifer Allen for registration
- Please refer to the flyer distributed for meeting dates in the area to explain the application process for H2Ohio funds and questions about the conservation practices.

Public Comment

None

Meetings:

The next meeting for the **Watershed Committee will be held April 22, 2020**. This will be a working meeting primarily focused on updates to the Agenda for Lake Erie.

Adjourn

Tim Murphy, chair, called the meeting adjourned.