



Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments

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Water Quality Council

Chair:

Carol Contrada,
Commissioner,
Lucas County

Vice Chair:

Jon Eckel,
Director of Public
Service,
City of Perrysburg

Public Water Supply Committee

Chair:

John Hull,
Chair,
Hull & Associates

Stormwater Coalition

Chair:

Kevin Laughlin,
Stormwater
Coordinator,
Wood County

Wastewater Committee

Chair:

Alice Godsey,
Director of Public
Utilities,
City of Perrysburg

Watersheds Committee

Chair:

Tim Murphy,
Senior Project
Manager,
Civil & Environmental
Consultants, Inc.

The Agenda for Lake Erie represents TMACOG members' commitment to the restoration and preservation of the region's greatest natural resource – Lake Erie. The lake has been endangered in the past: raw sewage, industrial by-products, and chemicals in consumer products threatened the health of Lake Erie and the entire region, resulting in Do Not Drink/Swim/Fish advisories. Through the concerted effort of dedicated citizens, governments, scientists, and policy advocates, the 1972 Clean Water Act directly addressed these critical environmental issues and point source pollution through regulation, resulting in significant improvement to the health of the lake. However, in the past several years, Lake Erie is again threatened by pollution from other sources, primarily non-point source nutrient runoff.

People living and working in cities, villages, and farms in the western Lake Erie watershed enjoy fertile land for agriculture as well as abundant fresh water for drinking, recreation, industry, tourism, and commerce. We celebrate the historical, social, and economic value of agriculture in our region, and recognize that both a healthy lake and healthy land are of vital importance. Our members acknowledge the challenge of developing systems of accountability to ensure that our water resources are protected and our agricultural community continues to thrive.

Water and its safe supply are critical regional issues affecting public health, economic vitality, security, and the quality of life for millions of people residing in the Lake Erie basin. TMACOG members recognize that collaborative and ongoing work needs to be done at the local, state, and federal levels to combat algal blooms and other water quality issues plaguing the lake. The recommendations within the Agenda for Lake Erie Policy Briefs lay out policy and funding recommendations that will help to ensure that current and future generations can benefit from Lake Erie and its tributaries as sources for fishing, swimming, safe drinking water, and a healthy tourism industry, all supported by a diverse ecosystem.

This policy agenda – written and approved by TMACOG members – establishes the foundation for regional advocacy on behalf of Lake Erie and local streams. It also recognizes the important role local governments play in providing water and sewer services and managing stormwater as well as the role state government plays in regulating these services. It also supports collaboration with farmers and fishermen, urban and rural dwellers, and all people in the region working to restore Lake Erie and preserve the productive vitality of our farms. The policy agenda is the region's leaders speaking with a unified voice and will provide the framework for engaging state and federal legislators and regulating agencies.

The Agenda will be a practical tool for TMACOG members and staff. We anticipate using language in the Agenda for letters of support, to respond to public information requests, and for background for press materials. It will establish the policy background for formal comments on proposed rules and regulations, for drafting official resolutions, and for requesting action from legislators or regulatory agencies.

This Agenda will be a living document, responding to the conditions of Lake Erie and our waterways, and we anticipate it to reflect continual improvement and growing value.

Carol Contrada
Chair
TMACOG Water Quality Council
Lucas County Commissioner

Tim W. Brown
President
Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments