

TMACOG Resolution Supports Efforts to Limit Great Lakes Water Withdrawals

The eight Great Lakes states and two Canadian provinces have several agreements in place to protect water within the Great Lakes basin and the St. Lawrence River basin. One important agreement concerns water withdrawals from the Great Lakes. There has been concern that great quantities of fresh water could be withdrawn from the lakes and shipped or piped to drier parts of North America or even to other continents.

The Great Lakes Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (called the Annex), is an agreement among the Great Lakes states and provinces that would establish standards for water withdrawals within the Great Lakes basin. The Annex would prohibit diversion of water out of the Great Lakes basin, with limited exceptions. It would also require states to establish water conservation programs based on regional goals and objectives.

All 10 governments participated in crafting these rules and have signed their agreement. Legislation is now working its way through the eight states and will then have to be ratified by Congress. The Canadian provinces will amend their existing statutes. The same legislation must ultimately be passed by all states. A TMACOG resolution states that the Annex language as written would protect, conserve, restore and improve the water resources of the Great Lakes basin for future generations. It asks that the state and federal legislation be adopted, while also ensuring that the agreement does not impose unnecessarily rigid water use restrictions for municipal water supplies.

To read the resolution, click on the What's Hot button on www.tmacog.org. Full text of the Great Lakes Basin Water Resources Compact is available on the Internet or from TMACOG staff. Contact Kurt Erichsen at 419.241.9155, ext. 126, or kurt@tmacog.org.



The eight Great Lakes states in the Great Lakes Basin Water Resources Compact are Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. The two Canadian provinces are Ontario and Quebec.

inside...

Feature	1
Great Lakes Water Compact	
Focal Points	2-5
Commuter Services	2
Donate Your Car to TMACOG	
Transportation	3
More Efficient TARTA Buses	
Safe Routes to School	
Ohio Diesel Emissions Grant	
The Fastest Train in the World	
Environment	4-5
Home Sewage Replacement Grants	
Portage River Council Report	
Ottawa River Habitat Plan Complete	
208 Plan Review Requested	
Maumee Bay State Park Report	
News Files	6-7
TMACOG Election of Leadership	
HB9 Training Offered	
Solid Waste Building is Green	
Construction	
2008 Directory of Public Officials	
Member Highlight	6
Village of Luckey	
Perspectives	7
Letter from the Chair	
Eventline	
March & April events	

Focal Points ...

COMMUTER SERVICES

Northwest Ohio CommuterLINK Update

As of February 1, 2008

Daily Adult Riders	18
Children Transported Daily	17
Number of Daycares Used	10
Employers	14
Employer Locations	14
TARTA routes affected	4

NOTE: CommuterLINK serves people who cannot use public transportation due to their work schedule, child care location(s), or need to access areas outside the public transit area.

Northwest Ohio CommuterLINK

----- Connecting people to jobs -----

A PROGRAM OF TMACOG

Donations of Cars and Trucks Now Accepted at TMACOG

TMACOG is now accepting donations of vehicles to support the work of the Commuter Services department. Donation of a vehicle you no longer need will directly benefit low-income working families in Lucas County.

TMACOG can accept donations of any type of vehicle: cars, vans, SUVs, pickup trucks, even boats and motorcycles. The donations will support the Commuter Services department which manages the Car Buy and CommuterLINK programs. People who make donations are also eligible for tax deductions.



TMACOG began the Car Buy program in 2001 because it became clear that public transit cannot always serve the transportation needs of a low-income family that has a parent working and children in daycare or school. To help qualified people get to work or accept work at locations or times when buses don't run, TMACOG helps participants purchase a roadworthy used car. At the start of the 12-month program, participants get possession of a vehicle and then pay \$150 each month. At the end of 12 months, they take title to their vehicle. Participants also take classes in car maintenance, household budgeting, and defensive driving. More than 465 cars have been delivered to families since the program began.

Many people now in the Car Buy program have also benefited from CommuterLINK, another TMACOG commuter program. CommuterLINK provides short-term transportation help to people getting established in a job. To be eligible, participants must be working 30 hours a week at a job not accessible by TARTA, and receiving Ohio Works First benefits.

To donate a vehicle, call Russ Stasiak: 419.241.9155 ext. 158, or stasiak@tmacog.org. TMACOG will take it from there, arranging to tow your car if necessary, and handling all the paperwork. For more information on the program, see www.tmacog.org/givetoledowheels.



NW Ohio CommuterLINK Car Buy Update

Car Buy Program January 1, 2001 - February 1, 2008

Cars Delivered	466
Cars Paid Off	357

Fiscal Year (6/30/07 - 2/1/08)

Cars Delivered	17
Cars Paid Off	21
Currently Making Payments	41

More Efficient TARTA Buses on the Way

The State of Ohio recently announced grants of \$5 million to replace transit vehicles around the state. Of that amount, TARTA received more than 20 percent or \$1,040,000. The grant will be used to replace four 16-year-old buses with four brand new 35-foot buses that will run on B20 bio-diesel. Jim Gee, general manager of TARTA, says that with the more fuel-efficient diesel engines the new buses will reduce maintenance costs, improve air quality, and improve service to TARTA customers.

Safe Routes to School Funds Distributed in Northwest Ohio

Safe Routes to School is a federal program funded for the first time in 2008. Through the new program, the Ohio Department of Transportation is awarding \$2.6 million to 15 communities for infrastructure projects including pedestrian crossing signals, sidewalks, pedestrian bridges, and improved signage. In northwest Ohio, communities receiving funds for infrastructure projects are Swanton, Oregon, and Montpelier. The Village of Whitehouse will receive \$224,000 to construct a pedestrian bridge and sidewalks. Some funds are also being directed to communities for development of a School Travel Plan, a required outline of how communities will encourage safe school commute by means other than car or bus. Groups receiving funds to develop the plans include Waterville, Napoleon, Haskins, German and Clinton townships, Delta, Wauseon, Perrysburg, and the Henry County Health Department.

Safe Routes to School is designed to make walking or riding a bike to school a safe and normal routine for children again. In 1969, about half of all students walked or rode a bike to school. In 2007, more than 85% percent of children arrived at school in private automobiles.

Ohio Diesel Emissions Reduction Grants

The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) solicited applications for Diesel Emissions Reduction Grants (DERG) this winter and is expected to announce another round of applications in the spring. The DERG program is designed to reduce diesel emissions in areas that are designated non-attainment or maintenance counties for air quality. Lucas and Wood counties are designated as maintenance areas. Both public and private groups can apply for the grants. Public diesel fleets include school buses, mass transit buses, trash haulers, and government fleets. Examples of private fleets are long and short haul trucks, switcher locomotives, and non-road construction equipment. More details are available at www.odod.state.oh.us/diesel-emissions/.



Get the Feel for the "Fastest Train in the World"

The latest innovations in very high speed passenger train travel will be the focus of a dynamic presentation Thursday, March 27 at 11:45 a.m. at the Toledo Club. TMACOG and the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, in partnership with the Indiana High Speed Rail Association, are inviting elected officials and business leaders to a presentation that will simulate the experience of riding the rails at more than 360 miles per hour. Presenter Charles R. Wochele represents Alstom Transport, equipment manufacturers of the French TGV high speed train. His presentation will include a discussion of the economic benefits of fast train travel. The cost is \$20 (includes lunch) and reservations are required. Contact Diane Reamer-Evans at 419.241.9155 ext. 117, or evans@tmacog.org.



Homeowners in Portage River Watershed Still Eligible for Septic System Funds

Homeowners in targeted areas of Hancock, Ottawa, Sandusky and Wood counties are still eligible for funding that would help pay for failed septic systems. Careful management by county health departments has stretched a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to as many as a dozen more replacements than had originally been budgeted for.

Priority will be given to systems that have clearly failed, with visible sewage discharge to the Portage River or its tributaries. Installations must be completed by June 30, 2008, when the grant program concludes.

To apply for grant funds, homeowners should contact their county health departments:

- Hancock County Health Department, Lindsay Summit: 419.424.7869
- Ottawa County Health Department, Scott Young: 419.734.6800
- Sandusky County Health Department, Mary Dennis: 419.334.6372
- Wood County Health Department, Jerry Bingham: 419.352.8402

Homeowners can also download the application from the TMA-COG website: www.tmacog.org. This project is for residential systems only, not for businesses or institutions. It will not pay for sewer taps, or for systems that discharge off-lot.



Portage River tributary showing outfall.

Update of Portage River Basin Council Activities

New leadership was elected at the January meeting of the Portage River Basin Council. Larry Sorrells, council member of the City of Bowling Green, was elected chair and Virginia Park, Bay Township trustee and Ottawa County recorder, was elected vice chair. Members of the council extended thanks and appreciation to Tom Brown, former mayor of Port Clinton and retiring chair of the council. The next meeting of the Portage River Basin Council will be Thursday, April 17 at the West Millgrove Fire Station. Contact Elaine Moebius at 419.241.9155 ext. 139 or moebius@tmacog.org.



Retiring Chair, Tom Brown.

A resolution concerning logjam removal on the Portage will be considered at the next meeting of the entire Environmental Council Thursday, March 27, 1:30 p.m. at TMA-COG. Speakers have been invited to that meeting to represent all sides of the issue. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Ottawa River Habitat Inventory

Consultants who have been evaluating property along the Ottawa River for potential for remediation will complete their research in March. Mannik & Smith Group and the project management team first identified 10 areas with restoration potential as wetlands or riparian habitat. That list was narrowed to four sites and a conceptual habitat restoration plan was developed for each. The goal of the work is to establish a bank of land that will be ready for remediation when funds become available. Preliminary research and aerial maps are posted on the Ottawa River page of www.tmacog.org.



Region-wide Review of 208 Plan Underway

All local governments that own sanitary sewers or wastewater treatment plants in TMACOG's region are asked to review their portions of the 208 Plan by March 27. The plan is due for a major update. After approval by the TMACOG Board of Trustees, it will be submitted for certification to the Governors of Ohio and Michigan. Send comments to Kurt Erichsen at 419.241.9155 ext. 126 or kurt@tmacog.org.

The 208 Plan is the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan for Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Wood counties in Ohio; and Bedford, Erie, and Whiteford townships of Monroe County, Michigan. It is our region's plan for how local governments will work together to implement the federal Clean Water Act. While the plan is updated frequently in response to anticipated development or when communities invest in new treatment facilities, this year TMACOG is asking that all the cooperating parties do a complete review.

The Clean Water Act calls for local jurisdictions and agencies to carry out specific roles in protecting water quality. For instance, a community that owns a sewage treatment plant is required to operate that facility and meet discharge permits set by its EPA permit. Agencies with specific responsibilities in implementing the Clean Water Act are called Designated Management Agencies, or DMAs. In our region, DMAs are cities, townships, and villages, as well as county health departments and soil and water conservation districts. The 208 Plan describes Facility Planning Areas (FPAs) which are practical operating areas that may fall under more than one DMA. Current materials are posted on the TMACOG website.

- Draft updates to the 208 plan chapters are at: www.tmacog.org/Environment/208%20New%20Drafts/208WaterManPlan_B.htm
- Individual Facility Planning Areas (FPAs) are defined at: www.tmacog.org/Environment/208%20Individual%20FPAs/208WaterManPlan_C.htm
- Each FPA description includes: DMA responsibilities, map of FPA boundaries, population forecasts, present wastewater facilities and service areas, and future needs for wastewater improvements, including costs and schedule

Maumee Bay State Park Wetland Study Complete

Consultants Hull & Associates have submitted their final report on potential designs for treatment wetlands at Maumee Bay State Park. The report is posted on the Environment page at www.tmacog.org.

Wetlands have been proposed as a way to capture and treat bacteria that has been contaminating the Lake Erie beaches at the park leading to posted warnings. Studies show that *E.coli* tends to be flushed out of Berger Ditch into the park following rains. Of three wetland alternatives initially proposed, the consultants focused on the one that would be effective in cases of a rare heavy downpour or more frequent showers. The preferred alternative would include a multi-stage channel configuration in the upstream area on City of Oregon property and in the downstream area on the Maumee Bay State Park property. In both locations, the channel would incorporate multiple floodplains with wetland components. Operation and maintenance costs of the proposed plan are minimal, limited to periodic channel maintenance.

The next steps to implementing this project start with finding funding to pay for additional monitoring and modeling, final design, and construction. Costs to complete the plan are estimated at \$2.96 million. If funding is secured during 2008 and 2009, construction may be completed by 2012.

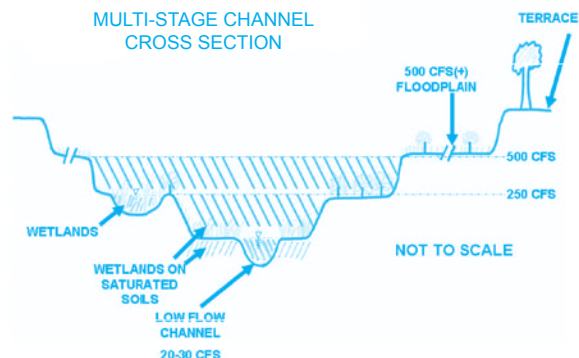


Illustration: Hull & Associates, Inc.,
"Maumee Bay State Park Wetland Restoration Project
Implementation Plan," December, 2007

Village of Luckey

The Village of Luckey is in the Portage River watershed in a lightly populated area of eastern Wood County. The .68-square mile that makes up Luckey is the only incorporated village in Troy Township.

Records show that Luckey was first surveyed in 1820 and settlement began around 1833. It has always been a small village although in 1881 it included a hotel, a stove factory, sawmill and factory and had plans for two saloons, seven houses and a limestone quarry. About 950 people now live in the village limits. Luckey Elementary Schools serves grades K-5, about 190 students. Older students attend Eastwood Local Schools. Most non-agricultural workers commute to Bowling Green or Toledo for work.

Residents get their water supply from private wells and are in the middle of upgrading their water treatment system. While residents had been using home septic systems, the community accepted a sewer ordinance in December. Residents have until November to tap into the new wastewater system.

The newly elected mayor of Luckey is Belinda M. Brooks. Ms. Brooks is raising her three children in the village and also moved her business there. In her role as mayor, she attended her first TMACOG general assembly in January. "It is obvious from the attendance at the Winter General Assembly that the members realize what a resource TMACOG can be to their organizations," she said. "It is nice to share similar concerns and ideas with other villages."

News Files...

New TMACOG Leadership Elected at Winter General Assembly

Members of TMACOG elected new leadership at the group's annual business meeting and general assembly Tuesday, January 29.



Judge Andy Devine administers the oath of office to Tina Skeldon Wozniak, Ted Rutherford, and John Quinn (from left).


Tina Skeldon Wozniak was elected chair of TMACOG, succeeding Barbara Sears who was recently appointed to the Ohio state legislature. Skeldon Wozniak is president of the Board of Lucas County Commissioners where she has served since 2002, as president since 2005. She was vice chair of TMACOG in 2007 and chaired TMACOG's Commuter Services Council in 2006 and 2007.

Theodore Rutherford, mayor of the Village of Green Springs, was elected vice chair and John Quinn, mayor of the City of Bowling Green, was elected second vice chair. Mayor Rutherford serves on TMACOG's Leadership Development Committee and was TMACOG's second vice chair in 2007. Mayor Quinn was part of the 2035 Plan Task Force that developed our region's long range transportation plan.

H.B. 9 Training Offered at Owens Community College March 15

Ohio's House Bill 9 requires that all elected officials or their designee attend three hours of training regarding their duties under Ohio's Sunshine Laws. This law applies to township trustees, school board members, county commissioners, and all other elected officials or those appointed to elected office. Officials must attend one training session for each elected term.

As a service to members and other elected officials in northwest Ohio, TMACOG is sponsoring a H.B. 9 Certified Training Seminar Saturday, March 15 at Owens Community College. To register, go to www.ag.state.oh.us/publicrecords/training.asp and look for the training session calendar, or call the Attorney General's Help Center at 1-877-AG-4-OHIO.



Proposed Tri-county Solid Waste Building a Model of Environmental Design

Tim Wasserman, Director

Ottawa-Sandusky-Seneca Solid Waste District

The Board of Directors of the Ottawa-Sandusky-Seneca Joint Solid Waste Management District unanimously voted to proceed with design of a new administration/maintenance building incorporating project elements to allow LEED Certification of the building. The building as proposed will be located in Fremont on N. Fifth Street at the southeast corner of U.S. 6 and the Rt. 20 Bypass.

Carl Koebel, president of the Board of Directors, said, "The new building should be the first project in Ottawa, Sandusky, or Seneca counties that will be LEED Certified." LEED Certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a Green Building Rating System™ developed by the U.S. Green Building Council to encourage and accelerate global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices.

The district is partnering with Poggemeyer Design Group on plans for the new structure. The proposed 6,200 sq.ft. building will provide administration and maintenance facilities for the OSS Joint Solid Waste Management District. The building and site will also be an educational tool to demonstrate "green" technology, including the use of recycled materials, innovative energy-saving building systems, and the use of alternative energy sources.

The OSS Joint Solid Waste Management Districts promotes and encourages recycling and plans for responsible waste management in Ottawa, Sandusky, and Seneca Counties.

2008 Directory of Public Officials Available in March

TMACOG members will be receiving their copies of the newly updated 2008 Directory of Public Officials this month. This year's edition includes more websites and e-mails and more township officials. Members should have received a postcard asking if they would prefer a printed and bound directories, or CD versions. Please return the postcard and we will have directories mailed or dropped off to your offices. Directories are available for sale to non-members for \$150. Call Greg Gettum for more information: 419.241.9155 ext. 132 or gettum@tmacog.org.

Perspectives...

A letter from the Chair of TMACOG



Tina Skeldon Wozniak

First, let me say that I am honored to be the new Chair of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments. It goes without saying that, when people look for effective models of regional cooperation, the first place they go is TMACOG. As the em-

bodiment of our continued willingness to work together, TMACOG serves as the premier regional catalyst for transportation and infrastructure coordination, and environmentally responsible solutions to the challenges facing our region. For 40 years now, TMACOG has sought innovative solutions to regional challenges. But I believe it's not enough.

No matter how good we are, we are still failing if we don't take our leadership to the next level. We are still losing as a region to communities who are doing better and doing more. We're ideally positioned to benefit from the creation of an intermodal transportation hub. Our region is also at the cutting edge of the emerging alternative energy industry. This industry has the potential to transform our economy into one ideally positioned for the 21st Century.

Over the past several years, I've spoken with the leaders of the numerous cities, villages, counties, and townships within the council of governments and each of you have demonstrated a desire to work together to overcome the challenges facing our region. To make this a reality, we must erase the imaginary political lines that divide us, so we can deliver for our businesses, our taxpayers, our residents, and our future.

To respond to this letter, email perspectives@tmacog.org





Our Vision...

TMACOG will be the governmental partner of choice to coordinate regional assets, opportunities, and challenges.

The Big Picture is published by TMACOG

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Tina Skeldon Wozniak, President
Board of Lucas County
Commissioners

Vice Chair

Ted Rutherford, Mayor
Village of Green Springs

2nd Vice Chair

John Quinn, Mayor
City of Bowling Green

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Eventline...

March 2008

Wednesday, March 5
Transportation Council
Time: 3 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Warren Henry, ext. 129

Thursday, March 6
FEMA Floodplain Management Committee
Time: 10 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Kurt Erichsen, ext. 126

Stormwater Coalition
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Kurt Erichsen, ext. 126

Wabash Cannonball Coordinating Committee
Time: 3 p.m.
Location: Maumee Municipal Building
Contact: Diane Reamer-Evans, ext. 117

Monday, March 10
Car Buy Review Committee
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Library
Contact: Tiffany Banks, ext. 157

Commuter Services Council
Time: noon
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: David Gedeon, ext. 125

Membership/Communications Committee
Time: 4 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Greg Gettum, ext. 132

Wednesday, March 12
Stormwater Action Group
Time: 10 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Kurt Erichsen, ext. 126

Thursday, March 13
Swan Creek Watershed Pilot
Time: 9 a.m.
Location: Toledo Express Airport
Contact: Matt Horvat, ext. 123

Friday, March 14
Leadership Development Committee
Time: 9 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Library
Contact: Tony Reams, ext. 179

Wednesday, March 19
Air Quality Committee
Time: 8 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: David Gedeon, ext. 125

Executive Committee
Time: noon
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Tony Reams, ext. 179

Board of Trustees
Time: 2 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Tony Reams, ext. 179

Monday, March 24
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Committee
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Kent Gardam, ext. 116

Tuesday, March 25
Freight Committee
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Patrick Dennis, ext. 115

Wednesday, March 26
System Performance and Monitoring Committee
Time: 2 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Kent Gardam, ext. 116

Thursday, March 27
Environmental Council
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Kurt Erichsen, ext. 126

"Fastest Train in the World" High Speed Rail Presentation and Luncheon (reservations required)
Time: 11:45 a.m.
Location: The Toledo Club
Contact: Diane Reamer-Evans, ext. 117

April 2008

Wednesday, April 2
Transportation Council
Time: 3 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Warren Henry, ext. 129

Wednesday, April 9
Stormwater Action Group
Time: 10 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Kurt Erichsen, ext. 126

Friday, April 11
Leadership Development Committee
Time: 9 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Library
Contact: Tony Reams, ext. 179

Monday, April 14
Car Buy Review Committee
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Library
Contact: Tiffany Banks, ext. 157

Membership Committee
Time: 4 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Library
Contact: Greg Gettum, ext. 132

Tuesday, April 15
Transportation Planning Committee
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Diane Reamer-Evans, ext. 117

Pedestrian & Bikeways Committee
Time: 8 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Kent Gardam, ext. 116

Transportation Enhancement Committee
Time: 10 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Diane Reamer-Evans, ext. 117

Wednesday, April 16
Air Quality Committee
Time: 8 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: David Gedeon, ext. 125

Executive Committee
Time: noon
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Tony Reams, ext. 179

Thursday, April 17
Portage River Basin Council
Time: 2 p.m.
Location: West Millgrove Fire Station
Contact: Elaine Moebius, ext. 139

Tuesday, April 22
Freight Steering Committee
Time: 10 a.m.
Location: Transportation Conference Room
Contact: Patrick Dennis, ext. 115

Thursday, April 23
Communications Committee
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location: Mud Hens Stadium Fifth Third Field
Contact: Peggy Ricard, ext. 105

Monday, April 28
Passenger Rail Committee
Time: 10 a.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Diane Reamer-Evans, ext. 117

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Committee
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: TMACOG Boardroom
Contact: Kent Gardam, ext. 116

TMACOG Phone: 419.241.9155

