

TMACOG WOLF CREEK COMMITTEE

Date: August 21, 2009 Place: UT Lake Erie Center

Present: Pat Bacon (Northwood), Scott Denham (ODNR), Daryl Dwyer (UT); Kurt Erichsen (TMACOG), Brian Miller (Lucas County Engineer's Office), Bill Petruzzi (Hull), Paul Roman (Oregon), Pam Struffolino (UT),

Participated by speaker phone: Amie Brady (USGS), Hugh Crowell (Hull)

Wolf Creek Committee Operating Procedures

After welcome and introductions, Kurt Erichsen introduced the proposed new operating procedures. He explained that this committee is reconstituted from the Maumee Bay Bacteria Task Force, originally appointed on an ad hoc basis by then Lucas County Commissioner Mark Pietrykowski. These new operating procedures will clarify who the voting members of the committee are; they will also focus the group on the Wolf Creek watershed, which has been identified as the principal source of bacteria impacting the Lake Erie beaches at Maumee Bay State Park. After approval by this group, the operating procedures go to the TMACOG Environmental Council on 9/24 for review and then the Executive Committee for action on 10/21.

Paul Roman requested that drainage be added to the mission and goals of the committee in Article II. Upon discussion, the following modified text was developed for Article II:

§1 Mission - ... water quality and drainage of the watershed, specifically to provide safe water for human use and aquatic life, both drainage and recreation and to promote coastal and riparian habitat

§ Goals - ... remove pollutants, improve drainage, restore wetlands and floodplains within the watershed.

Paul also recommended adding the Lucas SWCD as a voting member of the committee.

Brian Miller moved approval of operating procedures with revisions to Article II and addition of Lucas SWCD; Paul Roman seconded. Motion carried. *[On returning to the office and editing the mission statement, I found it disjointed and repetitive. I condensed it to remove the repetitions and improve clarity, while retaining the points the committee wanted. I also corrected the punctuation as Dr Dwyer suggested - ke]*

Wolf Creek Riparian Corridor

Paul outlined the ODNR grant for the Wolf Creek Riparian Corridor project. Council approved it on August 10th, and Oregon is processing the contract for submission to ODNR. Formal work cannot begin until both Oregon and ODNR have signed it.

Oregon has made preliminary contact with the two land owners from whom property would be purchased: about 4.5 acres from Lorraine Crapsey in Oregon and 1.0 acre from Charles McGarry in Jerusalem Township. The request will be for 200' along Wolf Creek from Corduroy to North Curtice Roads; the City of Oregon

already owns part of this property. ODNR has stated that they do not wish for use of eminent domain for acquisition. Paul stated that the City will negotiate, but does intend to use eminent domain.

Task 1 of the ODNR grant will be property acquisition. Task 2 will be to prepare a restoration plan for this segment of the creek. Paul stated the general concept was for a multi-stage channel leaving the present creek bed unmodified. Corridor restoration for this section of Wolf Creek would fulfill the concept of the sedimentation area recommended adjacent to the Oregon water treatment plant in the Hull report of 2008.

Hugh Crowell added that a multi-stage channel can help control pathogens, and both settle sediment and facilitate its removal from the floodplain. Paul said that an offline sedimentation basin may be needed as well: ideally it should flow by gravity; but if that's not possible, a siphon, or pumps operated by solar or wind power may work. The preliminary restoration plan should establish goals for the restoration and its constraints including weather, gravity flow, and seiche impacts. Daryl Dwyer said that sunlight penetrating water in a multi-stage channel would probably not be sufficient to kill pathogens for the purpose of protecting the beaches; he recommended subsurface flow wetlands. Kurt noted that a function of the sedimentation basin would be to remove sediment to protect a wetland system downstream from sediment overload. After discussion, consensus was that the restoration plan under this grant for North Curtice - Corduroy would likely be based on a multi-stage channel for conveyance, and may include sedimentation and/or wetlands for sediment removal and pathogen control. Development of the restoration plan will come out of discussion with this committee.

The time frame for the ODNR grant is 7/1/09 through 9/30/10; a contract amendment with ODNR will be required for an extension beyond this closing date. Daryl raised a concern over this schedule: UT currently has two years of data for Wolf Creek, and under a new grant will get two more. His concern was that restoration designs should be based on full data. Paul replied that the restoration plan will be conceptual; after its completion we would need to secure funding for design and construction, and required permits, all of which will probably take several years.

UT Lake Erie Center Research

Dr Daryl Dwyer described current and planned research at Maumee Bay State Park and the Stranahan Arboretum. There are two monitoring stations: on Wolf Creek at Seaman and on Berger Ditch at the entrance to Maumee Bay State Park. They sample every 8 hours with parameters including flow, backflow, total suspended solids, *E. coli*, phosphorus, turbidity, and coliphage. They are also monitoring three of the Lake Erie beach coves at Maumee Bay State Park. Research at the arboretum concerns subsurface flow wetland systems for control of pathogens. UT Lake Erie Center has recently been awarded a new grant that includes several subcontracts: to Hull & Associates for modeling; to USGS for stream monitoring; to TMACOG for coordination and public involvement.

Paul Roman noted that the City of Oregon has sampled a number of streams quarterly for the past six years under its Stormwater Phase II NPDES permit. Sampling includes several points on Wolf Creek, general at bridges; Sampling is conducted at the same sites that Bob Martin tested several years ago.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Kurt summarized the GLRI as presently understood. In short, it is proposed funding to implement the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. The Administration and the House have set its funding at \$475M for FY '10; a Senator committee was considering \$400M. It presently appears that funding may be channeled through

60 programs in 16 different federal agencies. RFPs are planned for late August and due in October, in advance of congress acting on appropriations. The next regional GLRI meeting will be at TMACOG 8/25/09 @ 1 PM.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Friday October 23rd at 10 AM at the UT Lake Erie Center.

Kurt urged all committee members to get him letters of appointment. He will make that request of proposed members not present.

Adjourned.