

# **Areawide Water Quality Management Plan Chapter 2**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES**

### **Executive Summary**

#### **Water Quality Management Policies**

The *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* describes the responsibilities of the region's many local governments in carrying out specific aspects of the Clean Water Act. Local governments protect the environment and public health through municipal sewerage services, and prevent non-point source pollution. These local actions protect water quality by addressing pollution sources. More broadly, however, there are many other environmental issues which impact the interests of local governments and the region as a whole.

This chapter serves four purposes:

1. Discuss the state and federal law, and international Great Lakes agreements that are at the base of our environmental policies
2. Establish how TMACOG's environmental policies should be applied by staff, members, and TMACOG committees
3. Codify TMACOG's environmental policy as a series of goal statements
4. Identify TMACOG documents that are incorporated by reference, and documents of other stakeholders are recognized as compatible plans, whose goals TMACOG supports

#### **Water Quality Goals**

Environmental quality standards and goals are defined by many federal, state, and local laws. There are a few laws, policies, and agreements that fundamentally set policy. Chapter 2 summarizes them:

- The Clean Water Act
- The Six "Free-Froms," in the Ohio Administrative Code
- The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and the "beneficial use impairments" which set restoration standards for the Remedial Action Plans, such as the Maumee River RAP.

#### **Use of Policies**

The purpose of TMACOG Environmental policies is to:

- Set goals for the TMACOG its committees.
- Set goals for projects and funding applications to be conducted by TMACOG its committees
- Support projects and funding applications affecting the region
- Support financial assistance requests through the "A-95" Regional Clearinghouse Review Process.
- Support federal, state, and local legislation.

#### **Policy and Goal Statements**

The chapter sets TMACOG policies:

- (1) Support public wastewater treatment infrastructure
- (2) Reduce Eutrophication and Nutrient Loadings
- (3) Reduce Sediment Loading and Erosion
- (4) Disposal/Reuse/Reduction of Maumee River Channel Dredged Material
- (5) Support Stormwater Management
- (6) Protect Natural Habitat
- (7) Support Healthy Fish and Wildlife Communities
- (8) Reduce Pesticide Loadings to Lake Erie and its Tributaries
- (9) Eliminate Persistent Toxic Chemicals
- (10) Reduce Bacterial Contamination
- (11) Control invasive species and prevent introduction of additional invasive species

- (12) Support and conduct environmental education programs for both the general public and targeted groups
- (13) Support Beneficial Uses identified by Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement
- (14) Protect groundwater for a safe, reliable, and high quality source of potable water
- (15) Protect surface drinking water supplies through watershed programs such as Source Water and Assessment Protection (SWAPs) plans.
- (16) Support preparation of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDLs) assessments for watersheds of the region.
- (17) Support water quality monitoring and assessment to track progress in achieving these environmental policies.

incorporated by reference as part of the *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan* because the TMACOG Board of Trustees does not control them, and has not adopted them. These external documents are recognized as compatible with TMACOG's goals. These documents are also available at TMACOG.

## Supporting Documents

The chapter gives two lists of supporting documents:

1. Documents Incorporated into this Plan by Reference
2. Documents of other stakeholders are recognized as compatible plans, whose goals TMACOG supports

TMACOG documents include environmental studies and plans prepared by or for TMACOG committees. These documents are historically complete, covering TMACOG's environmental program since its inception. Obsolete documents have been omitted. The documents are available in the TMACOG library, either on paper or electronically. Websites are given where available. These documents are incorporated by reference as part of TMACOG's *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan*.

TMACOG works in partnership with many other agencies, committees, and stakeholders on environmental issues. Often TMACOG's partners produce documents and plans that support TMACOG's goals. These documents are not