

**TMACOG
ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL
MAY 26, 2011
MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Environmental Council was held on Thursday, May 26, 2011, in the Boardroom of TMACOG, Toledo, Ohio at 1:30 p.m. Those members in attendance are indicated on the Environmental Council Attendance Roster and the Guest Sign In sheet for the meeting. Round table introductions were made.

Call to Order– Mr. Ken Fallows, Chair of Council, and Lucas County Representative called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda:

A motion was made by Robert Pauley, Village of Oak Harbor to approve the minutes from March 24, 2011 Environmental Council meeting and the agenda for today's meeting. Jim Shaw, Lucas County, seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Reports from Environmental Committees-

Portage River Basin Council- Jim Rickenberg, Wood SWCD reported. A presentation was given on the Portage River TMDL results, followed by a question and answer session. Future funding the Portage River Coordinator position is pending. The current grant ends June 30, 2011, with no secure funding to continue the position.

Stormwater Coalition – Brian Miller, Lucas County Engineer's Office, reported on grants being submitted by the committee. In July, an OEEF grant, for outreach and education, will be submitted. Members were asked distribute to the general public the Stormwater Awareness Survey, available at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/tmacogwatersurvey>. Information from this survey is needed in order to submit a grant. The outcome of the LEPF grant submitted dealing with retrofits and BMP's will be awarded in June. On May 10, Lucas County adopted a Stormwater Utility for unincorporated areas covered by stormwater permits.

Air Quality- Karen Granata, Air Quality representative reported. Ozone season is underway with extensive marketing and gas cap testing. Messages regarding health advisories for ozone will begin at the end of the month.

Annual Work Plan – Kurt Erichsen summarized the FY 2012 Annual Work Plan for the Environmental Department. The Work Plan describes the programs, objectives, and goals for the department. The major change falls within the PRBC. Quarterly meetings were removed, as well as, the five sub-committees. A motion was made by Leslie Kohli, Springfield Township, to approve the Work Plan as presented. This was seconded by Jim Sass, Ottawa County. **Motion carried.**

PRESENTATION-

Nowcast System for E. coli Bacteria at Maumee Bay State Park Beaches

Amie M. G. Brady, U.S. Geological Survey, Ohio Water Science Center

Dr. Kris Barnwell – University of Toledo

Ohio Nowcast is a mathematical model used to predict water quality based on 2 or more years of data that provides a probability that beach waters will be unsafe for swimming due to high bacteria levels. The water quality parameters include turbidity, wind direction, and wave height because they have been shown to have a strong correlation with bacteria levels at the beaches. A model is run to predict bacteria levels based on these real-time data. The advisory information and model results are posted online at www.ohionowcast.info, which are updated daily. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

TMACOG “208” Areawide Water Quality Management Plan – 2011 Update –

Kurt Erichsen gave a powerpoint presentation on the “208” AWQMP. The presentation focused on each chapter and changes incurred. A motion was made by Jim Shaw, Lucas County, to adopt the 208 Plan, as presented. Mike Stoll, Northwest Water & Sewer District, seconded the motion. Motion carried. It was suggested the matrix of facility data might be included as a table. Kurt Erichsen will look into. The Plan was last certified by the State of Ohio in 2008. The 2010 version of the Plan was submitted for certification in June 2010, and the 2011 Plan update will also be submitted. The Plan will be 2 updates ahead of the state’s certification.

H.R. 1189 Clean Water Affordability Act of 2011- Mr. Erichsen presented the council with the H.R. 1189 bill introduced by Representative Latta, with the consideration by council for a resolution of support. The bill would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to assist municipalities that would experience a significant hardship raising the revenue necessary to finance projects and activities for the construction of wastewater treatment works, and for other purposes. After much discussion, a motion was made to further discuss H.R. 1189 at the next meeting, with clarification of a defined meaning of municipalities, among other items discussed. The motion was made by Robert Pauley, Village of Oak Harbor, and seconded by Mayor Ted Rutherford, Village of Green Springs. Motion carried.

TMACOG Staff Report: Kurt Erichsen reported on the ad-hoc committee regarding environmental funding. To date, there are 6 outstanding grant proposals submitted to GLRI, 319, LEPF, and GLC. If grants are not funded, the Portage River Basin Council will primarily be affected. As of June 30, 2011, the current Portage Watershed Coordinator grant ends. Continuation of the position depends on grant funding. Without a new grant, the PRBC will continue to exist on a much downscaled version.

NACEPT: Kurt Erichsen reported on the case studies for EPA’s National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology. EPA’s charge to NACEPT is to offer advice on technologies to help the agency address Environmental Justice and Vulnerable Populations issues. Mr. Erichsen is developing proposed case studies on: the Dorr-Smead Area Brownfields in Toledo, and Lake Erie Beach Contamination in Oregon, Ohio. The former was selected for inclusion in the NACEPT report, and addresses urban agriculture as a means of redevelopment. Mr. Erichsen will keep the council informed of progress.

Ohio EPA- Elizabeth Wick reported. On June 16, 2011 the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority and the Ohio Lake Erie Commission will host a Sediment Management Solutions forum for the Toledo Harbor. You must RSVP to this event online. Ms. Wick will forward information to Kurt Erichsen, and Kurt will distribute it to the TMACOG Environmental Council. Ms Wick also reported that three “319” nonpoint source grants were awarded in our area: Toledo Botanical Gardens, UT, and Olander Park. Additionally, the contact advisory on the Ottawa River has been lifted.

Comment: Mr. Ray Huber, Wood County, brought to the attention of the council a concern over proposed OEPA rules related to drainage, and how the wording squares with Ohio revised code sections 6111 (Water Pollution Control) and 6131 (Single County Ditches). Mr. Huber believed that the proposed rules would mark a conflict with Ohio drainage law. He would like to see clarity as to how a County Engineer can provide required drainage services without violating the proposed new regulations. Mr. Huber will organize a meeting of NW Ohio County Engineers. Brian Miller reported that his office had submitted comments on the proposed regulations to Ohio EPA.

Next meeting date set for July 28, 2011.

Chair, Ken Fallows called for public comment. Hearing none, meeting was adjourned.