

TMACOG
PORTAGE RIVER BASIN COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, April 21, 2011
Harris-Elmore Fire Station – Community Room - Elmore, OH

Call to Order/Welcome – Gordon Bowman-Village of Pemberville, PRBC Chair, began the meeting. Those in attendance are so noted on the sign-in sheet. Roundtable introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes- Dave Housholder, Portage Township Trustee, made a motion for approval of January 20, 2011 PRBC minutes, as well as the agenda for today's meeting. Brad Espen, Director of Environmental Health, Wood County Health Department seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Work Plan- Elaine Moebius presented council with a copy of the annual work plan. The work plan outlines objectives and goals for the upcoming year for the PRBC. A motion was made by Jim Rickenberg, Wood SWCD to approve the work plan as written for FY12. Motion was seconded by Brad Espen, Director of Environmental Health, Wood County Health Department, Motion carried.

Watershed Plan- Elaine Moebius gave a report on the status of the Watershed Plan. The Plan that was submitted to ODNR in December 2010 was not approved. The North Branch section of the Watershed Plan is being reviewed by Matt Adkins of ODNR. Will know by tomorrow, (April 22), if the section meets ODNR criteria. Once the standard template is established, it will serve as the basis for 8 additional HUCs. The agreement with ODNR is to complete Problem Statements and restoration plans for 9 out of the Portage River Basin's 18 HUCs. All work and approval of the Watershed Plan must be complete by June 30, 2011 – this is the grant ending date. The Watershed Coordinator position ends June 30, 2011 also – there is no further funding.

A GLRI grant was submitted for \$686,000 for cover crop best management practices and controlled drainage systems. The grant would include water sampling to document. The grant pool is very competitive – should know by next month if the grant was awarded to TMACOG.

The same GLRI grant project will be re-written into a 319 grant and submitted by May 13, 2011 for \$350,000. This grant does not involve any research or monitoring.

The Coastal Management Assistance Grant application submitted for the Portage River Canoe/Kayak Water Trail Access Project was not funded. Twenty-three grant applications for \$771,000 were submitted, with \$250,000 in funds available. This project ranked #17 (Tier 2). Two other grants were submitted by TMACOG also, and were not awarded. Will re-submit in October-November 2011; monies available for funding from watercraft license.

Presentation –

Elaine Moebius gave a presentation on the 2008 Portage River Watershed Survey and TMDL Results by Ohio EPA. Basic overview contained 581 square miles of the Watershed with streams equaling 1,401 miles. Data was collected in 2008 of 68 aquatic life sites; 86 recreation sites, 20 stream miles per site (on average), with 8.6 square miles of drainage area per site (about 4 sites per assessment unit). The study showed problem causes were sediment (35% of all sites), nutrients (18% of all sites), bacteria (88% of all sites), and low stream flow (12% of all sites). The source of the problems came from cropland runoff (34% of all sites, channelization (29% of all sites), and centralized waste water (6% of all sites). The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

Other Business:

Elaine Moebius will start emailing members of the PRBC interesting topics of free webinars that are available.

Future Meeting – The next meeting of the Portage River Basin Council will be held **July 21, 2011**. Ottawa County to host the July meeting. Possible sites are the SWCD Office or the Winous Point Club, near Port Clinton, OH.

Adjourn – Hearing no other business, and no public comment, Gordon Bowman, Chair; adjourned the meeting.

A special “THANK YOU” goes out to Mary Dennis, Director of Environmental Health, Sandusky Health Department, for taking minutes at today’s meeting