

**TMACOG**  
**PORTAGE RIVER BASIN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**October 21, 2010**  
**Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge – Oak Harbor, OH 43449**

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**Call to Order/Welcome** – Mr. Gordon Bowman, Chair, PRBC, and Pemberville President of Council began the meeting. Those in attendance are so noted on the sign-in sheet.

Round table introductions were made. Ottawa County commissioner, Jim Sass, and vice president of the PRBC council, gave a welcoming speech to attendees on the jewel of the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and the Lake Erie shoreline of Ottawa County in relation to our attendance of the Portage River Basin Council.

**Approval of Minutes**- Mr. Gordon Bowman, PRBC Chair and Pemberville President of Council entertained a motion for the minutes of the July 15, 2010 PRBC meeting be approved, as well as, the agenda for today's meeting. Mr. Dave Householder, Wood County citizen, motioned, Jim Rickenberg, Wood Soil & Water Conservation District seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Committees-**

**Education-** Carol Benner reported that student water quality testing is being conducted. Currently, testing is being done by Woodmore elementary and high schools, along with testing being completed by Danbury and Elmore schools. Water testing continues with various schools.

**Environmental Council** - Jim Rickenberg reported on the last EC meeting which was held on September 23, 2010, in the Grand Concourse of the TMACOG offices. Presentations were made on Lake Erie Algae Blooms by panelists. They included Dr. Thomas Bridgeman from the University of Toledo; John Walthall, City of Toledo, Collins Park Water Treatment Plant Manager; Cathy Miller, Interim President, Destination Toledo; and Gail Hesse, Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water. After all presentations, a question and answer session followed. There seems to be no exact finding as to the spike in blooms, a lot of theories, and this situation that must be continually monitored.

**Wastewater** – Ms. Elaine Moebius presented the committee a draft copy of the Rocky Ford HUC, which is part of the watershed plan. This HUC is a template as to what format and criteria will be included in all HUCs submitted. From the last review of the plan, soils and geology were added, along with biological and rare species. The plan will be submitted to ODNR by October 29<sup>th</sup> and their committee will review within 30 days. It is the hope the plan will be conditionally endorsed. This means the plan is approved with the condition that ODNR requirements stated will be revised/included in the document.

The question was raised about the document being viewable on the ODNR website once submitted. Ms. Moebius stated when the document is submitted for review on October 29<sup>th</sup>, she will make sure it is available on the TMACOG website, and will ask ODNR to download it to their website also.

**Guest Speaker – Presentation –**

Cindy Brooks, Sandusky River Watershed Specialist, gave a presentation on Decentralized Wastewater Systems. The presentation addressed the problems that are occurring and the challenges of small, rural communities. Ms. Brooks defined the difference between centralized

and decentralized systems, and explained to the committee the advantages of the decentralized system. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

**Other Business:**

Virginia Parks, informed the committee of the program for Ash Tree Removal/Replacement, available for Wood, Ottawa, Seneca, and Sandusky counties. All types of Ash Trees are eligible for this program. For further information, contact Stephanie Miller, of the Division of Forestry, in Fremont.

Gene Steele informed the council of tomato paste that has been discharged into the Portage River. The EPA was notified, and it was found the valves were open that should not have been. Ms. Steele would like to know the procedure for EPA to fix the problem and what is the chain of command to solve the problem.? Could this be something the council could look into?

Mr. Householder asked that a comprehensive quarterly attendee list be developed. It would be nice to see who regularly attends the meetings.

**Future Meeting** – The next meeting of the Portage River Basin Council will be held ***January 20, 2011 at the Pemberville Library, in Pemberville, OH.***

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