

TMACOG WOLF CREEK COMMITTEE

Date: August 12, 2010..... Place: UT Lake Erie Center
Present: Lucas County: Brian Miller; Lucas SWCD: DJ Mears; Hull: Keith Carr; ODNR: Scott Denham; Oregon: Don Nelson, Paul Roman UT Lake Erie Center: Daryl Dwyer, Pam Struffolino; Wood County Health Department: Jerry Bingham; TMACOG: Kurt Erichsen

UT Lake Erie Center Research

Pam presented an update on UT Lake Erie Center's monitoring and data work on Wolf Creek, Berger Ditch, and Maumee Bay nearshore areas. The main effort is in using two stream gauges to measure storm event flows for development of hydrographs and calculate pollutant loadings. The Wolf Creek gauge is operating correctly, but the Berger Ditch gauge is not. UT is working with USGS to get the Berger Ditch gauge fixed; meanwhile, Lake Erie Center will not meet its goal of two years' data this year.

Wolf Creek Riparian Corridor

Paul reported that Oregon is getting an appraisal of property along Wolf Creek in Oregon for potential acquisition. The intended purpose of the acquisition is to reserve riparian corridor for sediment capture ponds and wetlands to control bacterial loadings from the watershed. After completion of the appraisal, the City will make an offer to the property owner in September, and begin negotiations. By the end of October, Oregon should know whether it will be possible acquire the property. Oregon will not use eminent domain in this acquisition.

Oregon has formally requested a grant extension from ODNR for the property acquisition and restoration plan, to 12/31/10.

Wolf Creek Restoration Plan

Kurt outlined the restoration plan status. Since the last full committee meeting, there have been project meetings for Maumee Bay State Park and Oregon. Based on those meetings, wetland design concepts were developed and added to the plan. Kurt noted that there was consensus on for the site ideas at Maumee Bay State Park, but wanted to discuss the Oregon site and comments from with this committee before incorporating them.

The committee agreed to include Hull's proposed concept for the Oregon site. It includes two sedimentation ponds and additional areas of expanded floodplain. The sedimentation ponds should be shown as deeper than the stream profile: ponds should be about 10 feet deep to control vegetation and provide sediment capacity. In this area, bedrock is probably 20-30 feet deep. The side slopes should be 3:1 or shallower so that fencing will not be required. Oregon will need a future Wolf Creek crossing site for maintenance equipment, which does not need to be included in the current plan. The likely site would be close to the boundary between parcels 4440184 and 4440187.

Paul discussed potential means of preserving property through conservation easement versus outright purchase. He raised concerns that the scope called for future establishment of wetlands on the property;

however, our plan calls for construction of sedimentation ponds to help remove and control bacteria. In order for the ponds to retain their function, it will be necessary to remove accumulated sediment from them. To be able to dredge the ponds, they cannot develop into wetlands. On discussion with the committee: 1) we are proposing a wetlands system which includes the sites on Wolf Creek and at Maumee Bay State Park; the sedimentation ponds are part of the system and their function is to protect downstream wetlands from sedimentation. 2) The Wolf Creek site does include sedimentation ponds, but also includes expanded floodplains that will be wetlands.

Kurt asked for discussion of how to divide the wetland system phases. The main reason for constructing the system in phases is availability of funding. He noted that cost figures will be needed for each phase in the restoration plan. The following phases were agreed to:

- Lower Berger Ditch stream restoration and erosion control — each of the three segments could be individual projects if needed
- Maumee Bay State Park terraced wetland system — will be a large project, but there is no viable way to break it into phases
- Oregon Wolf Creek Riparian Corridor — upstream area including the sedimentation ponds
- Oregon Wolf Creek Riparian Corridor — downstream area with expanded floodplains
- Hydraulic modeling, design, and permitting would be a significant part of each of these projects. It would be logical and cost effective to do this work for the entire system, but funding it could be difficult. Most grants available would support construction; they may not support design and modeling with construction to be done at a later date under separate funding.

Daryl Dwyer raised the question of lead agency for project(s). He said that UT may be interested in fulfilling this role. But for UT to take on this role, it would be necessary to have a formal agreement; the question is who should be the point of entry to begin discussion. Scott Denham agreed to make calls to ODNR's central office to find an appropriate contact. Paul Roman said Oregon would have no objection to this arrangement.

Kurt asked for advice about maintenance of the sediment ponds. Brian noted that a comparable case would be a pond on Hill Ditch in Toledo Botanical Garden: the stream flows through the lake, and after 20 years it is silted in. The proposed Wolf Creek pond would be offline, and therefore have a longer life. He advised estimating the dredge requirement as 20 years. For cost: he advised \$4/cy as a conservative estimate.

Daryl did not have figures for subsurface flow clogging over time. He suggested that the best approach would be to design the terrace vegetation to capture fine sediments.

Restoration Plan Public Meeting

Kurt said that the ODNR grant scope calls for us to hold a public meeting for the restoration plan while it is draft. The group decides on late October or early November for a date. Kurt will discuss with Scott whether we can hold it at the lodge at Maumee Bay State Park. Paul said that Oregon would help with publicity.

Public Comments

No public comments were presented.

Next Steps

- Set time, place, and date for public meeting; prepare agenda and publicity materials
- Kurt will continue work on the restoration plan
- Add restoration approaches discussed at this meeting for the Oregon site
- Add discussion of project phases, and cost tables
- Add further detail about maintenance and costs
- Scott will inquire through ODNR administration on potential for UT serving as lead agency
- Next meeting: October 18 2010, 2 PM, Lake Erie Center.

Adjourned.