

# **TMACOG**

## **WOLF CREEK COMMITTEE**

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Date: September 9, 2011 ..... Place: UT Lake Erie Center  
**Present:** Lucas County: Brian Miller; Hull: Bill Petruzzi; ODNR: Scott Denham; OEPA: Cherie Blair; Oregon: Paul Roman, Don Nelson; UT Lake Erie Center: Kris Barnswell; TMACOG: Kurt Erichsen

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The purpose of this meeting was to coordinate and plan the upcoming wetland project funded under GLRI, and discuss other potential funding sources for implementation.

### **Committee Leadership**

Kurt Erichsen noted that a quorum was not present, so action on this item will need to be deferred to the next meeting. Paul Roman expressed willingness to serve as Chair. Kurt added that he had discussed vice chairmanship with Daryl Dwyer.

### **Wolf Creek ODNR Coastal Management Grant**

Don Nelson reported that negotiations are ongoing with the property owner for a conservation easements of up to 4.5 acres, rather than purchase. Oregon has an extension from ODNR for the grant until the end of December 2011.

### **Maumee Bay State Park Wetland Project**

Kris Barnswell announced that the GLRI grant from EPA has officially been awarded. It includes design and construction of a wetland at the park of up to 10 acres on an overall site footprint of up to 30 acres; it does not include the upstream projects in Oregon for sediment control. UT plans an RFP around the end of September, with design being done over the winter, and construction starting in Spring 2012.

There was considerable discussion of permitting requirements and timing for the project. It was noted that these requirements are likely to be time consuming, and need to be started as early as possible. Requirements include:

- QAPP – quality assurance plan required for monitoring by US EPA
- 401 / 404 wetlands permitting through OEPA and the Corps of Engineers; starting with early consultation with the Corps of Engineers office in Oak Harbor.
- Stormwater pollution prevention plan — OEPA requirement where more than 1 acre of soil is disturbed
- Archeological survey — Ohio Historical Society in 2008 recommended a Section 106 survey before construction work.
- Anti-degradation provisions may come into play because the project is in the Lake Erie watershed (there was discussion as to whether or not this will be a requirement).

Kris and Kurt discussed ideas for public involvement activities to be coordinated by TMACOG. Kurt

suggested rather than a public meeting, he thought a program and site tour for decision makers would be helpful. A project brochure and informational displays were discussed, so that the public will have ready information on what the wetland project is, and why it's needed. Consensus was to prepare a brochure and multiple copies of a display with potential locations being the Lodge, the Park Office, and the Nature Center.

Other details of the project were discussed:

- A single design/build RFP and contract versus separate contracts with a consultant for design and general contractor for construction
- Project management and accountability of contractors
- A possible extension for the GLRI project if needed because of construction and permitting requirements

### **UT – ODNR agreement for wetland site on park**

UT and ODNR are discussing two agreements for use of park property for the wetland. For planning and design of the wetland at the park, it will be a Right of Entry agreement. For construction of the wetland, it will be a lease. The lease will have an expiration period, which has not been set yet.

### **Next Steps**

Paul discussed potential Wolf Creek projects in Oregon. A stream restoration project as an overwide or two-stage channel and floodplain may be more feasible than sediment ponds.

Other potential implementation funding sources were discussed. Cherie advised including expansion of the wetland area at Maumee Bay State Park as part of a project to design and build the sediment control project in Oregon; the habitat restoration and nutrient load reduction will make the proposal more attractive than it would be for just sediment removal.

Kurt reviewed the OEPA Surface Water Enhancement, Restoration & Protection (SWERP) forms. The application is a way to give OEPA background information on habitat projects that could qualify for SEP or other funding. He provided drafts to Scott and Paul and asked for comments. Kurt added that he had already provided the stream corridor plan to OEPA NW District staff with a request for consideration as SEP projects.

Kurt outlined the Ohio EPA WRSSP program (<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/defa/09wrrsp.aspx>); it funds habitat restoration projects based on sponsorship by a sanitary sewerage project financed through the WPCLF, while offering a small interest rate reduction to the sponsoring project. Bill offered to provide WRSSP information.

### **Public Comments**

No public comments were presented.

### **Next Steps**

- The next meeting date was not set. Kurt will set up a meeting as needed for the GLRI project.

Adjourned.