

TMACOG

WOLF CREEK COMMITTEE

Date: December 7, 2011 Place: UT Lake Erie Center
Present: Lucas County: Brian Miller; **Hull:** Jenny Carter-Cornell, Bill Petruzzi; **ODNR:** Scott Denham; **OEPA:** Cherie Blair; **Oregon:** Paul Roman, Don Nelson; **Toledo/Lucas County Health Department:** Lana Glore; **UT Lake Erie Center:** Kris Barnswell; **TMACOG:** Kurt Erichsen

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 present. Brian Miller moved and Scott Denham seconded election of Paul Roman as Chair of the committee, and Daryl Dwyer as Vice Chair. Motion carried.

City of Oregon – Wolf Creek property acquisition

Roman reported that the City of Oregon had reached an agreement in principle to purchase 3.6 acres of property along Wolf Creek. The deal has not yet been finalized, and is subject to approval by Council. He does not anticipate that the acquisition will be complete by the end of the year; ODNR has granted a time extension till June 2012 to finalize it. The area under discussion includes both sides of the creek, with most land on the east side. Oregon will have frontage access to it from Corduroy Road.

Berger Ditch – Maumee Bay State Park Wetland Project

Kris Barnswell of UT Lake Erie Center provided the following outline of the wetland project status.

1. QAPP submitted on 10/26/11. Requested a conditional approval.
2. Right-of-Entry agreement between UT and ODNR has been signed by UT personnel.
3. Services agreement between UT and TMACOG needs signatures.
4. Topographical survey has been completed by Dr. Don Stierman (UT).
 - a. LiDAR data were used from several existing datasets. No fieldwork was needed.
5. Surface water and Ecological evaluation has been completed by Hugh Crowell (Hull and Associates, Inc.) and Kris Barnswell (UT).
 - a. Wetland delineation report was sent to ODNR for review, later sent to USACE for a preliminary jurisdictional determination.
6. The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc. was selected to conduct the Archaeological Survey.
7. Requests for cost bids for Subsurface Exploration are being sent out.
8. Hydrologic Modeling – completed in the winter
9. Engineering and Design – completed in the winter
10. Permitting – requests will be sent to USACE after final design has been approved by Dr. Daryl Dwyer.

There was further discussion of the wetland project at the park, and timing of permitting requirements. Kris noted that the site assessment found existing wetlands, with an ORAM score of around 34, which is at the

lower end of Category 2; some areas are dominated by canary reed grass, an invasive species. Wetland restoration of the site will improve the habitat, in part, by removal of invasives. There was discussion as to whether the project will need to go through anti-deg. It was agreed to invite Ben Smith of Ohio EPA NWDO for a discussion of that question.

The present agreement between ODNR and UT is for right of entrance. As the project is constructed, it will need to become a long-term lease. Current thinking is 25 years, renewable.

Wolf Creek: Projects in Development / Upcoming Grant Proposals

Kris Barnswell discussed potential projects and funding sources.

1. Fish and Wildlife Service - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act).
Deadlines: pre-proposal 12-12-11; full proposal end of Jan 2012.
 - a. Nutrient and Sediment Collector (Sedimentation pond)
 - b. Total cost \$148,029
 - c. 1 year period
2. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Urban Waters Small Grants.
 - a. Deadline: 1-23-12
 - b. Monitoring Wolf Creek watershed (continue using stream stations)
 - c. Total cost?
 - d. 2 year period
3. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
 - a. Deadline: April 2012
 - b. Nutrient Collector (wetlands to treat drainage tile effluent)
 - c. Total cost?
 - d. 2 year period

Further committee discussion followed. Project #1 is for the sediment pond needed to protect the Maumee Bay State Park wetlands from sedimentation; there was discussion of the form this project should take for most cost-effective sediment control: a pond, broad floodplains, or multi-stage channel reconstruction. Project #2 would fund operation of the existing water quality monitoring stations and provide additional stream data. The grant program can provide up to \$60,000 over a two-year period. Project #3 would be an additional project for removing nutrients from field runoff. The locations of projects #1 and #3 are flexible at this time, with property already owned by Oregon, or to-be-acquired property along Wolf Creek remaining possibilities.

Cherie Blair added current information about a potential GLRI RFP from US EPA. Expectations are that EPA GLRI grants will not fund habitat restoration; those projects will be funded through NOAA instead. EPA is expected to focus funding on Areas of Concern [Wolf Creek is in the Maumee AOC] and restoration of Beneficial Use Impairments; nutrient load reductions, especially phosphorus; and control of invasive species. The amount of funding available for GLRI grants and deadlines are not yet known.

Staff Report

Kurt Erichsen discussed the upcoming agreement between UT and TMACOG. Under the Maumee Bay State Park GLRI wetland grant, TMACOG will coordinate outreach and educational activities, including site visits and educational programs for students. TMACOG has signed the agreement and forwarded it to UT for execution.

He also noted that he had been invited, and agreed to present an overview of the beach bacteria issues, research, and implementation projects by Lourdes College in March. He said that he would contact committee members as needed for information and PowerPoint slides.

Public Comments

No public comments were presented.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for Friday, February 10th at 2 PM at Lake Erie Center.

Adjourned.