

**TMAGOG**  
**PORTAGE RIVER BASIN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**November 13, 2018 – 2:00 PM**  
**Wood County Courthouse – Commissioner’s Hearing Room**  
**Bowling Green, OH**

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**Call to Order/Welcome:**

Gordon Bowman, Village of Pemberville, Chair, called the meeting to order. Those in attendance are noted on the sign-in sheet, and are listed at the end of the minutes. Round table introductions were made.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mayor Gordon Bowman made note there was not a quorum of voting members at the meeting for the approval of the meeting minutes from the August 7, 2018 meeting, and this action item will be tabled until the first meeting in 2019.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Mayor Gordon Bowman, chair, asked for a *motion to approve* the Agenda for today’s meeting, as distributed in the meeting packet, from those present. Mark Coppeler, Ottawa County Commissioner, *moved to approve*, and Jim Amberg, Materion, *seconded*. Motion carried.

**2019 PRBC Meeting Schedule:**

Mayor Gordon Bowman, chair, asked for a *motion to approve* the 2019 PRBC meeting schedule. Meetings would begin at 2:00 p.m. and held on April 2, August 6, and November 12. Matt Damschroeder, Mayor, Village of Elmore, *moved to approve*, and Mark Coppeler, Ottawa County Commissioner, *seconded*. Motion carried.

The meetings will take place as follows:

April 2, 2019 – Pemberville Opera House

August 6, 2019 – Elmore: Mayor Damschroeder will coordinate

November 12, 2019 – Woodville: Luckey Farmers – Beth Landers will coordinate.

**Leadership – 2019:**

The election of a chair and vice-chair for the PRBC will be tabled until the April meeting in 2019, due to not having a quorum. Kari Gerwin asked if there was anyone interested in the positions. Hearing none, Gerwin made note that Gordon Bowman and Matt Damschroeder have volunteered to remain as chair and vice-chair. PRBC will vote to elect Gordon and Damschroeder in April.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Portage River Water Trail

Christina Kuchle, NW Region Scenic Rivers Manager

Ms. Kuchle reviewed what a water trail is and how to fund access points along the way. Two types of funding are available. One funding source is for the marketing and signage of a water trail and the other is for access point improvements. Key points for the funding are as follows:

Water Trail Funding:

- Application requires a local sponsor
- Formal application must be filled out
- This is a reimbursement grant

#### Access Improvement Funding:

- No formal application process
- Reviewed by a case by case basis
- Requesting agency submits a comprehensive plan

Several examples of completed water trail projects were shown. ODNR can help with permit guidance, regional coordination, access development, signage developments, brochure development, and funding. Contact information was included in the meeting materials packet.

The presentation was followed by Q & A.

*\*Tom Arbour, Land & Water Trail Coordinator, ODNR, called into the meeting*

#### **Stakeholder Workshop:**

*Kari Gerwin, Sara Guiher, TMACOG*

The progress of the water trail planning was explained by Gerwin. An update was also given on the progress of the water trail advisory group. Discussion focused on the development of a Stakeholder Workshop, to be held in February or March of 2019. A contact spreadsheet was included in the meeting packet and attendees were asked to provide contact suggestions for the workshop invite list. The venue will need to accommodate 50+ and allow for breakout groups. Becky Simpson (Ottawa SWCD) and Commissioner Mark Coppeler (Ottawa County) suggested locations that they will follow up on.

Details of the workshop agenda were discussed:

- Opening - Access discussion with ODNR
- Breakout sessions
  - The goal of these sessions is to form focus groups with engaged stakeholders and establish goals for the next 6 months
  - Discussion topics and goals should be thought out beforehand and used to lead groups if necessary – it is preferable for the groups to establish goals themselves
    - Political support
    - Mapping
    - Safety
    - Public Relations and Marketing
    - Access
      - Need to determine whether launch can occur without access improvements
      - This group will likely persist into the future to ensure that maintenance continues
      - Consider what will be done when more brochures/signage are needed
      - Cuyahoga Water Trail group participants each have an MOA
  - Plenary – Share results and identify steering group

Sara Guiher discussed the tentative timeline for completion of the water trail project. In addition to the Stakeholder Workshop in February, the following timeline was proposed:

- Begin to engage elected leaders/ letters of support – March-April

- Water Trail designation can be approved without a letter of support from each community, but it is not likely to be approved if communities actively disapprove of designation
- Visit remainder of sites, I.D. gaps in connectivity/access – March
  - Advisory Group and PRBC Members
- Complete draft water trail map and plan narrative – April
  - Present to PRBC April 2
- Access Grant Application – April
- Release draft map – May
  - The draft map should be released to stakeholders, and public outreach meetings should be held to inform about the project. One public outreach meeting in each county is usually the approach.
- Host float(s) –August/September
- Target 2020 for Water Trail Launch

### **Staff Reports:**

#### *Beth Landers, Wood SWCD*

- The Women Land Owners & Operators program continues with outreach and workshops.
- The 319 Bull Creek grant has come to a close. \$30k has been left unspent.
- GLRI Portage-Toussaint grant – Wood County is 100% allocated and there is a waiting list for all three practices.
- Working on new funding and grant applications for Wood County. Anyone with project ideas, please contact Beth Landers.
- Ms. Landers is no longer funded by the State of Ohio. Landers is a full-time Wood County employee

#### *Mike Libben, Ottawa SWCD (Becky Simpson, Ottawa SWCD, reported)*

- Becky Simpson, Ottawa SWCD, stated she will be attending the PRBC meetings in lieu of Mike Libben.
- Ottawa County's new outreach coordinator is Becky Hinline.
- GLRI Grant: waiting on reports from farmers as to what was planted, when, and proper paperwork.
- Received a grant to support nutrient management plans.

#### *Kari Gerwin, TMACOG*

- GLRI Grant - \$158k has been reimbursed to farmers. The project period has been extended to October 2020.
- Work continues with education and outreach. TMACOG is working with farmers and a videographer to showcase farming practices. The final product will be approximately 30 minutes. A “sneak peek” of the video (about 4 minutes) is available to view on our website.
- The PRBC Work Plan was distributed in the meeting packet for today. Please review and submit and suggestions or changes. The Work Plan will need to be approved at the April 2019 meeting.
- Sara Guiher, TMACOG Planner, will be taking over as the coordinator of PRBC in 2019.

**Public Comment:** None

**Future Meeting:**

April 2, 2019 at the Pemberville Opera House, Pemberville, OH

**Adjourn:**

Hearing no other business, Gordon Bowman, Chair, adjourned.

| <b>ATTENDEES</b> |             |   |                                  |
|------------------|-------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Becky            | Simpson     |   | Ottawa Soil & Water Conservation |
| James            | Amburgey    |   | Materion, Elmore Facility        |
| Mike             | Shadoan     | Commissioner                              | Ottawa City Park District        |
| Mark             | Coppeler    | Commissioner – VP                         | Ottawa County                    |
| Gene             | Steele      | Citizen                                   | Village of Pemberville           |
| Christina        | Yaniga      | Village Council                           | Village of Pemberville           |
| Beth             | Landers     | Watershed Coordinator                     | Wood SWCD                        |
| Matt             | Damschroder | Mayor, PRBC<br>Vice Chair                 | Village of Elmore                |
| Gordon           | Bowman      | Mayor, PRBC Chair                         | Village of Pemberville           |
| Christina        | Kuchle      | Scenic Rivers                             | ODNR                             |
| Tom              | Arbour      | Div. of Parks &<br>Watercraft * Called in | ODNR                             |
| Sara             | Guiher      | WQ Planner                                | TMACOG                           |
| Joy              | Minarcin    | Administrative<br>Assistant               | TMACOG                           |
| Kari             | Gerwin      | Director, WQ Dept.                        | TMACOG                           |