

53100 Portage River Basin Council (PRBC)

Goal: Protect and improve the water quality of the Portage River Basin by establishing processes and working groups within the Portage River Basin Council to implement the goals set by the *Portage River Watershed Plan*.

Objectives:

- Raise public awareness of the Portage River ecosystem and promote stewardship of its waterways.
- Work with watershed stakeholders to develop and implement projects supporting the *Portage River Watershed Plan's* recommendations. Foster communication and cooperation between the agricultural and urban stakeholders of the watershed.
- Coordinate meetings of the Portage River Basin Council.
- Hold one or more goal-setting forums for members of the Portage River Basin Council and stakeholders.
- Develop solutions and projects to provide adequate drainage, reduce flooding, benefit the natural habitat, and improve and protect water quality in the Portage River Basin recommended by the *Portage River Hydrological Study*.
- Ohio SB1 and SB150 are the strongest pieces of legislation to impact agriculture in recent history. Implementing and abiding by these rules will be key for producers in the area. TMACOG will work with SWCDs to ensure that adequate opportunities are presented to farmers.
- Collaborate on watershed-based projects to meet GLWQA Annex 4 phosphorus load reduction targets from all sources.
- TMACOG, the SWCDs and other Portage River Basin Council partners will encourage the agricultural community to work with a “suite” of BMPs to ensure that multiple choices are available for farmers to address conservation issues on their farms.
- Proactively educate the watershed community, support SWCDs in writing and implementing nutrient management plans, signing landowners up for the Lake Erie CREP program, and assisting Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with federal conservation assistance.

53120 Portage & Toussaint River Agricultural Phosphorus Reduction

Goal: Protect and improve the water quality of the Portage and Toussaint River and the Western Basin of Lake Erie by cost-share supported implementation of BMPs (nutrient management plans, VRT, and cover crops) to achieve an estimated phosphorus load reduction of 7,221 pounds annually over 3 years out of the total target reduction of 25,835 pounds per year.

Objectives:

- US EPA funding of \$500,000 was secured through a GLRI grant.

- Form a project team with stakeholder agricultural agencies of the watershed.
- Outreach to farmers of watershed on the environmental and agronomic benefits of selected BMPs: nutrient management plans, and VRT fertilizer application coupled with winter cover crops.
- Design a cost share program that achieves maximum phosphorus load reduction while allowing the farmers an attractive incentive.
- The SWCDs will provide technical assistance and track BMP.
- TMACOG will issue and document cost share payments, and retain records as required by the grant.

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