

TMAGOG
PORTAGE RIVER BASIN COUNCIL MEETING
August 7, 2018 – 2:00 PM
Ottawa County Fairgrounds
Oak Harbor, OH

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 and Agenda:

Mayor Gordon Bowman asked for a *motion to approve* today's agenda and the meeting minutes from the April 3, 2018 meeting of the PRBC. Virginia Park, Ottawa County, *moved* to approve the minutes and Matt Damschroder, Village of Elmore, *seconded*. **Motion carried.**

Presentations:

Portage Water Trail Update
Kari Gerwin, TMACOG

Ms. Gerwin discussed new developments in the planning work for a Portage River water trail. A kickoff meeting for the advisory committee was held on June 6th, followed by a visit of several sites between Rt. 590 and Pemberville. Gerwin discussed the outcomes of the June 6th meeting and provided an evaluation of each site visited. The notes from that meeting are included in today's meeting packet.

Highlights of discussion during presentation:

- Christina Kuchle explained that ODNR offered recent clarification, and that the agency prefers to fund river access improvements to add to a larger overall project such as a water trail. The community with jurisdiction at the access point is responsible for evaluating the access point and its contribution to a larger project.
- Virginia Park asked for clarification on the access points in Port Clinton. These access points are not well known by any members of the council or TMACOG staff. Safety concerns associated with these access points will need to be addressed to determine if they will be a part of the water trail.

Portage River Scouting Trip
Sara Guiher, TMACOG

Ms. Guiher described a river trip that she and Kari Gerwin (TMACOG) took on July 14, 2018. The purpose of the trip was to paddle approximately ten river miles on the Portage River to help with planning efforts for a public float. As part of the Portage Water Trail engagement process, the advisory group decided that a float open to elected officials and the general public would increase engagement and buy-in for the water trail project. The July 14 trip began at River Bend Park in Elmore, OH and ended in Oak Harbor, OH. Much of the first five miles was scenic but shallow, with some portaging necessary. The last five miles of the trip was deeper and easier to navigate but with little current, requiring much more effort. After experiencing this section of the Portage, it may be a better choice to leave from the Oak Harbor access for a public float. That access is highly improved and accessible, and a shorter paddle that leaves from and returns to that location could easily be coupled with an informational session at a facility (TBD) in Oak Harbor.

PRBC Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2018

Request for PRBC Approval of Water Trail Planning Work:

Kari Gerwin explained that the planning work to establish a Portage River water trail will require time during regular and ad hoc PRBC meetings along with additional TMACOG staff time. Mayor Bowman then asked for each PRBC member present to either approve or disapprove of the additional work and offer comments or concerns before the group. All members in attendance voted unanimously to approve of the planning work. Ms. Gerwin stated that the ongoing planning work will be incorporated into the FY 2020 work plan, for official action by the council in early 2019.

Staff Reports:

Mike Libben, Ottawa SWCD

- o Ottawa SWCD is working to increase participation in the GLRI funded Portage/Toussaint program
- o Meetings have been taking place regarding the potential WLEB distressed designations
- o Ottawa and Wood counties are currently in a moderate drought

Partner Reports:

Jerry Bingham, Ottawa County Health Department

- o \$200,00 in funding from the OEPA Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Program (WPCLF) is available through Ottawa County HD for upgrades to or replacement of home sewage treatment systems

Mike Shadoan, Oak Harbor Development Group

- o A NW Ohio regional trail plan meeting lead by Tom Arbor took place in July - this may be a way to tie the Portage Water Trail plan into a larger overall plan increasing access through trails of all kinds in Ohio

Public Comment: None

Future Meeting:

The next meeting of the PRBC will be held Tuesday, November 13, 2018. Location TBD

Adjourn:

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

ATTENDEES

Gene Steele, Pemberville resident
 Doug Clark, City of Bowling Green
 Gordan Bowman, Village of Pemberville
 Jerry Bingham, Ottawa Co. Health Dpt
 Mark Coppeler, Ottawa Co. Commissioner
 Mark Stahl, Ottawa Co. Comm
 Matt Damschroder, Village of Elmore
 Leah Binsack, Sandusky Co. Health Dpt.

Jim Sass, Ottawa Co. Commissioner
 Mike Libben, Ottawa SWCD
 Virginia M. Park, Ottawa Co. Twp. Assn.
 Mike Shadoan, Oak Harbor Dev. Group
 Darrell Opfer
 Christina Kuchle, ODNR-Scenic Rivers
 Tory Gabriel, Ohio Sea Grant
 Becky Simpson, Ottawa SWCD