

**TMACOG**  
**PORTAGE RIVER BASIN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**April 2, 2019 – 2:00 PM**  
**Pemberville Opera House, Pemberville, OH**

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**Call to Order/Welcome:**

Gordon Bowman, Village of Pemberville, Chair, called the meeting to order. Mayor Bowman welcomed all and gave a brief history of the Opera House from the inception, restoration process, and present day use.

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, chair, asked for a *motion to approve* the meeting minutes of November 13, 2018, and the agenda for today's meeting, as distributed in the meeting packet, from those present. Virginia Park, Ottawa County *moved to approve*, and Matt Damschroeder, Mayor, Village of Elmore, *seconded*. **Motion carried.**

**PRBC Operating Procedures:**

Mayor Bowman asked for a *motion to approve* the Operating Procedures for the PRBC. A copy of the document was included in the meeting packet. Matt Damschroeder, Mayor, Village of Elmore, *moved to approve*. John Jividen, Village of Portage, *seconded*. **Motion carried.**

**FY2020 PRBC Work Plan:**

Mayor Bowman asked for a *motion to approve* the FY2020 Work Plan for the Portage River Basin Council. A copy of the Plan was included in the meeting packet. Mayor Damschroeder, Village of Elmore, *moved to approve* the FY2020 Work Plan as presented. Jerry Bingham, Ottawa County Health Department, *seconded*. Motion carried.

**PRBC Leadership – 2019:**

Mayor Bowman addressed members regarding PRBC leadership for 2019. Mayor Bowman, Pemberville, and Mayor Damschroeder, Elmore each expressed interest in continuing their roles as Chair and Vice-chair, respectively. Nominations were open to the floor. Hearing no nominations, Doug Clark, City of Bowling Green, *moved to close nominations* and *motioned to approve* Mayor Gordon Bowman as Chair, and Mayor Matt Damschroeder, as Vice-Chair. John Jividen, Village of Portage, *seconded*. **Motion carried.**

**PRESENTATIONS:**

*Peggy Hall, Director, OSU Agricultural and Resource Law Program-  
The Ohio State University*

Ms. Hall spoke to the group on the passage of The Lake Erie Bill of Rights. Advocates state Lake Erie should have legal rights and developed the bill as an amendment to the City of Toledo charter. Ms. Hall explained the three (3) main components of the Bill:

1. *The purpose of the petition* – In part, to give irrevocable rights for the Lake Erie Ecosystem to exist, flourish and naturally evolve, a right to a healthy environment for the residents of Toledo and to elevate the rights of the community.
2. *Statements of Law* – Rights of the LE ecosystem, rights to a clean and healthy environment, and rights of local community self-government. Each was explained.

3. Enforcement provisions – explanation was given to violation of corporations or government, action in the Lucas County Common Pleas Court, liability, and how LEBOR relates to other federal and state laws.

Other talking points:

- What constitutes a violation? Is it criminal? Civil?
- The difficulty to defend in a court of law.
- Difficulty in proving who is guilty of the violation.
- Is the law constitutional?
- Does the City of Toledo have to take administrative action to add to charter?
- The possibility advocates just want to “send a message”, make lawmakers aware of the need to protect the lake.
- Review of what this might mean for the residents of the City of Toledo.
- Review of Federal lawsuits.

### **Portage Water Trail Update:**

*Sara Guiher, TMACOG*

Progress continues on the development of the Portage Water Trail. In February, a stakeholder workshop was held at the Ottawa County Resource Center in Oak Harbor. Participants separated into groups that addressed the following needs of the Water Trail and how to proceed:

- Political support
- Mapping
- Safety
- Public Relations and Marketing
- Access

Three public meetings have been scheduled to discuss the project:

- May 15 – Elmore Community Center
- May 21 – Ottawa Fairgrounds
- May 23 – Pemberville Opera House

So far, six (6) letters of community support have been received to submit with the application to ODNR. An updated access point map along the proposed Portage Water Trail is now available.

*Beth Landers, Wood SWCD*

- All additional paperwork required by OEPA to fulfill requirements to closeout the Bullcreek 319 Grant has been satisfied.
- Applied for new funds with Wood County Engineers for Packer Creek.
- SWCD has been very busy with investigating ag complaints.

*Mike Libben, Ottawa SWCD*

- Working on completing document requirements for applicants that have applied practices set forth by the GLRI grant for payment.
- Submitted two grant applications that will pertain to the Portage River Basin.
- Sandusky SWCD has hired two WLEB technicians. Their involvement with this council would be an asset.

*Sara Guiher, TMACOG*

- Reviewed the TMACOG flyer of events with council.
- Kris Barnswell, TMACOG, mentioned the Ag video that was produced showcasing practices used by area farmers.

**Member Comment:**

- A Democratic Women’s Caucus is being organized in Sandusky County. This first meeting took place in Elmore. The group wants to organize a Portage River Cleanup. Kari Gerwin and Sara Guiher can help pinpoint locations in need.
- A concern was made on the issue of tree removal in Pemberville – how to dispose of them. Angie Ruiz, Fremont, stated she will find out the name of the contractor who removed trees at the Ballville Dam removal site, and forward the information.
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**Public Comment:** None

**Future Meeting:**

August 6, 2019 in Elmore, OH – Location TBD

**Adjourn:**

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

<b>ATTENDEES</b>			
Peggy	Hall	Speaker	The Ohio State University
Evin	Bachelor	Speaker	The Ohio State University
Angie	Ruiz	Council	City of Fremont
Dennis	Garbig		Materion, Elmore Facility
Marc	Schaller		Countyline Co-Op
Mark	Coppeler	Commissioner – VP	Ottawa County
Gene	Steele	Citizen	Village of Pemberville
Doug	Clark	Wastewater Superintendent	City of Bowling Green
Beth	Landers	Watershed Coordinator	Wood SWCD
Matt	Damschroder	PRBC Vice Chair	Mayor, Village of Elmore
Gordon	Bowman	Mayor, PRBC Chair	Village of Pemberville
Christina	Kuchle	Scenic Rivers	ODNR
Lisa & Dwight	Clary	Farmer	Clary Farms, LLC
Jim	Carter		Wood SWCD
Bob	Midden		BGSU
Leah	Binsack	Public Health	Sandusky County
Virginia	Park	Recorder	Ottawa County
Jen	Campos	Health Department	Wood County
Deminique	Heiks	Planning Commission	Wood County
Jerry	Bingham	Health Department	Ottawa County
Mike	Libben	SWCD	Ottawa
Shawn P.	Valentine	Trustee	Spencer Twp. / Lucas County
Mark	Wolford	Trustee	Village of Portage
John	Jividen	Trustee	Village of Portage
Sara	Guiher	WQ Planner	TMACOG
Joy	Minarcin	Administrative Assistant	TMACOG
Kari	Gerwin	Director, WQ Dept.	TMACOG
Kris	Barnswell	WQ Planner	TMACOG
Tatiana	Burkett	WQ Assistant	TMACOG