

**Water Quality Council  
Meeting Minutes  
March 12, 2018 – 1:30 p.m.  
W.W. Knight Preserve – Perrysburg, OH**

**Welcome:**

Carol Contrada, Lucas County Commissioner, Chair, Water Quality Council began the meeting. Those in attendance are noted on the sign-in sheet for today's meeting. Around the room introductions were made.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner Contrada asked for a *motion* to approve the meeting minutes from the January 8, 2018 WQC meeting. Angie Ruiz, City of Fremont, *moved to approve* the meeting minutes and was *seconded* by Kevin Laughlin, Wood County. ***Motion carried.***

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**Israeli Water Technology Opportunitites and the Ohio-Isreal Ag & CleanTech Initiative:**

*Sarah M. Nassiri and Sarah Horowitz, Ph.D.*

*Ohio-Israel Agricultural Initiative*

The presentation discussed the Ohio-Israel Ag & CleanTech Initiative (OIACI). The program works with farmers, academics, and community leaders to address agriculture and water management, and how Israeli technologies may help with those needs. The following companies were highlighted, and what areas they could be of potential help:

1. BlueGreen Water Technologies – a prophylactic, cost-effective solution to toxic algal blooms that can be used on a large scale. <http://bgtechs.com>
2. GroundWork BioAg – produces commercial mycorrhizae fungi that effectively extend the plant root system. <http://groundworkbioag.com>
3. WellToDo – developed a solution that converts nitrates into nonpolluting compounds <http://welltodo.co.il>
4. Fluence Corp. – manufactures an aerobic, modular wastewater treatment solution. <http://fluencecorp.com>

The initiative hopes to assess water quality needs in northwest Ohio and seek solutions through Ohio's existing partnership with Israel.

Dr. Horowitz informed the committee of the upcoming water professional development Israel mission beginning March 17 through March 24. Information may be found on the Negev Foundation webpage. The presentation was followed by Q & A.

**Innovative Water Technologies in the Great Lakes:**

*Chad Penn, Ph.D., USDA Agricultural Research Service*

The presentation discussed a novel method to remove dissolved reactive phosphorus from runoff and other phosphorus laden waters. Bioreactor phosphorus removal structures are essentially filters that consist of materials that sorb/capture phosphorus. These materials are typically locally sources waste products, such as metal filings, steel slag, drinking water treatment residuals, fly ash, and manufactured materials.

Phosphorus removal structures can be used in urban and rural locations. However, areas known to be phosphorus "hot spots" are ideal locations as dissolved reactive phosphorus levels are elevated in these areas.

Dr. Penn also described Phrog (Phosphorus Removal Online Guidance) which is used to assist with designing phosphorus removal structures. The program outputs the dimension and amount of phosphorus-sorbing material needed to achieve the target reduction. The presentation was followed by Q & A.

**WQC Annual Work Plan – FY2019:**

Kari Gerwin presented the Water Quality work plan for FY2018. The major change to the plan states the Regional Water Planning Committee will reconvene at the call of the Water Quality Council Chair or as request by TMACOG members.

Carol Contrada asked for a *motion to approve* the WQC Annual Work Plan FY2018 as presented. Kevin Laughlin, Wood County, *moved to approve*, and Alice Godsey, City of Perrysburg, *seconded*. **Motion carried.**

**Agenda for Lake Erie:**

Kari Gerwin explained the Agenda for Lake Erie Policy Briefs. The document will serve as a guidepost for action at local state and federal levels. TMACOG is asking for stakeholder input. The final document will be presented to the Board of Trustees in June 2018 for approval. Contact Kari Gerwin for further information. Visit [www.tmacog.org/afle](http://www.tmacog.org/afle) for document updates and supporting materials.

**Member Updates:**

None

**Staff Report:**

Sara Guiher was introduced as the Water Quality Department's newest Water Quality Planner. Sara was hired part-time in September 2017 and promoted to full-time beginning in February 2018.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Future Meetings:**

May 14

July 9

September 10

November 5

January 14, 2019

**All at 1:30 PM in TMACOG Board Room unless otherwise announced**

**Adjournment:**