

50000 Water Quality Council

Purpose: To protect and improve the water quality of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) region's streams and lakes, for the economy, recreation, and safe, reliable public water supplies by providing technical expertise. The Water Quality Council (WQC) will serve as a regional forum for education, advocacy, and grantsmanship for our members and stakeholders.

51170 Water Quality Council

Goal: Coordinate and recommend positions on water quality issues and policies to the TMACOG Board of Trustees in an effort to improve and protect water quality in our region and Lake Erie.

Objectives:

- Engage TMACOG members to:
 - Maintain and recruit members and leadership of the WQC.
 - Develop meeting programs to address current and long-term water quality goals of the region.
 - Develop programs and projects to carry out the missions of the WQC's standing committees.
 - The Wastewater Committee will provide overall coordination for the "208" Areawide Water Quality Management Plan, incorporating functions described under item 51300 – maintain the *Plan* and make recommendations to the TMACOG Executive Committee and Board of Trustees through WQC.
 - Stormwater Coalition, as described in item 54100 — will help Stormwater Coalition members understand and meet the requirements of US EPA and Ohio EPA stormwater permits.
 - Public Water Supply Committee, as described in 51500 — planning and coordinating on among member water utilities to foster provision of safe and reliable water supplies.
 - Watersheds Committee, as described in 52100 — establish regional process to address pollutant loadings from watersheds that impact our region's water quality by coordination with stakeholders, planning and conducting studies, implementation programs, and technical support to members.
 - Further develop and refine staff activities, subject to action by WQC. Potential programmatic objectives:
 - Provide guidance related to water quality issues to educate legislators, mayors, city councils, county boards, etc., as appropriate.
 - Develop and update the Agenda for Lake Erie. A water quality policies document recommended for support by the TMACOG Board of Trustees.
 - Collaborate on grants, loans, and other state and federal program funding opportunities.
 - Outreach and communication with members, media, and the public.
 - Reports or presentations on staff accomplishments; annual report.
- Provide assistance and coordination to members of TMACOG, both individually and on a regional basis, with funding for sanitary sewerage, water supply, stormwater infrastructure, or water quality restoration or remediation projects.

51200 Water Quality Program Development

Goal: To develop and secure funding for environmental programs and projects for TMACOG and in partnership with our members.

Objectives:

- Programs and goals for which we will pursue grant opportunities, depending on funding availability and interest from partners, are:
 1. Goals of the *Areawide Water Quality Management Plan*.
 2. Goals of the *Portage River Watershed Plan*.
 3. Goals of the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition.
 4. Goals and recommendations of the *Maumee Area of Concern Stage 2 Watershed Restoration Plan*.
 5. Goals and recommendations of the *Swan Creek Watershed Balanced Growth Plan*.
 6. Goals and recommendations of the TMACOG *Stormwater Management Standards Manual*.
 7. Goals and recommendations of the TMACOG *Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping Practices for Municipal Operations*.
 8. Goals and recommendations of the *Wolf Creek / Berger Ditch Stream Corridor Restoration Plan*.
 9. Goals and recommendations of the Water Quality Council, TMACOG Stormwater Coalition, and the Portage River Basin Council.
 10. Coordinate with state of Ohio water infrastructure funding agencies by participating in the Small Community Environmental Infrastructure Group.
 11. Coordinate with other state of Ohio regional councils with water quality planning programs through the Ohio Association of Regional Councils Water Quality Committee. Provide safe recreation on Lake Erie; the Maumee, Toussaint, and Portage rivers and their tributaries; Maumee Bay, its beaches, and tributaries by planning and developing public access, and by reducing bacterial pollution levels.

51300 Areawide Water Quality Management Plan (AWQMP)

Goal: To coordinate Water Quality Council to reach consensus on regional water quality policy by updating the AWQMP (the 208 Plan).

Objectives:

- Maintain sewerage Facility Planning Areas (FPAs) with wastewater facility and service update information as it becomes available.
- Review and update Chapter 1 “Areawide Overview” of the Areawide Water Quality Management plan. The Management Agency updates concern the status of municipalities under the 208 plan that no longer own parts of sewerage systems, having turned over ownership to regional agencies.
- Update summaries for all seven chapters of the AWQMP.
- Work with DMAs and their consultants to upgrade present sanitary sewerage service area maps by incorporating their computer mapping data into the “208” Plan.
- Support the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency’s, Certification of Areawide Water Quality Management Plan as part of the State Water Quality Management Plan.
- Coordinate with Ohio EPA and management agencies in Ohio to review sanitary sewerage permits to install for consistency with the adopted 208 plan.

51305 Home Sewage Treatment Systems Mapping

Goal: Assist health districts in the TMACOG planning area with mapping of home sewage treatment systems (HSTS) to identify potential sources of nutrient and bacterial loadings into waterways and Lake Erie.

Objectives:

- Work directly with Ottawa County Health District in FY19 and extend assistance to other health districts as future funding is available.
- Collect all available HSTS data from the Ottawa County Health District.
- Assemble tabular and GIS databases that include data on HSTS size, age, and components.
- Develop an ArcGIS Online map of parcels with documented HSTS.

51310 Wastewater Committee

Goal: Recommend wastewater policies to the TMACOG Board of Trustees for effective and efficient sanitary sewerage systems that support the goals of the Agenda for Lake Erie.

Objectives:

- Update the “208” Plan, with a specific update to Chapter 1 and chapter summaries, as discussed in 51300.
- Coordinate and assist county health departments in educating the public with new sewage rules and proper septic system management as described in element 52131.
- Work with the Small Community Environmental Infrastructure Group on funding issues.
- Work on water and sewer training in coordination with the Public Water Supply (PWS) Committee, providing Ohio contact hours for both water and wastewater operators, and Ohio and Michigan professional development hours for professional engineers. Provide wastewater planning services to TMACOG members in Henry and Fulton counties that request it. These members are not included in the “208” Plan.
- TMACOG will monitor legislation and regulations that affect publicly owned treatment works (POTW) services, and seek input from committee members on potential regional positions.

51400 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC)

Goal: To coordinate and administer the District 12 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC).

The District 12 NRAC solicits, prioritizes, and recommends projects in Lucas County for Clean Ohio Conservation Program grants to the Ohio Public Works Commission. TMACOG staff will provide technical assistance and administrative support to the District 12 Ohio Public Works NARC Committee for the planning, analysis and implementation of the Clean Ohio Fund Green Space Conservation Program for this Fiscal Year. The work tasks for District 12 include the following items to be carried out under the direction of the leadership of the District NARC Committee.

Objectives:

- Provide administrative and program management support to the District 12 NRAC Committee.
- Serve as liaison between the Ohio Public Works Commission and District 12.
- Function as secretary to the Natural Resources Assistance Council.
- Develop and maintain any required databases and spreadsheets.

- Prepare application package for District 12 applicants to submit to the committee and the Ohio Public Works Commission.
- Provide applicants with technical assistance regarding the rules, regulations, and compliance measures for the Green Space Conservation Program. This includes individual application assistance, training sessions, and other program assistance when appropriate.
- Provide other support services as directed by the District 12 NRAC Committee.

51500 Public Water Supply Committee

Goal: Recommend positions on public water supply issues and policies to the TMACOG Board of Trustees that will provide the region with abundant, safe, and reliable water for residential and commercial needs.

Objectives:

- Discuss area capital improvements in order to share process and project planning, and to promote early and ongoing coordination among all parties, especially if there is an impact to the region.
- Discuss best practices and efficiencies.
- Emphasize long-term cost management; facilitate potential shared purchasing to capture cost reductions.
- Review, monitor, and propose changes to rate structures to support best practices in water quality management.
- Cooperate and coordinate in preparation for outages, i.e. work to create a formal Emergency Management Plan.
- Communicate operation and maintenance practices - share contact information for assistance (i.e. all join OH WARN).
- Pool technology and software operations for better resources and financial efficiencies.
- Protect the public from expenditures on redundant resources.
- Share equipment and human resources, when appropriate for mutual benefit.
- Establish a training program subcommittee in coordination with the Wastewater Committee.
- Conduct at least one training program designed to fulfill contact hour training credits for both water and wastewater operators through Ohio EPA, and provide continuing professional development hours to professional engineers in Ohio and Michigan. As an Approved Contact Hour Training Provider (ACHTP), recognized by Ohio EPA's Contact Hours program. TMACOG will facilitate and host training programs intended for operators or water and wastewater facilities. The programs will also be designed to fulfill training requirements for the Ohio and Michigan Professional Engineers. TMACOG will organize and publicize the training event through coordination between the water and wastewater committees. TMACOG will maintain training records as required.

51600 Regional Water Planning Committee

Goal: Provide a forum for elected officials to examine regional water systems, including issues of interconnectivity, redundancy, storage, and sustainability.

Objectives:

- Reconvene at call of the Water Quality Council Chair or as requested by TMACOG members

52100 Watersheds Committee

Goal: Recommend water quality and habitat policies to the TMACOG Board of Trustees for effective management of watersheds that support the goals of the “Agenda for Lake Erie.”

Objectives:

- The Watershed Committee will take the lead among the Water Quality Program committees in coordinating and updating the Agenda for Lake Erie. Facilitate information sharing between developers of local 9-Element Plans and TMACOG members and partners.
- Provide a forum for setting project priorities to meet Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) targets and water quality standards in support of the creation and update of 9-Element Plans and other watershed-based planning efforts.
- Support projects and policies that help to meet Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Annex IV phosphorus reductions, TMDL targets, and biological water quality standards
- Research options for goal setting and benchmarking to measure progress in meeting targets in Annex IV, TMDLs, and biological water quality standards
- Using outcomes of Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Annex IV Targets (see 52131 AWP FY18) identify priority projects that will offer the most feasible and cost-effective phosphorus load reductions. These will serve as pilot projects to enable the staff, committee, and stakeholders to develop methodologies and refine modeling techniques.
- Outreach to and engage the agricultural community and watershed groups in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan in an effort to understand and address the diverse water quality issues in Lake Erie’s Western Basin.
- Coordinate with and support coalition groups addressing Lake Erie water quality including the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) Partnership and the Ohio Lake Erie Commission.

52132 TMDL Outreach and Implementation

Goal: Coordinate stakeholder engagement in the TMACOG region for TMDL public outreach and implementation strategies. This work will be coordinated closely with Ohio EPA TMDL staff and local partners, and will promote greater stakeholder involvement in the TMDL process and implementation strategies (aka “9-element plans”) in the TMACOG region.

Objectives:

- TMDL Stakeholder Outreach
 - Assist Ohio EPA in distribution draft TMDL reports to stakeholders in the WLEB.
 - Communicate to stakeholders how they can provide meaningful public input once TMDL draft report is public noticed.
 - Assist Ohio EPA in organizing and hosting public meetings in conjunction with the rollout of the draft TMDL reports
 - Disseminate fact sheets to WLEB stakeholders as OEPA develops them
- Coordinate a regional process for 9-element plan updates
 - Provide a forum for local stakeholders to participate in coordinated planning for TMDL implementation projects.
 - Identify stewards for each plan
 - Determine a “TMACOG 9-element planning area”

- Identify HUCs of regional importance that need 9-element plans
- Ensure that the 9-element plans recently developed and approved remain current through an open and regionally consistent update process.
- Provide public information explaining the region's process for timely updates of implementation strategies in the 9-element plans

52200 Student Watershed Watch

Goal: Coordinate the Student Watershed Watch (SWW) program working with all interested high schools in the TMACOG region

Objectives:

- Continue to evaluate training needs of teachers and provide targeted training opportunities to meet those needs.
- Provide necessary materials to participating schools for use in the program.
- Compile testing data from all participating schools and post data online using ArcGIS Online.
- Coordinate the SWW Summit for students to compare their findings and learn more about water quality issues.
- Work to help teachers/participants incorporate new education state standards into the SWW program.
- Include as many middle school teachers into the program as budget allows.
- Work directly with as many classes as possible through in-stream sampling and/or as an in-class guest speaker on water quality topics.
- Solicit sponsorships from new and existing governmental and non-governmental partners

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 the Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to ensure that adequate opportunities are presented to farmers.
- Collaborate on watershed-based projects to meet Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

Annex 4 phosphorus load reduction targets from all sources.

- TMACOG, the Soil and Water Conservation 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 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), 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.

54100 Stormwater Coalition (SWC)

Goal: Address stormwater flooding, drainage, and water quality issues on a watershed basis through regional cooperation, coordination, and education in the development and implementation of long-range stormwater management plans.

Objectives:

- Plan quarterly SWC meetings to address various aspects of the NPDES stormwater permits that are specific to the region and/or time of year.
- Coordinate Stormwater Action Group (SWAG), which provides technical support and guidance to SWC.
- Coordinate the Stormwater Coalition (SWC) to encourage sharing of information and resources in meeting National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permits, and solving stormwater management problems on a watershed basis.
- Coordinate SWC efforts and water quality policy recommendations with other TMACOG Water Quality committees.
- Assist Stormwater Coalition members in fulfilling the NPDES stormwater permit requirements for six minimum control measures:
 - Public Outreach and Education

- Public Involvement
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Construction
- Post-construction
- Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping
- Reach out to new regulated MS4s in Wood and Lucas counties.
- Utilize the Clear Choices Clean Water-Greater Toledo Lake Erie program to help fulfil some SWC members permit requirements for public education and outreach (See 54400).
- Provide one workshop for member jurisdictions or the development community aimed at improving implementation of stormwater and/or construction BMPs.
- Participate in, and support the Green Infrastructure Task Force.
- Provide Good Housekeeping training and educational materials as requested by member jurisdictions.
- Stay current with stormwater regulations and inform members of upcoming stormwater regulations and compliance deadlines.
- Provide individualized Stormwater Program Evaluations as requested by member jurisdictions.
- Connect local secondary, college, and university students with opportunities to participate in design, installation, or maintenance of green stormwater infrastructure projects.
- Participate in, and support the Toledo-Lucas County Rain Gardens Initiative.
- Encourage involvement of member jurisdictions in the Ohio Stormwater Association to facilitate communication with stormwater practitioners across the state.
- Identify up to two professional development opportunities for TMACOG Stormwater Program staff.
- Identify funding opportunities, facilitate project coordination, and provide SWAG technical support for stormwater projects that demonstrate best management practices, help meet National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit requirements, and support Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation.
- Provide support to Toledo-Lucas County Land Bank and the City of Toledo to facilitate reuse of vacant properties for stormwater benefits.
- Review and provide feedback on stormwater issues and policies relevant to transportation through outreach to Ohio Department of Transportation and through coordination with TMACOG's Transportation Department.
- Provide professional development opportunities for member communities and help meet personnel training requirements through membership in the Center for Watershed Protection (CWP). Host or organize group viewing of CWP stormwater-themed webcast series and facilitate discussion.

54400 Clear Choices Clean Water (CCCW)

Goal: Launch and maintain a regional water quality education campaign as a local affiliate of the national Clear Choices Clean Water program. The web-based program will be led by the members of TMACOG's Stormwater Coalition with a goal of empowering the citizens of northwest Ohio to make impactful choices to improve water quality while also meeting some Ohio EPA stormwater permit requirements for public involvement, participation, and education.

Objectives:

- Ensure ongoing funding through program administration, member and sponsor billing, and biennial payment.
- Establish CCCW working group that includes SWC members and partners.
- Integrate SWC goals and priorities into initial program set-up through CCCW working group.
- Work with CCCW national office to launch, host, and maintain CCCW website.
- Set timeline for regular updates to website, coordinate content updates with the CCCW working group, and implement updates on established timeline.
- Identify opportunities to promote CCCW at member and partner events throughout the 2017 launch year.
- Distribute data reports to SWC members annually for inclusion in member's required reports to OEPA.
- Provide support to members in seeking sponsorships.
- Provide support to member and partner stormwater education efforts.