



Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

December 8, 2022 9:30am – 11:30am

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1-614-721-2972 Conference ID: 498 927 01#

Hybrid Meeting

In person at Ohio EPA Northwest District,
347 N. Dunbridge Rd, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

AGENDA

- **Overview of Meeting & Agenda** (Mike Pniewski, Chair) (5 mins)
- **Update from BUI 3a, 6, 14a Biological Subcommittee** (Beth Sparks-Jackson, USGS) (10 mins)
 - Sibley Creek HUC-Ottawa River projects
 - New members needed, 2023 commitment
 - \$3M, 1-3 projects, preferably in lower 9-10 miles
- **Ohio EPA AOC Coordinator Report/Year in Review** (Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA) (40 mins)
 - Update on each BUI Status
 - WildMAPs, AquaMAPs, SedMAPs Updates
 - FFY23 Funding Requests
 - GLNPO EJ/CR projects
- **US EPA Task Force Leader Report** (Leah Medley, GLNPO) (5 mins)
 - Budget funding update (GLRI, Infrastructure)
- **Facilitating Organization's Report** (Kris Patterson, PCS) (10 mins)
 - Financial update
 - Outreach activities
 - Committee terms & application
 - Update on future activities
- **Project Feature: Maumee Bay State Park Projects** (Ashlee Decker, TNC) (10 min)
- **Partner Reports** (10 mins)
- **Meetings for 2023**
 - Second Thursday of the month, once per quarter at 9:30 (Feb. 16, May 11, Aug. 10, Dec. 14) (5 mins)
- **Public Comments & Adjourn** (5 mins)



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MINUTES

Attendance: Cherie Blair, Archie Lunsey, Deanna Bobak, Amber Bellamy, Leah Medley, Regina Collins, Sally Gladwell, Andrew Timmis, Amanda Kovach, Shawn Duke, Ryan Allison, Liv Simkins Bullock, Corey VanStratt, Bryan Hinterberger, Zuri Carter, Mike Pniewski, Vanessa Steigerwald Dick, Scott Butterworth, Edith Kippenham, Kris Patterson, Marc Mills, Jenny Carter Cornell, DJ Mears, Ashlee Decker, Beth Sparks-Jackson, Lynn Ackerson, Josh Miller, Courtney Lopez

- Mike Pniewski, Chair welcomed everyone and provided a quick overview of the agenda.
- August minutes were approved. Jenny Carter Cornell made a motion of approval, Sally seconded, and motion passed.
- Beth Sparks-Jackson, USGS, provided an update from BUI 3a, 6, 14a Biological Subcommittee.
There was one TBD project left on MAP project list on the Sibley Creek HUC-Ottawa River projects. The time has come to identify and recommend new projects in the lower Ottawa River, and the Biological Subcommittee is looking for new committee members to help with this process. They have six to nine months, meeting at most once a month throughout 2023. Planning for their first meeting in January 2023 if data is available from US EPA at that point.

Looking for specific roles to fill on the team – Beth specifically mentioned people with toxicology experience with the Ottawa River, US Fish and Wildlife, and reps from environmental design companies.

Edith Kippenhan (City of Toledo) says she will offer some project suggestions via email. Bryan Hinterberger (USACE) – said they could brainstorm if any support is needed from USACE. Amber Bellamy (USFWS) said they can help out with subcommittee.

- Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA shared the Ohio EPA AOC Coordinator Report/Year in Review. Presentation is posted on maumeeaac.org. She shared an update on most BUI Statuses. A few highlights are below.
BUI Status: BUI 1 was removed in August 2022. BUI 7 - Dredging restrictions – Removal date given as TBD in presentation. New data available on ship channel collected last year, Ohio EPA sediment staff reviewing. Will be updates in 2023 on removal timeline.

BUI 11 - Aesthetics is still under internal agency review. It still has to go to US EPA for their review. Once we get US EPA review, then there will be a MAAC review, then public comment. She says she expects to bring it before the MAAC before or at the February 2023 meeting.
- WildMAPs, AquaMAPs, SedMAPs Updates: All WildMAPs are funded and several celebrated ribbon cuttings this year. AquaMAPs - 2 nearing completion - Secor Metropark expansion projects (Prairie Ditch). 1-2



AquaMAPs may begin construction next spring pending permits – Hill Ditch project and possibly Bandore Park but due to other circumstances, that may be delayed.

US EPA set a goal of all AOCs delisted by 2030. That means in the AOC, we want all management actions complete by 2026 so there's time to data collect and assess. We are working towards that. SedMAPs are on a slightly different timeline due to remedial designs and remedial actions need to be taken, but Cherie is optimistic that those MAPs will complete by 2026 as well. The Ottawa River may need additional work, Otter Creek had remedy evaluation, mussel mitigation, and replacement planting, while Swan Creek and the Lower Maumee River projects are beginning Feasibility.

- FFY23 Funding Requests: Requested funding for a few more AquaMAPs and pending decisions on a few under other mechanisms, such as Partnership agreements.
- GLNPO EJ/CR projects: GLNPO has an Environmental Justice/Diversity and Inclusion Initiative and the Maumee AOC is a focus area. Some local projects could receive support through this mechanism. Cherie highlighted “Nature Play Parks” in City of Toledo Parks, as well as revitalizing PCS’s Maumee Corp., among other projects.
- Leah Medley, GLNPO echoed that the review for funding requests is going well but decisions haven’t been made yet.
- Facilitating Organization’s Report, Kris Patterson, PCS:
 - Financial update: PCS got new grant support from Ohio EPA in June, with about 15% spent right now and a few thousand dollars obligated in contracts, such as working on the DMDS. Kris asked for project partners to please update their DMDS pages.
 - Outreach activities: Kris highlighted that PCS prepared four quarterly newsletters, the 2021 annual report, and three additional project rack cards bringing our total to eight. We also developed a new website subsection for AquaMAPs and updated information on SedMAPs. And continued to be active on social media, producing new content.
 - PCS also helped promote open houses like Maumee River Islands project and the Hill Ditch TPS project. Kris also requested that if a project is underway and if the project lead is comfortable leading field visits, that's a good way to keep MAAC members connected to your project. PCS can help arrange site visits.
 - Committee terms & application: Kris reminded everyone that applications are posted. There’s a current vacancy for academic/nonprofit/citizen category. In addition, Kris and Cherie would like to know if there are new people coming on board or people changing roles. If there are enough interested new participants, Cherie and/or Kris could do an onboarding to get people familiar with the AOC program and how it's being implemented here. Would probably be before the February meeting. Kris also reminded voting members that once per term they need to take the State of Ohio ethics training (online or in-person at Owens). Online version coming up in December.
 - Update on future activities: Kris led a conversation to brainstorm ideas for MAAC activities for 2023. Some suggestions for future MAAC outreach and activities:
 - Multiple people said they were interested in seeing new project sites, especially things that have been talked about over the years but never seen.
 - Brainstorming/sharing lessons learned meeting of project leads. Helping to troubleshoot and avoid pitfalls.
 - Have Bill Hintz come to share updates on the chloride project research.
 - Sandpiper trip, or taking the bigger boat that can go out onto the Lake proper.
 - Virtual talks (possibly including pre-recorded video of sites).
 - Kayaking on the Ottawa to look for potential projects.
 - Getting Ottawa drone footage from Mike Pniewski from harder-to-access-areas for project inspiration.

- **Project Feature: Maumee Bay State Park Projects** (Ashlee Decker, TNC)

Far east end of the park, there's a large wetland complex. Purchased in 1975 and by 1981 they noticed significant erosion of 12 feet per year! In 1982 they built a rock wall/dike. Wetland fluctuates with the lake level. However, it is inundated with phragmites so this project sought to make the rock wall impermeable so DNR could control water levels and invasive species. Goal is to enable water management to improve habitat on 137 acres.

First part of project was to repair the dike and create an access road along the mile-long dike. Used "Aquablok," a limestone aggregate coated with sodium bentonite through Hull and Associates (now Verdantas).

Also installed a water control structure with trash rack on the lake side and fish control structure on the side to keep carp out. Did a snake survey and Blandings turtle survey but did not find any. Removed an internal berm and created more connectivity within the wetlands in a larger complex.

No signage installed yet, although H2O did some signage that has funders on it. Cherie mentioned there was interest in doing the boardwalk signage, and if that's done, this project would likely be mentioned.

- **Partner Reports** (10 mins)

Ashlee Decker, TNC - We have quite a few projects coming online through H2Ohio. One is in Ottawa Hills on the Ottawa River - just came out. ODNR received GLRI funding for Blue Creek stream project (adjacent to Blue Creek wetland project). ODNR did not have the staff to lead that project so TNC is the project lead.

Courtney Lopez – new to US Fish and Wildlife service and is a refuge specialist coordinating several GLRI & MAP projects.

Edith, City of Toledo - Bandore Park (which is a 319/GLRI joint project) is working on final design. Doing construction late next year. Delaware Creek phase two is working closely with ODOT as they do a culvert replacement there and COT is getting the project area locked in.

LaShawna Weeks, City of Toledo - Collins park project grant paperwork being finalized. For Jermain Park, the City has picked a design team but the paperwork has not been awarded yet. Detwiler golf course project is in preliminary phase and Detwiler Marsh project is finished with construction.

Corey VanStratt, Ducks Unlimited - Camp Zabrowski. "We've bid out the appraisal. ideally this property will be purchased by the end of the DU fiscal year, June 30." Meeting with the landowner to get approval to conduct topographic and bathymetric surveys. discuss with landowner to remove brush from the levees so we can get that work underway prior to the finalization of the sale.

Zuri Carter, Metroparks Toledo – Audubon Island design RFP is out. RFP is also out on Blue Creek and Neis Ditch.

- **Meetings for 2023**

- Second Thursday of the month, once per quarter at 9:30 (Feb. 16, May 11, Aug. 10, Dec. 14)
There is agreement that hybrid meetings work well to allow access for people who can't be in the room.

- **Public Comments & Adjourn:** None

Maumee AOC Updates on BUI Status, MAPs, and Funding

*Maumee AOC Advisory Committee
December 8, 2022*



Maumee AOC - BUI Status

BUI #	BUI Name	Target Achieved	Current Status	MA Completed	Projected BUI Removal
1a	Restrictions on Fish &	✓	Reduced Ottawa River “Do Not Eat” advisory (2017) & Maumee R. Channel Catfish (2018); target is met	Complete	2022
1b	Wildlife Consumption	✓	Snapping Turtles in Ottawa R do not meet target; sampled in Aug. 2017 & June 2018; target is met	Complete	REMOVED 8/22
3a	Degradation of Fish &		Management Action Project list approved; projects are being funded and implemented	2026	
3b	Wildlife Populations	✓	Sentinel species target is met (2017)	Complete	2027
4	Fish Tumors & Other Deformities		DELTs and bullhead tumors are impaired in 5 of 31 assessment units; 4 units were sampled by US FWS in summer 2021 (not Otter Crk., due to GLLA project); Otter Creek to be sampled in 2023 by US FWS	Complete	2024
6	Degradation of Benthos		Management Action Project list approved; projects are being funded and implemented	2026	2027
7	Restrictions on Dredging Activities		US ACE is collected sediment in navigation channel during summer 2021; data is under review	Complete	TBD

Maumee AOC - BUI Status

BUI #	BUI Name	Target Achieved	Current Status	MA Completed	Projected BUI Removal
8a	Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae	✓	D.O condition of target is met (2014)	Complete	2023-24
8b			Watersheds sampled summer 2020; Persistent growth condition could be considered Not Impaired; Ohio EPA collected water chemistry data in Maumee R./Bay in summer 2021	Complete	
10a	Beach Closings (Recreational Use)		Management Action Project list approved; project funded (2021) and being implemented	2024	2025
10b		✓	Paddling Stream (Maumee R. in AOC) not on 303(d) list, target is met (2014)	Complete	
10c		✓	Ottawa River “No Contact Advisory” for PCBs was rescinded (2018); Hecklinger Pond (Duck Crk.) sign removed (2019)	Complete	
11	Degradation of Aesthetics		BUI status reviewed, removable once Otter Creek GLLA is complete; Otter Creek project was completed in Sept. 2021	2021	2022-23 <i>(85% draft)</i>
14a	Loss of Fish &		Management Action Project list approved; project are being funded and implemented	2026	2027
14b	Wildlife Habitat		Local target of 3427 acres set in late 2016; Management Action Project list approved; projects are fully funded (2020) and being implemented	2023	

Maumee AOC - Fall 2022 MAP Update

Wildlife MAP Updates (BUI 14b) (target = 3427 acres)

- All 20 projects are funded
- 13 completed totaling ~1974 acres as of Oct 2022 (1243 acres since 5/25)
- 2 projects totaling ~282 acres expected complete by end of 2022
- Only 4 projects left to be completed in 2023, 1 project in 2024



*New pump structures at
Magee Marsh
WildMAP 1-16*



*Penn 7 Ribbon Cutting
WildMAP 24-17*

Photos of WildMAPs in 2022

Maumee AOC - Fall 2022 MAP Update

Aquatic MAP Updates (BUI 3a, 6, 14a)

- Funding allocated in FFY21 (12 full/2 partials) (\$11.8M)
 - Most are working on QAPP, RFPs, E&D contracting, field data collection
 - Total of 7 projects have completed Tribal consultation for section 106
 - 2 projects nearing substantial completion
 - 1-2 should go to construction next spring (pending permits)
- Funding allocated in FFY22 (14 full/2 partial/3 with NOAA) (\$15.9M)
 - Most were funded in Sept, so just getting started
- Expected funding request in FFY23
 - Implementation funding for 1-2 projects
 - Only 1 TBD remaining - lower Ottawa River projects (2-3)
 - Expect projects 1 yr. after data available [recently received fish data, expect benthos data soon]
 - Possible funding request in late FFY23

Maumee AOC - Fall 2022 MAP Update

Misc. MAP Updates (BUI 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11)

- BUI 10: Beach Closings
- Waterfowl Deterrent for Maumee Bay State Park through ODNR (awarded July 2021 for \$167,200)
- Progress in 2022:
 - QAPP approved
 - Shoreline stabilization complete
 - 12 sitting rocks installed
 - Spillway repaired
 - Started the planting mounds
 - 2 applications of herbicide were applied
 - No MAPs for other listed BUIs



Maumee AOC - MAPs Timeline to 2030

Estimated Timeline for AquaMAP, WildMAP, MiscMAP

Phase of Project	FFY22	FFY23	FFY24*	FFY25*	FFY26*
Project Award	18	3-5	0	0	0
Feasibility Study/Planning	4	4	1	1	0
Engineering/Design	9	23	6	2	0
Construction	14	9	25	19	7
Project Complete	4	10	5	19	6

* Phases are estimated for projects that are not funded yet.

Maumee AOC - Fall 2022 MAP Updates

Sediment MAP Updates

- Steps under the GLLA
 - Sediment Site Characterization
 - Data Gap Site Characterization (if necessary)
 - Focused Feasibility Study (FFS)
 - Remedial Design (RD)
 - Remedial Action (RA)
- Funding Structure
 - Sediment Site Characterization is 100% federal
 - FFS-RD-RA requires a Project Agreement with non-federal cost-share
 - Cost-share of at least 65% federal / 35% non-federal



Photo by Karen Keil, US ACE

Maumee AOC - Fall 2022 MAP Update

SedMAP Updates (BUI 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 14)

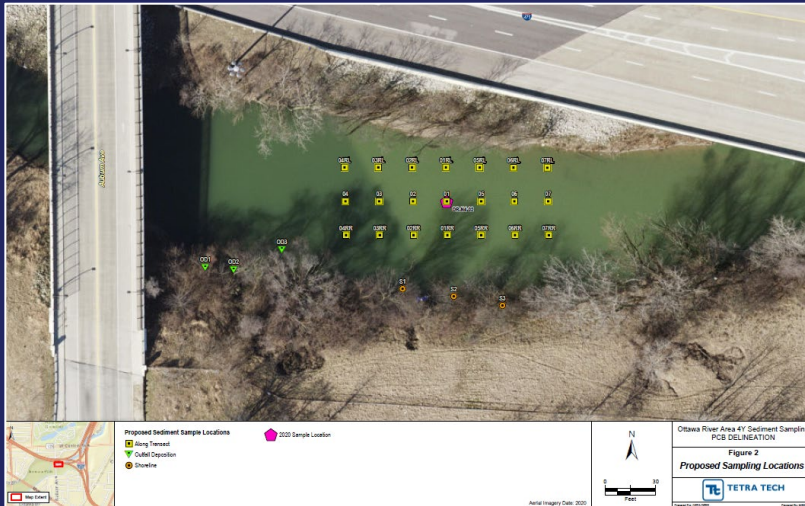
- Ottawa River
 - 4Y Sampling through Cooperative Agreement
- Otter Creek
 - Remedy Evaluation
 - Post-project Mussel Mitigation
- Swan Creek
 - Final Sediment Characterization Report
 - Began Feasibility Study
- Lower Maumee River (LMR-Sway Bridge, LMR-WWTP)
 - Final Sediment Characterization Report
 - Began Feasibility Study



Photo by Lynn Ackerson, Ohio EPA

Ottawa River

- Reach 1: 2020 Remedy Confirmation
 - PCBs exceed short-term (3 locations) and long-term goals (19 locations)
- Reach 2-4: 2020 Remedy Effectiveness Study
 - ORD Synthesis Report/Remedy Effectiveness Assessment Report pending
 - Preliminary Reach 4 data confirms high PCB concentrations (175 ppm) remain in Reach 4 (area 4Y)
- Current Activities
 - Determine hot spot extent in Reach 4 - 2022 Sampling (Ohio EPA) (week of Nov 7)
- Next Steps
 - Determine next steps for Reaches 1 - 4



Otter Creek



Photos by EnviroScience

- Remedial action and habitat restoration completed (8/27/2021)
- Current Activity
 - Mussel relocation of 617 mussels collected from two source populations, tagged, and transplanted (June 28 – July 1, 2022)
 - ORD completed a post-construction Remedy Effectiveness Study in late Sept 2022 (essentially repeat of baseline study)
- Next Steps
 - Need to determine if any further action for failed habitat restoration features (willow mortality)
 - Ongoing ORD REA data collection
 - Mussel survivability study and additional relocation based on sites with survivability

Swan Creek and Lower Maumee River (LMR)



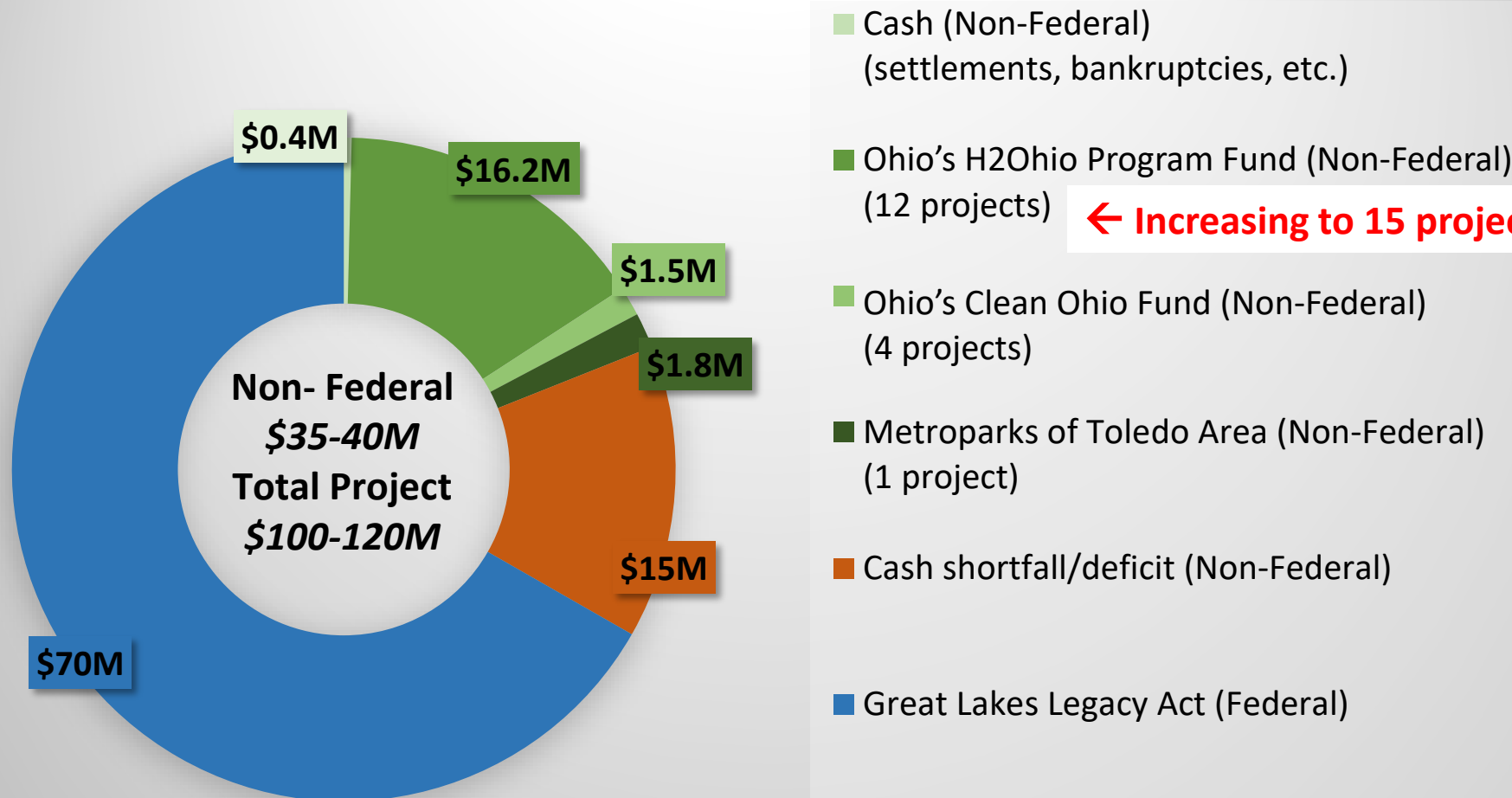
- Site Characterization Findings
 - LMR Sway Bridge & LMR WWTP – Exceeds screening criteria PCBs, PAHs and metals
 - Swan – Exceeds screening criteria for PCBs, PAHs, and metals
- Current Activities
 - US ACE conducted Shoreline Inventory (8/10/22)
 - Ongoing Feasibility Study for LMR and Swan
- Next Steps
 - Begin geotechnical evaluation for RD
 - Determine remedial alternatives

Maumee AOC - MAPs Timeline to 2030

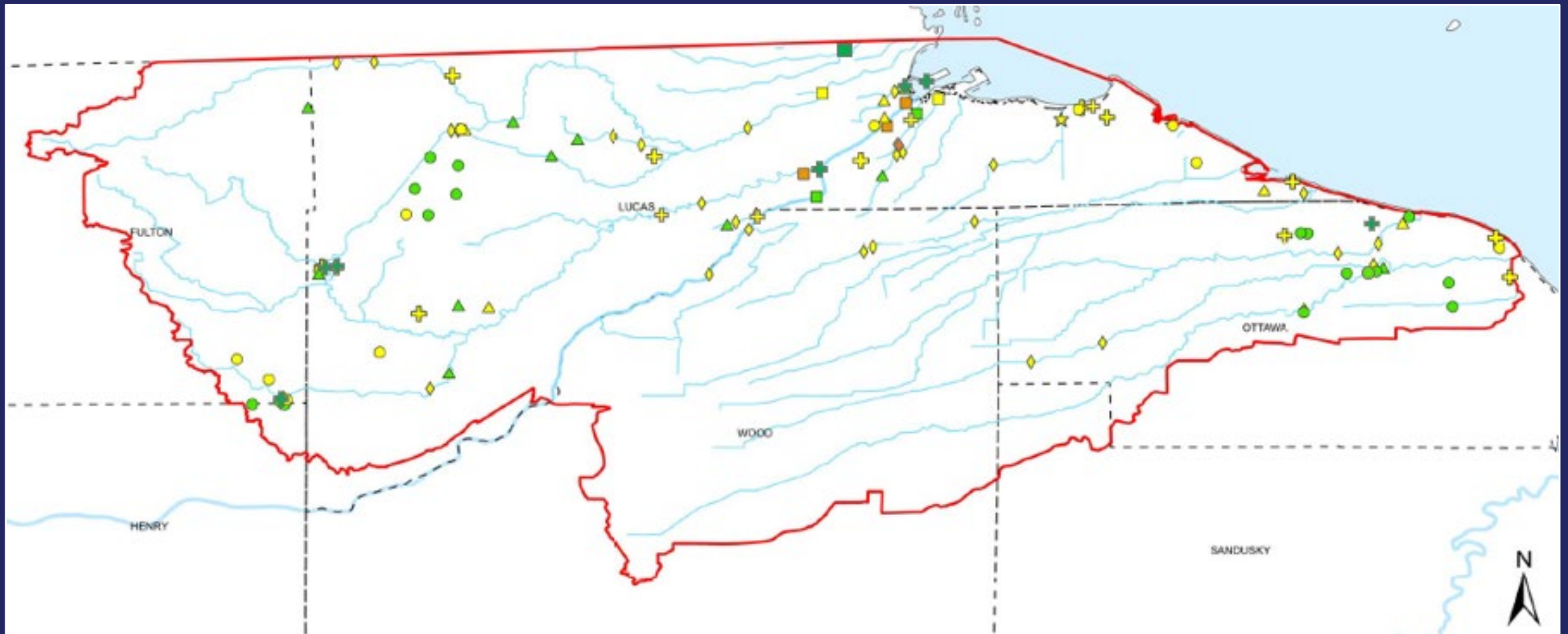
Estimated Timeline for SedMAPs

	FFY23	FFY24	FFY25	FFY26
Ottawa River	4Y sampling, Determine next steps	TBD	TBD	TBD
Otter Creek	Mussel evaluation, Habitat evaluation, Remedy Effectiveness	TBD	TBD	TBD
Swan Creek	Complete FS, PA3 executed, Start RD	Work on RD	Complete RD Start RA	Complete RA
Lower Maumee River (Sway/WWTP)	Complete FS, PA3 executed, Start RD	Work on RD	Complete RD Start RA	Complete RA

Maumee AOC – GLLA Funding



Maumee AOC - MAP Distribution



- *Over 80 MAPs plus 20 GLLA cost-share projects*
- *>\$84.3M in projects funded since 2018*
- *\$44.5M in MAPs are currently in progress*

All Management Action Projects

WildMAP

- Project Completed - AOC GLRI Funding
- Project Funded - AOC GLRI Funding
- Funding Needed - AOC GLRI Funding

AquaMAP

- ◆ Project Completed - AOC GLRI Funding
- ◆ Project Funded - AOC GLRI Funding
- ◆ Funding Needed - AOC GLRI Funding
- ▲ Project Completed - Other Funding
- ▲ Project Funded - Other Funding
- ▲ Funding Needed - Other Funding

SedMAP

- Project Completed - AOC GLRI Funding
- Project Funded - AOC GLRI Funding
- Funding Needed - AOC GLRI Funding
- ⊕ Project Completed - Other Funding
- ⊕ Project Funded - Other Funding
- ⊕ Funding Needed - Other Funding

MiscMAP

- ★ Project Completed - AOC GLRI Funding
- ★ Project Funded - AOC GLRI Funding
- ★ Funding Needed - AOC GLRI Funding

□ Maumee AOC

Maumee AOC - MAPs in Summary

	Total # Projects*	Estimated Total Cost*	Needs Funding	Funding Allocated	Completed as of Oct 2022	Expected Complete December 2022
WildMAPs	20	\$27,413,756	0	20	13	15
AquaMAPs						
- AOC Funded	33-35	\$48,654,466	Part of 2 All of 1-3	Part of 2 All of 30	0	2 (maybe)
- Non-AOC Funded	20	\$12,577,240	0	20	13	15
SedMAPs - GLLA	8		Parts of 5	Parts of 5 All of 3	3	3
- Federal Funded		\$59,107,323				
- Non-Fed Funded		\$29,990,000				
MiscMAPs	1	\$167,200	0	1	0	0
TOTALS =	83+	\$177,909,985	6+	78+	29	35

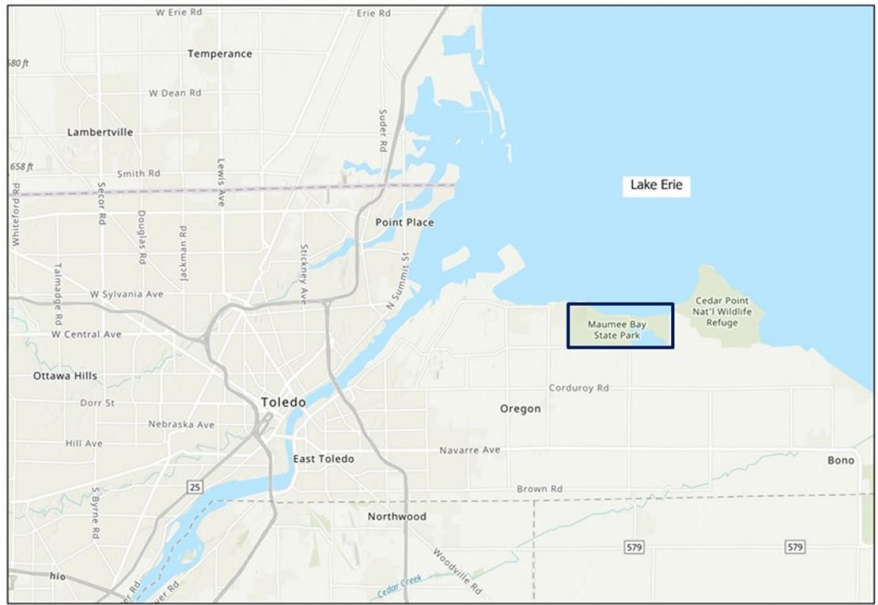
*Projects and cost estimates include all MAPs regardless of funding source

Maumee AOC – GLNPO's EJ/DEI Initiative

- GLNPO looking for projects in AOCs, but not MAPs
- Maumee AOC is a priority AOC for year one funding (FFY23)
- GLNPO met with local partners on 10/24/22 followed by site visits
- 6 projects with an EJ/DEI and environmental nexus were submitted for consideration
 - Metroparks Toledo
 - Swan Creek/Glass City Riverwalk features
 - Toledo Area Reforestation
 - City of Toledo
 - Nature Play Parks
 - Penn 7 Park Activation
 - Delaware Park Nature Trail
 - Partners for Clean Streams
 - Maumee Corps Revitalized
- If you know of other projects that might be a good fit, please contact me or Leah.



Maumee Bay State Park Wetland Restoration



Funding: \$2.2M H2Ohio and \$700,000 GLRI
Start date: Dec 6, 2019
End Date: Sept 30, 2022



- Goal: Enable water management to improve habitat on 137 acres
- Feasibility study
 - Close the revetment gap and create ~4,400' of impermeable barrier between the wetland unit and Lake Erie.
 - Install a water control structure with fish passage











