



## Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

August 10, 2023 9:30am – 10:30am

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### AGENDA

- **Welcome & Meeting/Call Logistics** (Mike Pniewski, Chair)
- **Vote: Minutes** (Chair) (5 mins)
- **Update from BUI 3a, 6, 14a Biological subcommittee** (Beth Sparks-Jackson, USGS) (10 mins)
  - Update on lower Ottawa River TBD projects
- **US EPA Task Force Leader Report** (Leah Medley, GLNPO) (5 mins)
  - AOC Conference Sept 12-14, 2023
  - GLRI Action Plan IV
  - Funding Update
- **Ohio EPA AOC Coordinator Report** (Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA) (10 mins)
  - MAP Updates
  - Funding Updates
  - Upcoming Activities
    - BUI 11 Removal Update
    - Maumee River Feasibility Study public meeting – August 10
- **Facilitating Organization's Report** (Kris) (10 mins)
  - Financial update
  - Future activities
    - August boat tour on the Maumee River– today!
- **Preview: New & improved maumeeaac.org website** (Kris) (10 mins)
- **Partner Updates** (10 mins)
- **Public Comments & Adjourn** (5 mins)
- **Next meetings for 2023** – hybrid format, Ohio EPA NWDO plus Teams  
*December 14 at 9:30am*



## Maumee AOC Advisory Committee

August 10, 2023 9:30am – 10:05am

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### MINUTES

Attendance: Cherie Blair, Mike Pniewski, Beth Sparks-Jackson, Kris Patterson, Kris Barnswell, Corey VanStratt, Liv Simkins Bullock, Zuri Carter, Amber Bellamy, Jim Carter, DJ Mears, LaShawna Weeks, Regina Collins, Andrew Sankowski, James Eisenhardt, Ashlee Decker, Lynn Garrity, Paul Hotz, Amanda Kovach, Scott Butterworth

- Mike Pniewski, Chair, noted that the meeting will be brief. There is a boat trip on the Sandpiper today for those attending that leaves at 11am.
- When a quorum was achieved, the minutes were approved. No objections or abstentions noted.
- Beth Sparks-Jackson, USGS gave an update from BUI 3a, 6, 14a Biological subcommittee. A small group has been working on identifying lower Ottawa River TBD projects with more specific site-based potential projects. They've held several meetings and field visits. The Mannik and Smith Group will be developing concept plans for several potential sites. The group plans to present recommendations in December.
- Leah Medley, GLNPO, US EPA Task Force Leader reminded everyone of the AOC Conference Sept 12-14, 2023 in Green Bay, WI. There is travel support for a few Maumee AOC representatives. The GLRI Action Plan IV is in early stakeholder input and will have more public input opportunities in the future. The recent GLNPO discussions on projects coming up the Maumee AOC went well. Decisions will be made soon.
- Cherie Blair, Ohio EPA, shared a written Ohio EPA AOC Coordinator Report and gave a brief summary. There are three WildMAPs left to complete and two will likely be completed by the end of the year. ODNR Forestry identified the additional property they needed. Delaware-Horseshoe Islands project was allocated a little over \$5 million and an award is anticipated soon. The lower Maumee River Feasibility Study public meeting is tonight, August 10 at the Glass City Pavilion at 4pm. Mike will be there along with agency representatives from Army Corps and EPA and the State. The draft Swan Creek focused feasibility study report is expected out for public comment in December and there will be a public meeting in early to mid-December. GLNPO accepted the recommendation to remove BUI 11. It will now go to the IJC. Ohio EPA's review of the sediment data for the dredging BUI indicates that it may be removable. More information will be shared in December.
- Kris Patterson shared a brief Facilitating Organization's Report. The AOC support grant is approximately 45% spent with more already allocated to several contracts. It is underspent but the contractual activities will pick up. Kris reiterated that the Maumee River boat trip today will showcase projects or future project (it is up to the captain if they go upstream or downstream today and it is a public cruise).
- Kris also gave a visual overview of the new & improved maumeeaac.org website and asked for any feedback. She highlighted the new home page and the project features. More will be added to the website for the Resources library and the MAP lists. She will let the committee know when the site fully launches.
- No Public Comments & meeting was adjourned early.
- **Next meetings for 2023** – hybrid format, Ohio EPA NWDO plus Teams  
*December 14 at 9:30am*

**Maumee AOC Coordinator Report  
for the Maumee AOC Advisory Committee  
August 10, 2023**

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- **WildMAPs** (*BUI 14b: Wildlife Habitat*)
  - There are 3 WildMAPs left to complete; 2 of which should be completed this calendar year.
  - ODNR Division of Forestry is leading the final WildMAP to be implemented. They have now identified a replacement property for their acreage shortage. A purchase agreement is in negotiation. This project is expected to be extended into 2025 so to complete the enhancement/restoration of the new property.
  - An updated Summary Table of the WildMAPs is available upon request.
  - A detailed narrative tracking of the WildMAPs is available upon request.
- **AquaMAPs** (*BUI 3a, 6, 14a: Fish Pops, Benthic Pops, Fish Habitat*)
  - Lots of AquaMAPs are getting underway. Many have released RFPs in the last 3-4 months or will be in the next 3-4 months. A couple projects are soon to be under construction (BD-2.0, HDOR-9.0)
  - Three projects are in the process of receiving supplemental funding awards totaling almost \$360,000 for their projects from the H2Ohio Program. Please let me know if your project is having funding issues as early as possible, preferably BEFORE asking GLNPO.
  - The Delaware/Horseshoe Islands project was allocated \$5,080,000 of GLRI-AOC funding for implementation. The award is expected any day. It is anticipated that a construction RFP will be released this fall for this project and the H2Ohio Clark Island project combined.
  - The last of the TBDs are in development. The MAAC should expect a final list for recommendation/approval at the December meeting.
  - I have not received any requests for any additional projects that need to go through federal tribal consultation this summer. Remember this is a requirement of your award that MUST be completed PRE-CONSTRUCTION. It can take 90+ days from start to finish, so please allow enough time for this activity. It can stop your project. Let me know if you have any questions.
  - An updated Summary Table of the AquaMAPs is available upon request.
  - A narrative tracking of the AquaMAPs is available upon request.
- **SedMAPs** (*BUIs vary by project site, GLLA contaminated sediment*)
  - Ohio continues to work with federal partners to make progress on the sediment projects.
  - The Lower Maumee River (LMR) Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) is out for public comment until Sept 3. There is a public information session this evening from 4 – 6pm at the Glass City Pavilion in the Glass City Metropark regarding the preferred remedial alternatives for cleaning up the WWTP and Sway Bridge sites. More information and the report are available at: <https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-aocs/information-session-proposed-contaminated-sediment-clean-lower-maumee-river>
  - The Swan Creek Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) is slightly behind the LMR FFS. The draft Swan FFS report is expected to be out for public comment in December. The Swan FFS public meeting is expected to occur in early to mid-Dec. (note: around the time of our Dec MAAC meeting). Stay tuned for more info on this project.
  - The Ohio AOC Program is working to secure non-federal matching funds for the next step in the GLLA process, which is Remedial Design (RD). The Ohio EPA anticipates preparing an application the Fall, so to be able to begin this next step in early 2024.
  - An updated Summary Table of the SedMAPs is available upon request.
  - A narrative tracking of the SedMAPs is available upon request.

- **Misc. MAPs (BUIs 4, 7, 8, 10, 11)**
  - **BUI 4: Deformities & Tumors** – US FWS boat broke down while conducting bullhead liver tumor sampling (BUI 4) on the Toussaint River earlier this year. Since the FWS boat is still not fixed, Otter Creek bullhead sampling has been delayed until spring 2024. The Turtle Creek and a portion of the Ottawa River sampling for fish community and habitat (BUI 3a, 14a) has been postponed until September. I hope to have a report on the results of this year's sampling at the December MAAC meeting.
  - **BUI 7: Dredging** – Ohio EPA's review of this sediment data found that this BUI should be removable. I will provide a more detailed update at a future MAAC meeting.
  - **BUI 10a: Beach Closings (advisories)** – Project is in progress.
  - **BUI 8b: Eutrophication** – I will update the committee at a future meeting.
  - **BUI 11: Aesthetics** – GLNPO has accepted this BUI removal recommendation. CONGRATS! 3 BUIs removed, 7 to go! Information was posted on Ohio Lake Erie Commission, Ohio EPA, and Maumee AOC social media.
- **AOC Program Updates**
  - US AOC Conference registration is open. It will be held on Sept 13-14, 2023 in Green Bay, WI, with pre-conference events on Sept. 12. There are direct flights from Detroit to Green Bay for those interested in traveling to the conference.  
<https://www.uwgb.edu/great-lakes-areas-of-concern-conference/>
  - The Great Lakes AOC Conference organizers have let us know that there is availability of additional travel scholarships for the Conference for AOC Advisory Committee members for an additional one scholarship/support per AOC. However, the submittal needs to go in by this Friday, August 11. Please work with your Kris if there is anyone that would like to submit.
  - We have not scheduled another Knowledge Sharing Session or Networking Session. Is there an interest in this, and if so, what topics??