

**Western Lake Erie Basin – Urban Waters Federal Partnership**

**20 Feb 2014 at Sanger Branch Library, 1-3 pm**

**Meeting Notes**

**I. Opening Presentation**

**A. Welcome and Introductions**

- Approximately 40 participants per sign-in sheet

**B. Purpose of Meeting**

- Build on discussion ideas from first meeting (November 2013)
- Determine common topics or themes to focus work in coming year

**C. Review of Last UW Meeting**

- Notes from first meeting show some common areas to focus on
- Still want to capture more ideas that may have been missed at first meeting
- Some topics from first meeting were presented on a slide and discussed further:
  - o Drinking water issue, algal problems – DW plants don't have regulatory or target numbers for intake water algal toxins. U.S. EPA does not have a standard. OEPA has recommended numbers to use (per Shannon). PROBLEM: Costly for DW plants to do sampling and systems use a lot of carbon to treat; blooms are unpredictable. NEED: More rapid assessment of algal toxins; better research on healthy and dangerous levels (currently just based on World Health Organization numbers).
  - o Aquatic invasive species concerns – Asian carp, *Phragmites*, etc.
  - o Loss of wetlands – want to prevent losing more, only about 5% remaining.
  - o Urban Forestry programs – have more of these; grant funds potentially for education and outreach, reforestation, monitoring, Emerald Ash Borer problems. (Contact Bob Boyles, State Forester)
  - o Education and research should be tied together – with outreach. (Contacts Steve, Joe Lucente, OH Sea Grant)
  - o Engage Tourism folks more
  - o Engage Health Department more (state and local)
  - o TMDL should be developed for entire WLEB, all nutrients. (OEPA currently developing one for the Upper Maumee watershed.)
  - o Media – contact news stations (TV and newspaper). Katie has done this before.
  - o Matrix of cost benefits of some of the actions.
  - o Riverfront in Toledo needs redevelopment.
  - o Environmental Justice (EJ), Green Infrastructure (GI), Brownfields, and complete streets all being worked on by City of Toledo.
  - o Promenade Park
  - o Flooding issues

**II. Break Out into Small Groups**

- Four small groups of approximately 10 people per group met for 30 minutes.
- Task: discuss where to focus our Urban Waters work in the future... issues and problems we face, ways to solve the problems, what partners can help?

### III. Report Back to Large Group – Concerns / solutions / partners

- GROUP 1 (reported by Sally)
  - o Algal blooms and water quality
  - o Storm water and expansion of pilot projects
  - o Land use planning and policy
  - o Education and outreach – how landscape affects what people think of their neighborhoods / communities
  - o Protect remaining 5% of wetlands in state
  - o GL leader (or WLEB leader) to share information on WQ
  
- GROUP 2 (reported by Shannon)
  - o Nutrient pollution problems are major, from agricultural impacts as well as sewers and CSO problems
  - o Outreach and development of riverfront area (Swan Creek corridor, Middlegrounds to Promenade Park, bring users to the riverfront
  - o Guidelines / set code for land use along urban waterfront; tying water resource management with working waterfront
  - o Land use planning about storm water runoff, and GI, especially in EJ areas
  - o Education and marketing campaign about the great fresh water resource we have for recreation, drinking water source, economics, etc.
  
- GROUP 3 (reported by Joe)
  - o TMDL for Lake Erie, or Western and Central Basins together needed
  - o Wetland and floodplain restoration
  - o Economic development - Market as a destination location; benefits of a clean Maumee Bay / Lake Erie
  - o Connect people to their natural resources – rivers, bay, lake as place to recreate and take care of; quantify problems, review solutions, prioritize resource allocation
  - o Open lake dumping problem
  - o DW issues
  - o 4 R's (nutrient stewardship certification?)
  - o Improved WWTP infrastructure – eliminate CSOs; septic issues
  - o Land ban for manure application on frozen ground
  
- GROUP 4 (reported by Jane)
  - o Personal use of the waterways
  - o Safer for people and wildlife – reduce bacteria and Harmful Algal Blooms
  - o Lack of access
  - o Cultural disconnection
  - o Messaging to promote use, preventing pollution, etc.
  - o WQ improvements

**IV. Any Missing Partners (local, state or federal)? Any Local Plans to Consider?**

- PLANS TO CONSIDER:
  - o Uptown Plan (TDctr)
  - o Metroparks Plan
  - o Maumee River Area of Concern (AOC) RAP Plan
  - o Local watershed plans
  - o Port Authority Plan
  - o Interactive Map
  - o Bike Path Loop Plan?
  - o Toledo-Lucas County Sustainability Plan – Going Beyond Green

**V. Wrap Up and Next Steps**

- Begin to form workgroups to focus on specific topics
- Schedule next meeting for mid-April
- (Doodle poll determined best available date for partners as: 29 April 2014.  
We will meet from 1-3pm at Wildwood Metropark, 4830 West Central Avenue, Toledo OH.)