

URBANWATERS

A Partnership Restoring Urban Waters, Revitalizing Communities

WLEB Urban Waters Partnership Meeting - 1/29/2021, 10:00am – 12:30pm EST

Virtual - via Microsoft Teams

NOTES

PARTICIPANTS:

Gary Belan (American Rivers), Ashley Binion-Zuccaro (USACE), Cherie Blair (OEPA, Maumee AOC), Paul Buszka (USGS), Regina Collins (City of Toledo, Sustainability), Marya Czech (retired teacher, Junction outreach), Brooke DeCubellis (WLEBP / NRCS), Peg Donnelly (USEPA), Marilyn Dufour (City of Toledo, Env Services), Donna Foster (USFS), Stephanie Foster-Miller (ODNR, Division of Forestry), Sara Guiher (TMACOG), Melissa Hopfer (Lucas County Sustainability Commission), David Lampe (USGS), Chris Orvin (USEPA, HQ), Kris Patterson (Partners for Clean Streams), Cheryl Rice (NRCS), Patty Toneff (Woodlawn Cemetery), Mike Young (Woodlawn Cemetery and Toledo Design Collective), David Zvac (Congresswoman Kaptur's office)

OVERVIEW / REMINDER OF URBAN WATERS GOALS AND FEDERAL PARTNERS INVOLVED:

- 20 Urban Waters Partnership locations and 15 federal partners nationally (www.urbanwaters.gov)
- Reconnect urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with community-led revitalization efforts to improve water systems and promote their economic, environmental and social benefits

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS MEETING / NOTES FROM 7/16/2020:

- Local and federal presentations by Sara Guiher from TMACOG about outreach and education including Canoemobile; by Tim Schetter and Allen Gallant from Toledo Metroparks about Manhattan Marsh and Glass City Metropark and Riverwalk; and by Donna Foster from USFS about GLRI funded urban forestry projects
- Partner input at last meeting shows interest in focus on education and outreach efforts (5), urban forestry (4), habitat restoration (3), and green infrastructure (3).

PRESENTATION BY ASHLEY BINION-ZUCCARO, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS:

- Overview of USACE programs, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, Buffalo District (OH, PA, NY)
 - o Missions defined by Executive and Legislative Branches
 - Navigation – waterways, locks, harbors
 - Flood risk management – dams, reservoirs, levees (S205)
 - Ecosystem restoration – restore aquatic, riparian, wetland resources to less degraded, more natural condition (S206); \$475M in GLRI funds
 - Coastal storm damage reduction, hydropower, recreation, water supply
 - o Additional program capabilities include watershed studies, invasive species management, planning assistance to states, floodplain management services
 - o Authorizations include: Water Resource Development Act, River and Harbor Act, Flood Control Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and Continuing Authorities Program (S14 streambank and shoreline protection, S204 sediment management, etc)
 - o Regulatory program – protect the nations aquatic environment including wetlands while allowing reasonable and necessary development (CWA S404 permits)
- Otter Creek project highlights:
 - o Located in Lucas County, east of Maumee River, enters Maumee River near Maumee Bay
 - o Sediment studies (1990s by OEPA, 2007-10 by USEPA) revealed high levels of PAHs and diesel range organics (DROs); benthic and fish community surveys also completed

- Feasibility study 2012-13; pre-design remedial investigation 2016-18
- Approximately 50K cubic yards of contaminated sediment will be hydraulically dredged from the lower 1.7 miles of the creek (March – July 2021). Material will be pumped to the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority's confined disposal facility. One-foot deep sand cover (containing 10% fines) will be placed in the creek after dredging (July – Aug 2021). Fish and aquatic habitat improvements will be installed (Aug – Sept 2021), and mussel mitigation (Sept – Nov 2021).
- USEPA website link to Otter Creek: www.epa.gov/great-lakes-aocs/otter-creek-legacy-act-cleanup
- March 10th there will be a public webinar, details will be sent to Urban Waters partners.

PARTNER ACCOMPLISHMENTS / PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS / SUCCESSES IN WLEB FROM 2020:

- Includes projects related to education & outreach, urban forestry, habitat restoration, volunteer monitoring, green infrastructure, engaging communities in the use or protection of water resources, etc.
- From Sara Guiher: TMACOG coordinated Canoemobile program in 2019 for students and community; had good sponsors including food sponsors (very important)
- From Kris Patterson: PCS had a successful Clean Your Stream program in 2020; smaller groups or alone due to COVID restrictions; approximately 600 people participated; 20K lbs of trash collected from the Maumee River and other neighborhood waterways; clean-up volunteers could calculate their trash collected on a paper card provided, or using an app developed by the Ocean Conservancy
- From Marilyn DuFour: Toledo / Lucas County Rain Garden Initiative worked with 19 faith communities on rain gardens for stormwater management, and gardens for wildlife with NFWF Five Star and Urban Waters funding. One install is almost done, one workshop was in person, one workshop was virtual, plant vouchers were provided. Had tours of four rain gardens in July 2020 (20 people attended in person, over 300 people virtually). For more information see www.raingardeninitiative.org and click on "Sacred Grounds" and <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeRnF8XlqjRh35p1UvBHg-g>
- From Cherie Blair: Maumee AOC management actions were achieved in 2020. Can share specifics at future meeting. Eight projects were funded by ODNR's H2Ohio funds, and those can be used as non-federal match for other projects (\$11M).
- From Melissa Hopfer: The Sustainability Commission redid several education programs in 2020. In 2019 had first EcoFest – which was virtual in 2020 with a scavenger hunt and participants posted photos on social media. Held three virtual Beyond Green Lunches in 2020.
- From Melissa Hopfer: In 2019, completed nutrient modeling.
- From Melissa Hopfer: In 2018, partnered with University of Toledo and did an urban waters project focused on green infrastructure in northern Toledo. This work also helped with development of a pocket park with much needed neighborhood green space, including fruit trees, and a place for neighborhood gatherings and block parties.
- From Regina Collins: In 2015, vernal pools and porous pavement were installed at Cullen Park. A green infrastructure plan was developed and implemented.
- From Mike Young: Floating wetlands were designed for an area offshore from Cullen Park (not constructed yet). An ADA compliant kayak launch was installed in recent years. Plans were designed for a bike path thru Collen Park, and since Manhattan Marsh is close by there may be things coming together.

NEW / ONGOING / POTENTIAL PARTNER PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS FOR 2021:

- Note if projects are looking for assistance (technical, financial, volunteers, planning, etc.)
- When project is expected to be started, completed, or if ongoing / recurring events.
- This list can also contain "wish-list" projects for the future... dream big everyone!
- From Sara Guiher & Kris Patterson: TMACOG and PCS hope to partner in 2021 / 2022 to offer Canoemobile again; could use funding
- From Paul Buszka: USGS has funding available for monitoring at Urban Waters locations, needs a 50% non-federal match, would really like some Toledo projects. USGS Urban Waters projects are directed toward USGS providing water quality and related hydrologic data to further overall UWFP goals; enhancing the ability of areas and public to

beneficially use, preserve and enjoy their water resources. Urban Waters directed match funds can match reimbursable funds from non-Federal government partners/cooperators, up to a 50 percent (1:1) match to collect water quality and related hydrologic data and interpretations, including reports. There's an annual call for proposals (about late Nov-Dec) within USGS; USGS staff work with UW partners to develop relevant ideas backed with funding for the initial call. In-kind match is not permitted as the reimbursable contribution. In past years, USGS has annually had about \$750K or more in UW-DMF to allocate to projects in the Urban Waters Federal Partnership areas, with about half that dedicated to new project starts. https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/urban-waters-federal-partnership-cooperative-matching-funds?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects

- From Marilyn DuFour: Wants to do more rain garden work in 2021 and 2022. Have applied for additional funding. Hoping to work with Washtenaw Master Rain Garden program and bring trainers to Toledo.
- From Marya Czech: Wants to share information with communities about how much phosphorus percolates thru drain tiles and gets into rivers and streams. Asked for links to published research or fact sheets. Links provided from Brooke DeCubellis and David Lampe https://www.usgs.gov/centers/umid-water/science/edge-field-monitoring-great-lakes-restoration?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects
- From Marya Czech: Has a plan for outreach comparing the Ottawa and Swan Creek watersheds, but looking for someone to help implement.
- From Marya Czech: Enhancing urban forests in Toledo, especially in the Swam Creek watershed. Needs implementation.
- From Marya Czech: Need a Maumee River watershed map without political boundaries on it. (NOTE: Cheryl Rice from NRCS has been working with Marya on this map request, using NRCS GIS experts. A draft has been provided, and once finalized a file will be shared with all Urban Waters partners in a newsletter!)
- From Kris Patterson: PCS will be working with University of Toledo's Lake Erie Center, NOAA and Lucas County to engage teachers and students in water quality monitoring. The Sandpiper boat will be used for science cruises, using NOAA tools and protocols. For more information use the following link http://news.utoledo.edu/index.php/01_21_2021/utoledo-lake-erie-center-to-outfit-floating-laboratory-for-science-cruises
- From Cherie Blair: Several Maumee AOC fish and aquatic habitat projects as well as wildlife habitat projects are scheduled for 2021. Can present at a future meeting (April or July 2021).
- From Patty Toneff: Woodlawn Cemetery is in the planning and engineering phase for a stream restoration. Want to engage the public more, and working with Amy Stone (Lucas County Extension) on this. Get lots of foot traffic with bike path and benches in their historical cemetery natural areas.
- From Mike Young: Woodlawn Cemetery could use additional funding for green infrastructure and stream restoration projects (Sibley Watershed / Bowen Ditch / Ottawa River Tributary) Some nearby park land might be put into a conservancy and would also use forested part of cemetery that is currently unused. The cemetery is a Level 2 Arboretum with 138 tree species and historical significance as a rural cemetery.
- From Gary Belan: Water utility in DC had incentives for stormwater runoff coming from cemeteries. (Toledo is not implementing has anything similar at this time.)
- From Regina Collins: Applied for NFWF Five Star / UW grant this week, to remove invasive species and plant natives at Cullen Park.
- From Regina Collins: Have applied for grants to do restoration work at Paisley Park (aka Bendor Park, corridor in west Toledo with chronic flooding issues), and also to expand work at Deitweiler Park.
- From Mike Young: Floating wetlands to be installed off Cullen Park, maybe in 2022 as a pilot project. Potentially funded by ODNR's H2Ohio funds, to reduce nutrient pollution.
- Steph Foster-Miller added information in the chat: I'm available to assist with any tree-related portions of projects so that the trees live, are happy & functioning well: selection/siting, maintenance planning, contract/spec development & oversight, plan review. You might want to sign up for my announcements at <https://mailchi.mp/9aa9adaa6512/ohiodofregion4>

WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS:

- Will share compiled list of accomplishments and current projects, in the format of a workplan document draft developed by federal lead partners with on-going input from all

- Next meetings will be on April 29, July 29 and October 21, 2021 from 10am-12:30pm EST. Meetings will be virtual until further notice due to COVID restrictions.
 - If you are willing to present, please reach out to Destinee, Cheryl, or Peg
 - USGS (Paul Buszka) willing to present at future meeting about monitoring projects
 - OEPA (Cherie Blair) willing to present at future meeting about Maumee AOC projects

 - Share any topics you would like covered in future meetings
 - Tour at Woodlawn Cemetery for future UW meeting (when we can meet in person)