

Western Lake Erie Basin – Urban Waters Federal Partnership

18 Dec 2014 – Secor Park, Toledo OH

Meeting Notes

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Approximately 50 participants per sign-in sheet

II. Partnering Opportunities and Urban Waters Priorities

- Examples discussed of types of Urban Waters projects being done in other UWFP locations
 - o Denver area habitat restoration being done in upstream areas of the South Platt River, in an area damaged by forest fire. Restoration to help prevent run-off upstream, which effects water quality downstream in Denver.
- Handout provided of topic ideas from DC meetings of UWFP
 - o Urban farming is one idea that might be of interest to WLEB partners.
- Newly signed document of 29 NGO's being part of Urban Waters
 - o We should reach out to local offices of each NGO we're interested in working with.
 - o Some of the NGO signatories: Parks Alliance, Trust for Public Lands, Sierra Club, River Network, Earth Force, Arbor Day Foundation, National Wildlife Foundation, National Rec and Parks Assn.
- Keep in mind the other Federal Partners we can work with
 - o Including HUD, DOT, CNCS (Vista / AmeriCorps)
 - o DOJ has volunteers available – which WLEB partners can use help?

III. Upper Maumee River Watershed Action Plan – Stephanie Singer

- Plan recently approved by two states (IN and OH) and USEPA
- No tributary data was available, so modeled for numbers
- There are St. Joseph and St. Mary Rivers watershed plans also in place (tributaries to Upper Maumee)
- Want to get started on implementation of the plan
- Urban critical areas have been identified
- Nitrogen and Phosphorus prevention / load reductions
- Have specific BMPs for certain areas (Ft. Wayne, Hicksville, Defiance) such as green roofs, permeable pavement, and rain gardens.
- There is a little funding from IN CWA 319 / Non-point Source funding to cost-share implementation projects in IN.
- Will be starting an Urban Committee – meeting Jan 5, 2pm, Allen County Library – all are welcome.
- Will also have Septic, Agriculture, and Recreation Committees too.

- Jan 24 there will be a Save the Maumee implementation conference at IN Tech Law School in Ft. Wayne.
- League of Women Voters and Sierra Club are already involved.

IV. NFWF “Five Star and Urban Waters” RFP – Jeff Schaefer

- Proposals due Feb 3, 2015
- Wants to highlight good things in the watershed, to re-connect people to their waters, so they care about their waters, and preserve / protect their waters.
- Working with City of Toledo on a proposal to host a day-long conference in the summer (on a Saturday to reach residents).
- USGS on steering committee, but want more partners to help plan and participate in conference – for example, Visions of Cullen Park, PCS, OEPA, charter captains, local neighborhood associations.
- Hope to have sessions on science, things residents can do, discussions on importance / what future people want, and some hands-on components.

V. NOAA’s “Marine Debris Prevention thru Education and Outreach” RFP

- Proposals due Jan 15
- Handout with information about the NOAA RFP, and discussion about partnering.

VI. Earthforce and City of Toledo - Beatrice

- Potentially partnering on education and public outreach
- Rain garden initiative already working in Toledo
- This program would potentially involve school and afterschool participants
- Involves looking at problems in the community, setting goals, developing a strategy to solve the problems, implementing, and sharing with the community at large.
- Earthforce is currently program run by a contractor for the city of Denver; 2 years, 6 schools, \$60K.
- In Toledo could potentially work with the student watershed watch program
- Additional partnering ideas from others: work with Junction Avenue students, connect with the Science Center.
- Suggestion: need a communication phrase for people to connect all the E & O in the watershed, like a water marketing slogan.

VII. Toledo Metroparks and Port Authority

- Opportunities to collaborate regarding beneficial re-use of dredge materials (on agricultural fields, coastal wetland restorations)
- Port Authority received funding from OH DNR
- Conceptual ideas submitted, but trying to develop details still on best way to use the most dredge material.

VIII. River Summit II in April 2015 – Dan Wire

- Three years ago Tri-State Watershed Alliance held River Summit I
- Now planning for River Summit II to be held April 8, 9, and 11, 2015 in Ft. Wayne, IN
- Wed, April 8 = organizations can have their own meetings there
- Thurs, April 9 = collaborative day, all together
- Sat, April 11 = hands-on fun day all over the city and on the river
- To bring people back to their waters, using, appreciating, etc.
- NRCS, SWCD, IN Dept Ag, city of Ft. Wayne, businesses, foundations involved.
- Would like Urban Waters partners to help with planning, presenting, and attending.
- Need to connect the dots between upper watershed (Ft. Wayne) and lower watershed (Toledo).
- From Ft. Wayne scoping meeting, people want to recreate on the river, enjoy natural areas, have amenities available along the river.

IX. Maumee AOC Updates – Kris Patterson

- RAP / AOC Committee is shifting to an open standing committee with 8 – 16 members (applications currently being accepted) plus non-voting federal and state partners.
- Have a currently open small grant RFP (using SEP \$), proposals due Jan 30, 2015.
 - o Up to \$10K per project, 1 year project duration, within AOC boundary
 - o Projects must make water quality improvements
- Data Management Delisting System – now available on-line, helps map projects, shows system benefits, status of projects within boundary
- USEPA is hosting the Great Lakes AOC conference at UT on March 11 and 12, 2015 (registration available on-line)

X. Updates on HABs

- Cheryl will send links to updates
- Ag research – involving water quality monitoring
- USGS water quality monitoring
- NRCS \$1M for implementation for large landowners and producers to reduce NPS
- RCPP – multiple applications went in for WLEB, all for water management BMPS, to continue implementation of the state program already in place.

XI. Other Updates

- **Lake Erie Algal Conference**
 - o Jan 22, 2015 for agricultural and urban folks (Cheryl will send link)

- **Lucas County Commissioners**
 - Working with OEPA on source water protection plan
 - Looking for more partners **

- **USGS Columbus**
 - Do monitoring, including urban hydrology and effectiveness of GI / BMPs
 - Will be receiving GLRI funding

- **Suggestions for future meetings / partners / info:**
 - Move meetings further upstream sometimes into other urban communities
 - University of Heidelberg for existing water quality data
 - Stephanie Miller- state forester for OH

XII. Wrap Up and Next Steps

- Let Cheryl, Peg or Mike know if you need help finding partners for project proposals (Cheryl will send links to open RFPs)
- Help identify implementation partners on Upper Maumee
- Help Tri-State Watershed Alliance with River Summit II
- Schedule next meetings:
 - February 2015 (Doodle poll will be sent);
 - April 8, 2015 (on first day of River Summit II, in Ft. Wayne)