

Western Lake Erie Basin – Urban Waters Federal Partnership
18 Sept 2014 - Pearson Park at Macomber Lodge, Oregon OH
Meeting Notes

I. Opening Presentation

A. Welcome and Introductions

- Approximately 45 participants per sign-in sheet

B. Purpose of Meeting

- Review UW goals
- How federal agencies can help locals with their priority water projects

C. Review of Last UW Meeting – Main Themes / Issues

II. USEPA Urban Waters Small Grant – Junction Avenue Project, Kari Gerwin, TMACOG

- Junction Avenue community work started July 2014, meet every 3rd Monday
- Water was determined to be top interest in the community
- Forming steering committee now to set priorities & review previous plans
- Re-doing beautification plan (from 1987) given recent vacant properties, some community gardens present... a Greening and Revitalization Plan
- Community will be represented on Toledo Advisory Cmt.
- Will provide education and outreach to community on water quality issues
- City is helping with drinking water info
- Goal is to help resident communicate & participate in decision making process
- Land bank going to demolish many vacant buildings (over 600 in Toledo)
- Rain barrel program in community already
- Murals done by kids to help communicate healthy and safe
- Swan Creek in SE corner of neighborhood has aquatic life and recreational use impairments
- Lots of illegal dumping at Sterling Park (S of RR tracks) and lots of vacant buildings in NE area of community
- Potential projects in community: right of way / along road bioswales to collect stormwater and provide green space; brownfield removal / remediation to create community area with rain garden; community vegetable gardens; natural areas along railroads or other big spaces; reconnect the residents with Swan Creek (currently not very accessible b/c of RR tracks)

III. Recent Algae Issue

- **Drinking water shut-down in Toledo in August due to algal toxins in WLEB**
 - o USEPA just announced on 9/3/14 that \$12M in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding to be spent on WLEB algal monitoring, microcystin research, and drinking water issues

- Funding will be distributed to NRCS, USGS, NOAA, and EPA
- Nutrient and run-off related top priority projects for these agencies now
- Communities need better understanding of water treatment and which system their drinking water comes from
- Need mapping tool to where each home gets their drinking water from
- Need better understanding of how / when water safe to use
- GLRI proposal for HABs and human adaptations would provide map of where homes get DW from
- Need to consider green infrastructure for runoff, and not just grey infsx
 - Discussions with ODOT needed
 - ODNR been helpful in educating some small towns
 - GI Task Force in Toledo (looking to see if any barriers)
- Should consider new technologies – floating islands to absorb nutrients.
- USACE using green breakwaters in other locations (Ashtabula) to soften the shoreline and provide habitat
- Green LID projects in Cleveland completed and quantified amount of runoff being contained and treated
- Make E&O materials less scientific and more practical for residents to understand
- Tie in GI projects as source water requirement for zero-interest DWSRF loans
- Restrict fertilizer use at certain land types (local ordinance changes, or statewide laws); teach residents to not overapply fertilizers / rates of application / times to apply; fertilizer outreach to sports fields and golf courses; Dayton / Columbus / Ann Arbor examples.
- Fix septic systems, give \$ to low income residents to fix.

IV. Other Announcements

- Upper Maumee River Watershed Plan being released soon
 - Identifying partners who can help implement the watershed plan (need help)
 - Plan uses smaller sub-watershed data to identify where to target implementation actions / BMP installations, etc.
- Tri-state Watershed Alliance going to hold a River Summit in March 2015
 - UW partners are welcome to help with planning and presenting
- UT Lake Erie Center – new Water Task Force
 - Need \$ for scientists and technicians for more sophisticated testing
- TMDL for nutrients on the Upper Maumee River out for comment now (Defiance and Ft. Wayne areas)

- Ft. Wayne development project along river, being designed now.
- Toledo Drinking Water Plant has hired new outreach person – ask her to speak @ future mtg.
- Request for future meeting – invite community leaders and have that focus@ mtg.

V. Wrap Up and Next Steps

- Help with Junction Avenue committee / project
- Help identify implementation partners on Upper Maumee
- Help Tri-State Watershed Alliance with River Summit
- Comment on Upper Maumee TMDL for nutrients

- Schedule next meeting for November or December 2014
(Doodle poll will be sent)