

MRBPLG

The Maumee River Basin Partnership of Local Governments



April 21, 2006

Dear Mayor:

Six and one half million dollars (\$6.5M) have been appropriated by congress for the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) Study. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are jointly working on this multi-million dollar, comprehensive, watershed management partnership and framework. While the initial funding for this study (which is anticipated to be spent over the next five years) will primarily focus on the agricultural community, the overall project goals are intended to assist entities with water quality and quantity management needs.

Seventy-five percent (75%) of the land use in basin is agricultural; however, most of the population lives in urban areas. To comprehensively look at the basin, both agricultural and urban interests must be considered. In order to clearly identify the municipal financial need, the Maumee River Basin Partnership of Local Governments (MRBPLG) is working on a cost study to be utilized as a lobbying piece to bring funding to local governments who must bear the burden of NPDES compliance mandates.

As a local government, we need your input. Enclosed is a fax survey to identify financial needs associated with achieving regulatory compliance with specific components of NPDES requirements. **We are writing you today to ask you to please complete the enclosed survey and return it to us via fax at 317-632-3306, Attn: Lori Gates, by Friday, May 5, 2006.**

The MRBPLG exists to improve and protect water quality on a regional and local watershed basis by acting as an advocate for its members with state and federal agencies, consolidating data, integrating planning and priorities, and encouraging the development of smaller watershed partnerships. The MRBPLG is financially supported by its "Core Cities", which include the Cities of Fort Wayne, Toledo, Lima, Perrysburg, and Defiance.

Our desire is to improve the MRBPLG by bringing more local governmental partners into the partnership, while building on our past successes. Partners will benefit tremendously from the expansion of our participants, knowledge, and support base. In order for the MRBPLG to be successful in its mission, we must ensure that our efforts truly address the needs of governmental entities in the Maumee River Basin and their specific water quality issues.

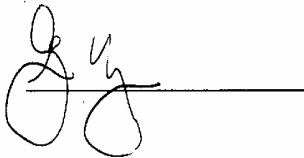
Please plan on attending our next meeting on Thursday, May 18th in order to have your concerns and needs for improving the Maumee River Basin watershed heard and to become a part of this comprehensive framework effort. Survey results will be presented at this meeting.

MRBPLG 2006 Meeting Schedule

Date	Location	Topic(s)
May 18 th	Fort Wayne, IN	Watershed Issues – Local & Regional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Thomas, EPA Region 5 • Robert McCall, OSU Extension • Explore methods for Local startup • Present Final Draft of Updated Cost Study to MRBPLG
June (date TBA)	Toledo, OH	Leadership Summit on Water Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present 2005 MRBPLG Awards • Present Updated Cost Study • Have Sagamore discuss Lobbying
July 20 th	Perrysburg, OH	EPA Consent Decrees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large City Example (Toledo) • Small City Example (Perrysburg)
September 21 st	Location TBA	Stormwater Regulations on a Watershed Scale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDEQ Watershed Permit Example • Policy on permitting
November 16 th	Defiance, OH	2007 Planning

Please contact Lori Gates, MRBPLG Coordinator at 317-266-8000 or by e-mail at lgates@cbbel-in.com, if you have questions, would like more information, or would like to provide input into the MRBPLG Study.

Sincerely,



Greg Meszaros
 MRBPLG Co-Chair
 Director of Utilities and Public Works
 City of Fort Wayne, Indiana



Robert Stevenson
 MRBPLG Co-Chair
 Director, Toledo Waterways Initiative
 City of Toledo, Ohio

Enclosure



2006 Survey of NPDES Regulatory Financial Needs in the Maumee Basin

The purpose of this survey is to update the 2004 MRBPLG study which identified financial needs associated with achieving regulatory compliance with specific components of NPDES requirements. The information is being consolidated in a simple report that will serve local governments in the region as we collectively pursue funding for costly mandates. Estimated costs should be derived from your existing data and include all associated costs, such as planning, design, regulatory compliance, construction, etc.

Please complete the survey and return it, via fax, to 317-632-3306, Attn: Lori Gates; no later than Friday, May 5, 2006.

Name of Municipality or County: _____

Municipal or County Population: _____

Name and Title of Individual Submitting Information: _____

Are you under a Consent Decree with EPA for any water quality program? Yes No

If so, for what program and what is your time schedule for compliance? _____

Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTPs)

Financial investment made to date (Total dollars spent on compliance as of January 2006):

Annual Operating Costs (Total dollars spent broken down on a per capita basis):

Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO): Sewer Separation and Long Term Control Plan Development and Implementation

Financial investment made to date (Total dollars spent on compliance as of January 2006):

Future Estimated costs associated with achieving regulatory compliance (Next 5 years):

Future Estimated costs associated with achieving regulatory compliance (Next 20 years):

Future funds allocated or dedicated solely to achieving regulatory compliance:

Source of allocated funds (i.e., rate increases, new utility, etc.):

Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO)

Financial investment made to date (Total dollars spent on compliance of January 2006):

Future Estimated costs associated with achieving regulatory compliance (Next 5 years):

Future Estimated costs associated with achieving regulatory compliance (Next 20 years):

Future funds allocated or dedicated solely to achieving regulatory compliance:

Source of allocated funds (i.e., rate increases, new utility, etc.):

Storm Water Phase I or II

Are you a designated Phase I or Phase II NPDES Storm Water Entity? Yes No

Date that your NPDES permit started: _____

Financial investment made to date (Total dollars spent on compliance as of January 2006):

Future Estimated costs associated with achieving regulatory compliance (Next 5 years):

Future Estimated costs associated with achieving regulatory compliance (Next 20 years):

Future funds allocated or dedicated solely to achieving regulatory compliance:

Source of allocated funds (i.e., rate increases, new utility, etc.)

Thank you for completing our survey! Your response is crucial to assist MRBPLG efforts towards lobbying for funding sources in order to improve water quality in the Maumee River Basin.