

Meeting Summary
Maumee River Basin Partnership of Local Governments
Defiance Ohio Municipal Annex. November 20, 2003
(NEXT MEETING: February 12, 2004)

On November 20, 2003 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., a meeting of the Maumee River Basin Partnership of Local Governments was held in the City of Defiance, Ohio's Municipal Annex. Those in attendance included:

Mary Jane Slaton, City of Fort Wayne Utilities, Fort Wayne, IN
Gary Haydel, City Utilities, City of Perrysburg, OH
William Garber, Environmental Services, City of Toledo, OH
Gino Silvestri, Water Pollution Control Superintendent, City of Defiance, OH
Lou Pendleton, City of Bryan, OH
Andy Struble, City of Bryan, OH
Dick Kudner, Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor
Jane Loomis, St Joe River Watershed Initiative, IN
Allison Van Zandt, Allen County Partnership for Water Quality, IN
Jenny Cornell, Hull & Associates, OH
Christie Cook, Tiffen River Watershed Project
Greg Lake, Allen County IN SWCD
Joshua Goode, Christopher Burke Engineering/City of Fort Wayne Utilities, IN

Bill Garber opened the meeting with introductions and a reference to the agenda. Greg noted that a pre-meeting among a city/town executive committee had convened prior, at which the issues related to continued funding of the MRBPLG coordination and web site were discussed.

2004 MEETING DATES

The Partnership agreed to meet on the following dates in 2004:

February 12
April 8
June 10
August 12
October 14
December 9

REGIONAL MAYORS PRIORITIES

In order to achieve the regional mayors' priorities, much of which focus on collecting data and establishing a mayor's caucus that is successful at attracting funds to the region for CSO, SSO, and Stormwater infrastructure mandates, the following were recommended for action:

1. Complete the draft document for review on total local government costs to comply with current regulations.
2. Review and get general consensus with the document.

3. Prepare generic letters from local governments and other stakeholders that provide language to provide to congressional representatives expressing the need for funding for regulated discharge management.
4. (After notification of congressional reps) If information has been obtained enough to draw cost conclusions by late December, prepare and distribute a press release that discusses the findings in the document. **** AS OF MID JANUARY, THE DRAFT REPORT IS INCOMPLETE. ITEMS 1-4 WILL HAVE TO BE POSTPONED UNTIL THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY ARE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW.**
5. Initiate contact and begin to work with AMSA and similar groups in support of the MRBPLG.
6. Approach the Great Lakes Commission for funding of educational needs for the MRBPLG.

STRUCTURE AND PROGRESS OF THE MRBPLG:

With both local governmental changes and changes with the coordination firm, organizational efforts are still a bit behind target. Specifically, designated work groups are not yet meeting, and some work groups are lacking a work group chair. An annual meeting will not be held anytime soon as the Ed/Outreach Work Group did lose its chair.

Those in attendance were asked to consider chairing work groups. Allison Van Zandt tentatively offered to help with the public outreach group.

OHIO LAKE ERIE COMMISSION BALANCED GROWTH REPORT

Jenny Cornell of Hull & Associates discussed the progress of the Balanced Growth Task Force, on which John Hull is very active. Primary recommendations for the watershed included the establishment of growth plans, priority conservation areas, and development awareness programs. Details of the blue ribbon panel's proposals and associated information can be found at www.epa.state.oh.us/pleo/openhouse.htm.

CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING UPDATE

Josh Goode noted that the house and senate bills discussed prior have not moved since July 14. Ted Bristol from Baker & Daniels Sagamore (representing Fort Wayne interests in Washington DC) has been contacted and will monitor progress on the two bills. In the meantime, the MRBPLG cost analysis report (discussed earlier) should be forwarded to Ted upon completion.

It was again recommended that local governments within the MRBPLG should contact their local House and Senate offices, support the bill in its current stage, and work to ensure that sewer and permit-required projects remain as allowable projects for utilization of these funds.

NEXT MEETING(S)

The time and location for the next MRBPLG meeting was confirmed for: February 12th, 2004 in Defiance Ohio at 10:00 am. A tentative agenda will be posted on the web site at www.mrbplg.org, and partners are encouraged to submit their priorities of interest for this and future agendas. Future meetings for 2004 were established for the following dates:

February 12

April 8

June 10

August 12

October 14

December 9