We’re In this Together – Ohio AOC Panel

Introduction: Russ Gibson, Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water

Panelists:
Ted Conlin, Ohio EPA
    Ashtabula River
Kristen Risch, Coldwater Consulting & Kate Golden, City of Lorain
    Black River
Kris Patterson, Partners for Clean Streams
    Maumee River
The quickest overview of Ohio’s AOC Program in the history of state bureaucracy
Instead of thinking about where you are, think about where you want to be. It takes twenty years of hard work to become an overnight success.

-Diana Rankin
Chronology of my experience with AOC Program


1996-98: Served as ODNR Rep at Maumee RAP meetings

Oct 2005: Started at Ohio EPA – Manage AOC program

Jan 2006: Transferred AOC Program out of NPS Unit

Jan 2014: Once again manage AOC

Feb 2014: Began a thorough evaluation of the AOC Program

Oct 2014: Developed Strategic Framework for AOC Program
2010 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

• Funding for implementation dramatically increased!
• Ohio has received >$100 million GLRI $$
• Pressure to finish final management action lists
• Increased GLNPO expectations of AOC delisting dates
• GLRI prompted the need to BREAK the Planning Cycle
What has OEPA done to accelerate the process?

- Ohio EPA contracted with Tetratech to provide direct management action planning and technical assistance to Maumee and Cuyahoga Areas of Concern by 12-31-16.
- Ashtabula River AOC has completed implementation.
- Black River AOC has final management actions funded.
- Maumee AOC recently had $4 million in habitat projects funded.
- Working with GLNPO on $$ for multiple projects in Cuyahoga AOC
ACHIEVEMENT despite encountering obstacles equals overnight SUCCESS
Ashtabula River AOC

- Smallest of Ohio’s AOCs, includes
- 2.5 miles of mainstem & Outer Harbor Area
- Does not include 2 small tribs
  - Strong Brook
  - Fields Brook
- Superfund Site
Ashtabula River AOC Advisory Council

- Local citizens
- ODNR, Ohio EPA, Sea Grant, US Army Corps of Engineers, US EPA
- Ashtabula Watershed Steering Committee
- Ashtabula County Health Department
- Ashtabula Township Trustees
- City of Ashtabula
- Local marinas

AOC Committee ‘stepped aside’ for a while, now a ‘Grey-Area’ AOC

- Management Actions determined & implemented
BUI Status Update

• Originally designated BUIs
  • Fish & Wildlife Consumption (2014)
  • Fish & Wildlife Populations (2014)
  • Fish Tumors & Other Deformities
  • Degradation of Benthos
  • Restrictions on Dredging Activities

• Current BUIs
  • Fish Tumors & Other Deformities
  • Degradation of Benthos
  • Restrictions on Dredging Activities
Remedial Work

- Legacy Act Dredging and then follow-up dredging
- Fish habitat shelf
  - Location, location, location

Current Work

- Management Action, or ‘near-term’ AOC
  - Holding Pattern, might be considered to be IN RECOVERY
- Waiting on
  - Natural processes to complete restoration
    - Degradation of Benthos (?)
  - Study results
    - Restrictions on Dredging Activities
    - Fish Tumors & Other Deformities
      - Fish collection in early May, liver tumor results by end of year
Black River: Revised AOC Boundary
Black River Advisory Committee

• Facilitating Organization: LoCo Yaks
  • Non-profit focused on recreation and public education and outreach
  • BlackRiverAOC.com

• Bylaws Subcommittee:
  • Kate Golden – City of Lorain
  • Lyn Ickes – Lorain County CDD
  • Jill Lis - LCGHD
Black River Advisory Committee Structure

Current Voting Members

Government:
Lorain County: Don Romancak
City of Lorain: Derek Feurestein / Kate Golden
Lorain County General Health District: Jill Lis
Lorain County Metro Parks: Bryan Goldthorpe

Business:
US Steel: David Schmidt

Private Citizens:
Beaver Creek Watershed: Matt Nahorn

Attendees at October 2016 Meeting:
Bryan Goldthorpe, Lorain County Metro Parks
Jill Lis, Lorain County General Health District (LCGHD)
Stephanie Lesco, LCGHD
Steve Holland, ODNR
Matt Nahorn, Citizen - Beaver Creek Watershed
Kate Golden, City of Lorain
Chip Wendt, Coldwater Consulting
Mark Kuzak, BRCCC
Don Romancak, Lorain County Community Development
Kristen Isom, EPA Great Lakes National Program Office
John Sabo, LCGHD
Lyn Ickes, Lorain County
Derek Feurestein, City of Lorain
Pam Davis, NOACA
Christen Brandon, Lorain County
Kristen Risch, Coldwater Consulting
Ted Conlin, Ohio EPA
Robb Koscho, LoCo ‘Yaks
Stephanee Moore Koscho, LoCo ‘Yaks
Status Update - Beneficial Use Impairments

- Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption *(proposed for removal)*
- Eutrophication or undesirable algae *(proposed for removal)*
- Fish tumors or other deformities *(in recovery)*
- Restrictions on drinking water consumption, or taste and odor
- Restriction on dredging activities
- Degradation of aesthetics
- Degradation of fish and wildlife populations
- Beach closings
- Degradation of benthos
- Loss of fish and wildlife habitat

Target BUls
## Current (and past) Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Completed and Current Projects</th>
<th>Funding Amount</th>
<th>Funding Agency</th>
<th>Funding Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 Completed Projects (2009-2014)</td>
<td>$13,279,368</td>
<td>USEPA, Ohio EPA, NOAA, USFWS, ODNR/USFS</td>
<td>ARRA, GLRI, SEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Current Projects (2015-present)</td>
<td>$15,800,000</td>
<td>USEPA</td>
<td>GLRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$29,079,368</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2010 AOC Boundary was changed to reflect shift from 11/14 HUCs to 10/12 HUCs. Maumee AOC is six 10-digit HUCs totaling 11 independent watersheds. Maumee AOC is 787 sq. miles. Maumee AOC can hold 21 of the 26 US AOCs within its boundaries. (652.8 sq. mi.)
Operating Structure

• Facilitating Organization is Partners for Clean Streams, an independent 501c3 non-profit organization

• Advisory Committee has 16 voting members and a variable number of Ex Officio and Resource members (who don’t vote)

• Examples of Voting committee members include The Nature Conservancy, City of Toledo, Hull and Associates, and private citizens

• Subcommittees formed as needed. Examples include working groups to develop local targets or for specific BUls
Status Update

• 10 of the 14 BUIs remain
• BUI 12 removed in 2015
• Another BUI may be proposed for removal in 2017
• All remaining BUIs are impaired but are being evaluated 12-digit watershed by watershed so are not necessarily impaired across the whole AOC or may be limited to a very small area where the BUI applies (i.e. Maumee Bay or a beach)
• Remaining BUIs are: 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 14
## Maumee AOC BUI Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficial Use Impairment</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUI 1:</strong> Restrictions on Fish Consumption</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrictions on Wildlife Consumption</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUI 2:</strong> Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavor</td>
<td>Not Impaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUI 3:</strong> Degradation of Fish Populations</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degradation of Wildlife Populations</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUI 4:</strong> Fish Tumors or Other Deformities</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUI 5:</strong> Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems</td>
<td>Not Impaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUI 6:</strong> Degradation of Benthos</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUI 7:</strong> Restrictions on Dredging Activities</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUI 8:</strong> Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUI 9:</strong> Restrictions on Drinking Water Consumption or Taste &amp; Odor Problems</td>
<td>Not Impaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUI 10:</strong> Beach Closings (Recreational Contact)</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUI 11:</strong> Degradation of Aesthetics</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUI 12:</strong> Added Costs to Agriculture or Industry</td>
<td>Removed 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUI 13:</strong> Degradation of Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Populations</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUI 14:</strong> Loss of Fish Habitat</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of Wildlife Habitat</td>
<td>Impaired</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Current Work

• Committee is working intently on obtaining the most recent analytical data and input from experts to determine the current status of BUIs, in each watershed, and determine specific evaluation or management actions that will improve the specific impairments.

• In addition to all the past work that has been done on the ground and in the water, several projects that will improve BUI14b have already received recommendation from the MAAC and funding from US EPA.