



Central Ohio
Water Resources Working Group
January 26, 2017
Meeting Summary

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio, 43215
9:00 – 11:00 AM

Attendees:

Kristen Atha, AECOM
Kristin Knight, Brown and Caldwell
Lorraine Krzyzewski, City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities
Elayna Stierhoff, City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities
Rick Westerfield, City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities
Michael Hooper, City of Westerville - Parks & Recreation
Pat Blayney, Delaware County
Chris Roshon, Delaware County Parks
Glenn Marzluf, Del-Co Water Co.
James Ramsey, Franklin County Engineers, Drainage Division
Jennifer Fish, Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District
Kurt Keljo, Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District
Ryan Pilewski, Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District
Laura Fay, Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed
Alice Walhauer, Friends of the Ravines
Alex Silbajoris, Friends of the Scioto River
Mark McCabe, Gresham, Smith & Partners
Kimberly Myers, Metro Parks
Donald Wiggins Jr., Ohio Environmental Council
Kent Halloran, Ohio State University
Zuzana Bohrerova, Ohio Water Resources Center at OSU

MORPC Staff: Rachael Beeman, Kerstin Carr, Amelia Costanzo, Joe Garrity, Dina Lopez, William Murdock

Welcome & Introductions

Rachael Beeman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the room. William Murdock introduced the new Chair and Co-Chair, Glenn Marzluf and Jennifer Fish, respectively.

Policy Update

Joe Garrity informed members on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016. During the lame duck session of Congress, President Obama signed the bill. The law authorizes vital water projects across the country to restore watersheds, improve waterways and flood control, and improve drinking water infrastructure. The law also authorizes \$170 million for communities facing drinking water emergencies, including funding for Flint, Michigan, to recover from the lead contamination in its drinking water system.

Garrity also mentioned Ohio Senate Bill (SB 333) a Mid-Biennium Review (MBR) bill. SB 333 was introduced by Senator Cliff Hite in May of 2016. The bill would allow the Ohio EPA to require owners of private water systems, such as in mobile home parks, to post bonds or letter of credit to ensure that money needed for repairs is available. The bill would also strengthen the state's commitment to reducing algae-causing phosphorus in Lake Erie. Garrity informed members that the bill did not pass.

Garrity also informed attendees of Scott Pruitt's recent appointment to the US EPA. Pruitt, currently the Attorney General of Oklahoma, has made fighting the US EPA a hallmark of his career. His most common target has been the Clean Power Plan, the Obama administration's set of Clean Air Act rules meant to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. The Clean Power Plan was Obama's main mechanism for pushing the US to meet its pledge under the Paris Agreement.

At his confirmation hearing last week, Pruitt stated that climate change is not a 'hoax'. In his comments to the committee, he repeatedly emphasized his intent to ensure that the EPA would respect the "rule of law," be more deferential to state governments, and make sure "all voices are heard" during the rule making process. In short a greatly restrained EPA.

Lastly, Garrity informed members on the Waters of the United States' (WOTUS) rule and the Clean Power Plan. Both rules are currently litigated. Many expect the courts to rule in favor of the plaintiffs i.e. the states that are not in favor of implementing the rules. Regardless of how the courts rules, a Pruitt EPA is unlikely to enforce the rules.

Garrity reminded members that the WOTUS rule did not affect Ohio, since the Ohio EPA definition of water is more wide-ranging than the WOTUS rule. Therefore, on a regional and state level the group can still make an impact, even with a US EPA that doesn't not reciprocate the working group's views.

Rickenbacker Comprehensive Plan: Dina Lopez, Principal Planner with MORPC, provided an overview on the Rickenbacker Area Comprehensive Plan, currently under development. The plan will primarily look at infrastructure, housing, energy, economic development, place making, and local coordination, and how all of these factors are effected by and will affect future area growth. The content of the subsections is still under development. As the project progresses, MORPC will come back to the Water Resources Working Group for input and review. Please see the *Rickenbacker Study Intro* PowerPoint for more details. Please reach out to Dina Lopez (dlopez@morpc.org), or Rachael Beeman, with questions related to this plan.

COW Council Update: Laura Fay provided an update to the group on behalf of the efforts of the Central Ohio Watershed Council group. COW Council has a [new website](#). Please note that some features are still under development. Laura provided an update on several initiatives by the group, with assistance from Ryan Pilewski of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District. These initiatives include developing a *Watershed Report Card*; utilizing the watershed restoration screening tool to direct efforts and dollars; and development of cohesive education and messaging materials. Please see the *COW Council Update* PowerPoint for more details.

Partner Updates

Franklin Co Soil & Water Conservation District: Kurt informed the group that the [2017 Tree and Plant Sale](#) is now open. Details regarding ordering and pick-up dates/times can be online.

The Nature Conservancy: Karen Seidel is a new Central Ohio lead at the Nature Conservancy. She can be contacted via email at karen.seidel@tnc.org

Green Infrastructure Toolkit: Rachael Beeman provided a brief presentation on the components of the Green Stormwater Infrastructure Toolkit, as developed by MORPC Planning & Environment Staff. A key component of the toolkit is the interactive web map, which highlights transportation related green stormwater infrastructure projects installed throughout Central Ohio. This resource can be accessed via the MORPC webpage: www.morpc.org/greeninfrastructure Rachael encouraged attendees to explore the resources and to please provide feedback and information on any local green infrastructure projects to be included on the interactive web map via email: rbeeman@morpc.org

Blacklick Creek Watershed Plan Update: Kurt Keljo provided a presentation to the group on the final Blacklick Creek NPS-IS Plan. This plan was completed and submitted to the Ohio EPA on December 31, 2016. Kurt provided a brief summary of the plan development process, provided a summary of the public outreach efforts, identified target areas the plan addresses, and provided an example of a project which may be implemented in the watershed at a later time. Please see the *Blacklick Creek Watershed Plan* PowerPoint for more details.

Columbus Watershed Master Plan: Lorraine Krzyzewski, Manager of the Watershed Management Section with City of Columbus, provided a presentation to the group on the recently completed Columbus Watershed Master Plan. The presentation was a brief overview of the extensive effort. The presentation included a characterization of the watershed, local water source concerns, emergency planning, future water quality concerns, and several watershed based strategies to address risks and concerns. The final report will be

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made available publicly in the near future. Please see the *Columbus Division of Water Watershed Master Plan* PowerPoint for more details, and for contact details.

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 26, 2017 from 9:00 – 11:00 AM.