

MINUTES

Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership - Leadership Committee Meeting

August 9, 2007 ♦ 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

STAR Center

One Maritime Plaza
Toledo, Ohio 43604
(419-255-3940)

Handouts and Notes from Presentations given on the Boat Tour of the Maumee are available at <http://wleb.org/newsandevents/calendar.html>

- Coffee /Visitation** **8:00 – 8:15**
- 1. Opening Remarks/Board Sandpiper Boat** **8:15**
(LTC Hurley, Cosby)
- LTC Hurley thanked everyone for coming to today's Western Lake Erie Partnership Leadership Committee meeting.
 - LTC Hurley introduced speakers for the morning.
 - Craig Forget – Toledo Dredging, Beneficial Use & Confined Disposal Facilities
 - Joe Cappel – Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority Manager for Business Development – *Advantages of marine transportation, as well as a discussion of the Facilities we will be seeing - what they do and what they handle*
 - Mary of the Sandpiper will also be pointing out objects of interest along the way.*
- On the return trip...*
- Jeff Reutter of Sea Grant will speak on Current Lake Erie Issues, and*
 - Chris Riddle will bring us up to date on the Ohio Lake Erie Commission & Office activities*
- We finished the tour around 11 and returned to the STAR Center for the remainder of our WLEB meeting.
- 2. Depart on Boat Tour of Dredging and CDF Facility** **8:30 – 11:00**
- On Board Oral Presentations:**
- a) Dredging – USACE – Craig Forget*
 - b) Port of Toledo- Toledo Port Authority –Joe Cappel*
 - c) Current Lake Erie Issues – Jeff Reutter, Sea Grant*
 - d) Ohio Lake Erie Commission & Office – Chris Riddle*
- 3. Return to Star Facility for Business Meeting** **11:00**
- LTC Hurley called the meeting to order, and introduced Vicki Deisner as the new Environmental Policy Coordinator with ODNR. She has replaced Scott Zody on the Leadership Committee. Many of us know her from her previous leadership role with the Ohio Environmental Council and all of the good work she has done on the Great Lakes.
 - Barbara Pinter provided a welcome and overview of the STAR center*
- 4. Administrative Items** **11:10**

a. Approved Previous Meeting Minutes (LTC Hurley, Cosby)
Past minutes are posted at <http://wleb.org/newsandevents/calendar.html>

b. Review Open Action Items from Feb 2007 meeting by Craig Forget, USACE.

AI- 1) Operations Group to consider the issue of requests for letters of support from the WLEB and make recommendation to the Leadership Group for decision.

- The work on the Strategic plan has taken priority. That work is mostly complete, and this issue will rise to the top for consideration by the Operational Committee.

AI-2) Write agreement with Center for Watershed Protection to host training at Maumee Bay State Park.

- NRCS has completed this. The registration announcement is out, and flyers available on the table for signing up. Please spread the word.

AI-3) Timeline for Development of Strategic Plan Action Items, and post to website.

- Strategic plan is complete and made available for review. We will be voting today for conditional approval, recognizing that the Operational Committee the will continue to work on any remaining issues. We will post to web when approved.

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| 5. | WLEB Correspondence
None | (Steve Davis, NRCS) | 11:20 |
| 6. | Presentation, Discussion & Adoption of WLEB Strategic Plan | (Steve Davis, NRCS) | 11:30 |

After a year of meeting with the Operations Committee and half a dozen conference calls, the Operations Committee was pleased to distribute a bound copy of the WLEB Strategic Plan to members of the WLEB Leadership Committee for review. The plan was modeled on the objectives of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's plan with some local objectives specific to the basin. The plan includes a list of goals and action items. The plan included a number of short, medium, and long term actions. Some recommended action items were not included in the document if none of the patterns were willing to act as a champion for implementation of the action. The plan did not specifically identify lead agencies for action items as many items were synergistic receiving many people will to assist in implementation. The plan is a living document and is not cast in stone, but will need to be revised and modified – it is a good starting point.

Terry Cosby of NRCS added that this is a very ambitious plan. Once we put this out, we will be expected to deliver. NRCS is expected to carry a lot of actions through to completion, and NRCS will do it.

Kristy Meyer of Ohio Environmental Council noted that this work is a good foundation, and actions required in Ohio are well represented, but the needs of Michigan and Indiana need greater representation in future iterations of the strategic plan.

Steve Davis of NRCS added that the current strategic plan will serve as an excellent template for Michigan and Indiana to determine a future course of action.

Tammy Lawson, representing the Governor of Indiana, the Governor of Indiana noted the strategic plan will provide a template to use to help determine where Indiana needs to step up and do the appropriate coordination within the State.

Michigan added that they will pursue implementation of the strategic plan, and have already expanded the Michigan CREP program to cover all of the WLEB in Michigan with the aid of Environmental Defense and USEPA in helping to secure additional funding for these activities.

LTC Hurley stated that this work is seminal work and ground breaking, and as such is "good B" work – a good start. The best way to judge the strategic plan is to live under for a year, and then evaluate and revise the plan this time next year. He provided the analogy that, "We don't need to marry the document, but let's live with it for a while and see how it goes."

The staff and operations group was instructed to incorporate the remaining comments in the action items into the finalized strategic plan and as such, the leadership team concurred in the adoption of the plan.

See **Action Items 1-7** at the end of these minutes.

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur's Comments

11:30

The WLEB Partnership was honored to have Congresswoman Kaptur share some words of watershed wisdom she has gained in the service of her District and the Nation to help set the stage for the viewing of "A Watershed Mentality."

Congresswoman Kaptur spoke on her interest in the work of the WLEB partnership, and of the need for properly managing the water and other natural resources of the Western Lake Erie Basin. She mentioned that the Lead Story in yesterday's Toledo Blade (Attached as item K-1 at <http://wleb.org/newsandevents/documents/Handouts-2007-08-09.pdf>) was that Federal flood insurance rates were going to go up.

The Congresswoman mentioned the need to find a better way to deal with resources on a comprehensive basis rather than all of the band aid solutions. The WLEB Partnership is helping to bring a watershed approach to manage this asset better and bring about solutions. We are the water rich region of the Mid-West. We need to highlight our water wealth. She stated that with a watershed mentality think how much better we could manage our resources and our watershed.

The Congresswoman discussed sharing of information in a coordinated way, and challenged the partnership to share information about what we are doing. We are being looked to as a national model to handle watershed challenges. In the future, every reporter needs to have the tools from the WLEB partnership to tell us what all of us could be doing to improve our watershed. We should think of the watershed as our home and work across artificial boundaries to improve our watershed. We have come a long way and need to put the intelligence and experience of this room into the public consciousness. Engage people.

Lunch

12:15

Video – A Watershed Mentality

The new video on Maumee Watershed titled “A watershed mentality” was shown during lunch, and introduced by Matt Jones of Allen County.

Marcy Kaptur added that after viewing “A Watershed Mentality” many people wanted to know, “What can I do to make a difference?” Getting people to websites where they can learn about rain gardens or the watersheds of the Great Lakes from the University of Toledo Geography department is important. Provide additional handouts to go with the DVD that provide these links. How do you get the message out to everyone who lives in the watershed? Prepare the message and engage members of Congress to put the information into their newsletters that go to residents of the watershed. Also, the NRCS document, “Land, Food, and People” is a teaching plan for teachers. Consider something similar for WLEB teachers, and a similar document for County Engineers detailing what they can do.

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| 7. Operations Committee Reports | 1:15 |
| Update on Stormwater Management Training Oct 9-11 | Thomas/Davis |
| Update on USACE Feasibility Study | Friona |
| Outreach Support from Ohio Lake Erie Commission | Davis/Hammet |
| o Agreements are nearly in place for OLEC to take on outreach assistance role. As a part of this OLEC will help maintain the WLEB.org website and keep it up to date. | |
| 8. Working Committee Reports /Questions (10 Min each) | 1:45 |
| Committee Reports were given | |
| a. Research | (Morris) |
| b. Projects | (Crawford) |
| c. Outreach | (McCall) |
| d. Funding | (Meyer) |
| 9. Developing a Media Presence and outreach network for the WLEB and the WLEB Partners | 2:15 |
| Steve Davis introduced the StormCenter presentation. | |
| Presentation from Storm Center Communications
Stephan Andrade (StormCenter’s COO) Dianne Holbrook (Business Development) | |
| 10. Other WLEB Business/Brief Updates from Partners | 2:45 |
| Steve Davis introduced | |

a. Reports from Partners on Pertinent Agency Events (All)

- Tony Friona of the Corps talked about work URS is doing, and how the Corps needs help with from all of the WLEB Partners.

b. New Business & Items/Topics for Future Meetings (All)

- Vicki Deisner of ODNR provided a handout of aquatic and invasive species ballast water information.

c. Other Items (All)

Let's continue to improve the Strategic Plan and please remember that participation by all of us is needed to make the Corps & NRCS's Watershed Assessment Efforts reflect the needs of the watershed.

11. Next Meetings

3:15-3:30

a. Set Dates and Locations

(LTC Hurley, Cosby)

Mid March 11, 12, or 13 in Michigan

Craig – Please review the new action items.

b. List New Action Items

(Forget)

12. Adjourn

3:30

See the STAR Center Website for additional info on the meeting site:

<http://www.star-center.com/Toledo.Home.htm>

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#	Action items	Person	Deadline	Status
1	Strategic Plan – Add one sentence on the primary focus of document to the cover page.	Davis	1 Sep 07	Complete
2	In addition to the Strategic Plan, create a Strategic Plan Assessment/Evaluation document that also includes a “Progress” Column as a tool to track progress	Davis	31 Jan 08	Ongoing
3	At annual progress meeting in the spring or fall, review Strategic Plan action items that have been completed within the past year.	Operations Committee	15 Mar 08	Ongoing
4	Prepare Executive Summary of strategic plan	Operations Committee	31 Aug 07	Complete
5	Provide any final comments on Strategic Plan for minor tweaks (not major changes) to Steve Davis	Leadership Committee	24 Aug 07	Complete
6	Revise Strategic Plan and post to WLEB.ORG	Operations Committee	31 Aug 07	Complete
7	Do press release for release of Strategic Plan	Outreach Committee	7 Sep 07	Complete