

# MEETING MINUTES

## Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership - Leadership Committee Meeting

Monday, September 22, 2008 ♦ 10:00 AM – 3:15 PM

**Oak Openings Kitty Todd Preserve Lodge  
10420 Old State Line Road  
Swanton Ohio 43558**

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**Coffee / Visitation**

**10:00 – 10:15**

### 1. **Opening Remarks**

**10:15 – 10:30**

- **Terry Cosby comments.**
  - Welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.
  - Introduced and welcomed LTC Snead.
  - Cosby recognized congressional representatives and announced Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur would stop by to address the group.
- **LTC Snead comments.**
  - This is my first meeting, so let me take a couple of moments to introduce myself.... LTC Snead thanked everyone for the welcome. He is glad to be in the area, his wife is from Ohio, being in Buffalo is a bit like being back at home.
  - We continue to need everyone's participation with Watershed Assessment and Management Plan.

### 2. **Minutes and Old Business**

**10:30 – 10:35**

#### **Open Action Items (Forgette)**

- Comments or questions on the meeting minutes?
- Request a motion to approve previous meeting minutes.
- Craig provided a review the open action items.
  - Motion – rep of Ohio DNR (David Hanselman)
  - Second – rep of Gov of Michigan
  - Passed

### 3. **Committee Reports**

#### **a. Operations Committee**

- **Strategic Plan Review (Steve Davis)**
  - Operations group met in Lima in June. Got most of the way through the Strategic Plan – to determine where things are at this time.
  - Assigning un-discussed items to someone.
  - Steve would pull together report on the updates – this has been delayed due to his injury.
  - Plan to put document on the FTP site in a format that others can get to it and make changes as necessary regarding items that have been completed/progress that has been made.
    - **Terry Cosby** – asked if there is need for funding for some of the items.
    - **Steve Davis** – yes, there will be some that the funding committee will need to address.
    - **Terry Cosby** – how do we measure success? The new administration will be asking about our success for the money we have spent.

- **Steve Davis** – two measures – 1. Implementation of plan and 2. Long term change in the rivers and lake (loading, etc).
    - **David Hanselmann** – fitting this into the GLRC Strategy is important – to help guide funding in this watershed to meet the more broad goals.
    - **Steve Davis** – there are 3 plans – GLRC, Lake Erie Protection & Restoration Plan, and the WLEB plan, each of which is seated within the one above it.
- **NRCS Rapid Watershed Assessments Update (Steve Davis)**
  - Update on funding. (see handouts “Table 2 – Maumee Hydrological Study Expenditures by Activity”).
    - **Rep Gov of Indiana** – was funding provided to watershed groups?
    - **Steve Davis** – yes, that will be discussed in detail later today.
    - **Terry Cosby** – funding for earmarks is getting more difficult. We have asked for funding for application rather than planning after next year.
  - Steve Davis gave a review of how far assessments are along – map provided in PowerPoint presentation.
    - Items covered included: land use, source water protection, stream mapping, acres within 160’ of streams (120’ in some watersheds), etc.
    - Review of the Matrix – allows estimation of use of practices under current and future conditions to give a snapshot of the change you could reasonably expect.
      - **Question** – how do you break this down to sub-watersheds?
      - **Steve Davis** – this is set up for 8-digit HUCs
      - **Question** – has this been used on the Auglaize?
      - **Steve Davis** – that is in progress.
      - **David Hanselmann** – FSA programs are not included in the matrix?
      - **Steve Davis** – in some places they will fit, but not everywhere.
      - **Larry Antosch** – this doesn’t allow a number in, number out to provide an estimated benefit of water quality change for dollars invested in a watershed.
      - **Steve Davis** – no, but this could be incorporated into other models to move in this direction. Ohio EPA’s work on TMDL’s has included some model work that would help get closer to this.
      - **Terry Cosby** - Introduction of Lindsay Potts – with Rep. Marcy Kaptur’s office
- **USACE WLEB Study Update (Friona, Denbow)**
  - Tom Denbow – brief review of the assessment document provided to the Leadership group.
    - Document leads to “potential actions” – it does not include recommendations for which to take, just a list of actions that COULD be taken.
    - These documents are the foundation for creating the watershed management plan. Asking for the next set of reviews on the next 6 documents (Auglaize, Blanchard, Lower Maumee, Ottawa, Portage, and Tiffin watersheds).
      - **Comment** – The appendix lists potential sponsor agencies – they seem to be mostly government agencies.
      - **Tony Friona** – NGOs are certainly potential sponsors – they will need to be added where applicable.
      - **Question** – how much feedback did we get from watershed coordinators?
      - **Tom Denbow** – in those watersheds with active groups, data has been provided – along with input on the plan thus far.
      - **Question** - What is the FTP site?
      - <http://ftp.urscorp.com> User Name: Cleveland; Password: Ice\_2169 (lower case L for first letter); Reports are in folder WLEB. Handout included with instructions and dates for reviews.
      - **David Hanselmann** – this helps lay out that there is a lot that needs done and funded outside of the realm of the FSA programs.
      - **Sandy Bihn** – asked if the project now extends to the Sandusky River.

- **Steve Davis** – no, there are handouts on the Sandusky, but they are from other projects NRCS is doing – they were provided only as an example.

#### b. Projects Committee Update (Ed Crawford)

Project database has gained additional users – this database provides info on other projects going on – a handout was provided.

- **Steve Davis** – there is training available for watershed groups who want to use this database – they can input their funded and un-funded projects.
- **Comment** – can you send out regular reminders that the database is out there and we need information.
- **Question** – were these projects in the database?
- **Tom Denbow** – the assessments should include all of the information in the database at this time, but not everything in the assessments in is the database.

#### Meeting Proposals (Davis, From Open Discussion/Unfinished Business on Agenda)

Would like to have a day meeting that is focused on the resource concerns in the lake and the watershed, what is being done, what are the gaps, etc – a one day workshop. This would include scientist, technical folks, fisheries, Ohio EPA, etc. Overview and discussion of the issues and how they interact with the plan, etc – make sure the plan is addressing the issue. This would be done after the first of the year.

Second meeting proposed would be to discuss the options, priorities, and summaries that would be submitted to Congress.

- **Tony Friona** – would provide the opportunity to determine what type of audience we would want.
- **Terry Cosby** – these two sessions would get more technical than the current level of involvement of the leadership committee.
- **Jim Lake** – can you have a half day leadership, then day and a half of workshop?
- **Terry Cosby** – or can you combine the two into two consecutive days.
- **Rep of Gov of Michigan** – would prefer to have a couple of important topics in detail, rather than a barrage of 20 minute overviews.
- **Terry Cosby** – who do we include in the audience?
- **Jim Lake** – can we include some of the local watershed groups.
- **Steve Davis** – size of audience determines your meeting format – ability to have discussions.
- **Steve Davis** – getting some input/feedback from the locals on these issues would be good.
- **Terry Cosby** – meeting would be in Indiana.
- **Rep of USEPA** – providing materials ahead of time for pre-reading would be good.
- **Terry Cosby** – two days, in Ft. Wayne, in January – would this work to cover both?
- **Rep of Gov of Michigan** – can we include all the Congressional folks in an invite to this.
- **Tony Friona** – your audience and participants impact the format of your meeting.
- **Terry Cosby** – we may want them there, or we may want to have a Congressional briefing session after that – may allow us to provide them a good summary at once and make best use of their time.
- **David Hanselmann** – a few NGOs, ie local groups, regional stakeholders, etc may be important to include.
- **Terry Cosby** – this will be handed over to the operations group to take the lead on this for January or February.

#### LUNCH

#### Oak Openings Region Presentation (TNC)

- **Gary Hayes** – discussed the Oak Openings region and several projects that are going on in the area.
- **Congresswoman Kaptur** – stopped by to welcome everyone to the area, and for their work on the project. This is a model for the Great Lakes region. It is our charge to help remind the region of the asset we have, and how to manage it well.

#### c. Outreach Committee (McCall)

- Reviewed Outreach Plan. Talked with Sea Grant staff to determine where they may get involved in what we are doing as well. Robert pulled Strategic Plan items out to share with them.
- Areas for future growth/involvement –
  - Sustainable & Balanced Growth
  - Aquatic & Invasive Species
  - Eco-Tourism
  - Clean Marinas Program
  - Dredging & Sediment Loading
  - Climate Change
- Watershed Groups – will begin to work with the groups getting the small grant funding to help them get going. Pointed out the map (see attachments) regarding where the large watershed groups are at in the process. Of course, there is a lot of potential to develop groups on a smaller scale as well to work within these areas.
- Development of a curriculum for the local communities should come out of this as well.
- Hope to begin to connect the local stories and the projects with the Outreach Group so we can begin to get the word out and share information within the community.
  - **Steve Davis** – it is important to tie what they are doing and to tie these items back to the strategic plan. – ie Melinda Huntley will help with addressing the action items under ecotourism. They are bringing resources to the table to help deal with the items in the plan – to move us forward.
  - **Tony Friona** – would be good to get materials to schools so we can teach our kids about our area, rather than them learning about the Chesapeake Bay, etc.
  - **Robert McCall** – as we accomplish things, we will begin to add other items to work on.
- Website and Newsletter (Riddle)
  - Website is being re-organized to make it more user friendly and intuitive to navigate. It will be several months until this is completed.
  - Next newsletter will get started based on items discussed at this meeting – it should be completed and distributed before the Thanksgiving holiday. The newsletters are generally scheduled for fall (Oct), mid winter (Feb) and Spring (May). If you would like to submit something, please contact Chris Riddle by Friday Sept 26 if you would like to reserve space for an article.

#### d. Research Committee (Morris)

- USGS Monitoring & Data Needs Study Update (Morris)
- Original Charge – report on data and research in the basin – make it available to everyone in a format that they can use, as well as identify existing gaps.
- Would like to put a Data/Research tab on the website to help provide an area with links to information of use to the partners.
- Plan to develop an annual needs report.
- Provided a report on the data we have.
  - **Steve Davis** – would be good to synthesize a list of prioritized research needs within the basin.
  - **Jim Morris** – The next step is to start to figure out what data we need. This inventory of data we have helps plan for the collection of the data we need.

#### e. Funding Committee (Meyer)

- Funding Committee will be meeting with the projects committee to discuss the projects that could be funded. Develop a brief brochure that could be used to inform Congress and others regarding the projects.
- WLEB Watershed Capacity Grants (Miller)
  - Maumee Valley RC&D – June 16 – proposals went out... Sept 3 they met to review 8 proposals. Six have been chosen for funding, including Town Creek Watershed, St Mary's Watershed, Blanchard River Watershed, Upper Maumee Watershed, Partners for Clean Streams, and St. Joe's Watershed. Checks were cut for 50% of funds last Tuesday. Six month interim report expected. Rest of funding will be provided at the end of the project.

**4. Open Discussion/Unfinished Business (Davis)**

Update on Strategic Plan Progress  
Other Items for Discussion

Please remember that participation by all of us is needed to make the Corps Watershed Assessment and Management Plan Efforts reflect the needs of the watershed.

**5. New Action Items**

- None

**6. Next Meeting**

**(LTC Snead)**

January or February - 2-day workshop in Indiana (Mar 2-5, 10 or 16-19 are OK) – to be followed with a half day Congressional briefing. Afternoon of day 1 will be reserved for any business that needs completed.

LTC Snead – would like to get all the information for the 2-day session sent out at least a week prior.

**7. Adjourn**

**2:25**

WLEB 22 Sept 2008 – Leadership Committee Meeting – Continuing Action Items

#	Action Item	Person Responsible	Deadline	Status
1	At annual progress meeting in the spring or fall, review Strategic document.	Davis	31 Aug 09	Brief Feb 2009
2	Submit project ideas to the Projects Database	Project Committee	-	Ongoing
3	Submit events to the web calendar.	Outreach Committee	-	Ongoing
4	Submit articles and events for the Fall newsletter	Outreach Committee	26 Sep 08	Ongoing
5	Development of Strategic Plan tracking form – FTP Site – Progress column	Davis	30 Apr 09	Brief Feb 2009
6	Review of watershed assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Auglaize, Blanchard, L. Maumee, Ottawa, Portage, and Tiffin watersheds.</li> <li>- St Mary's, St Joe's, U. Maumee, and Maumee Bay watersheds.</li> </ul>	All	Comments due by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Oct 13</li> <li>- Nov 10</li> </ul>	Ongoing
7	Plan for January/February 2-day workshop, including Congressional briefing	Operations Committee	28 Feb 09	Ongoing
8	Annual needs report	Research Committee	20 Nov 2009	Ongoing
9	Revision of website organization, posting of maps and watershed group info for each subwatershed on wleb.org	Outreach Committee	28 Feb 09	Ongoing