



**WESTERN LAKE ERIE BASIN  
PARTNERSHIP**

**STRATEGIC PLAN**



**HEALTHY LAND – HEALTHY LAKE**

## WLEB PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC PLAN



This document is a framework for the objectives, goals, and actions that will be supported by the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership (WLEB) to further the mission and purpose of the partnership.

The partnership is adopting Strategic Objectives in alignment with both the eight priority areas of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration and with important local resource concerns within the WLEB project area. For each Strategic Objective, the partnership will establish specific goals (milestones) and short, intermediate and long term action items that will support the furtherance of each goal. Goal timeframes are defined as follows:

*Short -Term Goals – within 1 year*  
*Intermediate Goals – within 3 years*  
*Long - Term Goals – within 3-10 years*

This plan will be implemented via the collective efforts of many partners who will take voluntary leadership for various components of the plan. The partners acknowledge that this is a collective plan and that not all partners have the same authorities, organizational latitudes, missions, or operating capabilities. The partners agree to support and implement this plan in spirit and action whenever possible. It is stated and understood that this plan does not obligate any partner organization to any WLEB partnership goal, action, or position which is contrary to that organizations policy, authorities, or positions on any singular issue or action.

Finalization of this plan was authorized by the WLEB Leadership Team at the August 9, 2007 Leadership Team Meeting.

WLEB Strategic Plan – Adopted August 9, 2007 – Updated May 20, 2010 and Oct 12, 2010

*The partners identified within this plan are designated by the following abbreviations:*

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Partner Name</b>	<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Partner Name</b>
Am. River	American Rivers Organization	ODNR	Ohio Department Of Natural Resources
ARS	USDA Agricultural Research Service	ODOD	Ohio Dept. of Development.
CAP	Conservation Action Project	ODOT	Ohio Dept. of Transportation
CWP	Center for Watershed Protection	OEC	Ohio Environmental Council
DU	Ducks Unlimited	OEPA	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Evt. Defense	Environmental Defense, Center for Conservation Initiatives	OLEC	Ohio Lake Erie Commission
FSA	USDA Farm Service Agency	OSU	The Ohio State University
ISDA	Indiana State Dept. of Agriculture	PORT	Toledo Port Authority
IDEM	Indiana Dept of Environmental Management	SJWI	Saint Joe Watershed Initiative
JOYCE	The Joyce Foundation	SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District(s)
MDA	Michigan Dept. of Agriculture	TMACOG	Toledo Metropolitan Council of Governments
ODA	Ohio Dept. of Agriculture	TNC	The Nature Conservancy
MDEQ	Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality	USACE	U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers
MRBPLG	Maumee River Basin Partnership of Local Governments	USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
MVRCD	Maumee Valley Resource Conservation and Development	USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NACD	National Association of Conservation Districts	USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
NGO	Non Governmental Organizations	UT	University of Toledo
NRCS	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service		
ODH	Ohio Dept. of Health		

## **WLEB STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

### **Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Based Strategic Objectives**

<b>Resource Concern</b>	<b>Strategic Objective</b>	<b>Page</b>
Aquatic Invasive Species AIS	Work to prevent introduction or expansion of aquatic invasive species within the waters of the project area and Lake Erie.	6
Habitat Conservation and Species Management HC	Protect, restore, and manage habitat in the watershed to optimize plant and animal survival, abundance and diversity.	7
Stream and Coastal Health/Water Quality SH/WQ	Protect the waters of streams and rivers within the Maumee River Basin and Lake Erie to minimize risks to human health, protect drinking water sources, and provide clean and abundant water for use and enjoyment.	11
Areas of Concerns/Contaminants AOC	Cleanup and delist the Maumee RAP Area of Concern as identified by the International Joint Commission.	15
Nonpoint Source Pollution NPS	Address problems of nonpoint sources of pollution within the Western Lake Erie Basin project area.	16
Toxics	Reduce exposure to the discharge of persistent toxic substances in the Western Lake Erie Basin Ecosystem.	22

TOXIC		
Information Base and Representative Scientific Indicators INFO	Coordinate shared information systems that support the use of sound science and well developed ecosystem indicators in the Western Lake Erie Basin Watershed for the purpose of ensuring good resource management decisions.	23
Sustainable and Balanced Growth SBG	Design, adopt, and maintain programs and systems that result long term in balanced and sustainable uses of the natural resources in the project area	30
<b>WLEB Partnership Locally Based Strategic Objectives</b>		
<b>Resource Concern</b>	<b>Strategic Objective</b>	
WLEB Partnership WLEB	A sustainable and effective WLEB partnership	34
Hydrologic Management /Flooding Attenuation HYDRO	Investigate and understand the hydrology of the WLEB watersheds for the purpose of promoting wise management of the water resources of the area.	37
Dredging DR	Develop solutions to the dredging and disposal problems in Toledo Harbor, Maumee Bay, and Lake Erie.	40
Forest Resource Protection FRP	Protect the remaining Forest Resource Base in the project area and reforest critical or strategic lands.	41

Native Plant Community Protection NPC	Protect and restore Native Plant Communities in Oak Openings and other important regions of the project area.	43
Sustainable Energy Production ENER	Utilize renewable energy sources in a way that does not negatively impact conservation and natural resource protection within the project area.	43
Public Information/Education EDU	Effectively tell the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership story, objectives, goals, and activities to the citizens, legislators, and decision makers in the watershed.	45



Perry's Monument stands tall on South Bass Island

## Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Based Strategic Objectives

### Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Work to prevent introduction or expansion of aquatic invasive species within the waters of the project area and Lake Erie.

**GOAL 1:**

Support actions that provide research, technology, government actions, outreach and public education which 1) prevent new introductions of AIS into the Great Lakes and 2) control the spread of established AIS populations.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	<p>Identify, summarize, and publicize programs that educate Great Lakes boaters and anglers on how to take preventive actions against aquatic invasive species.</p> <p>Identified aquatic invasives species outreach program for boaters - <a href="http://protectyourwaters.net/resources">protectyourwaters.net/resources</a> 03/01/2010 Mary Knapp USFWS</p> <p>Will work with our angler partners to get the word out - Kristy Meyer OEC</p>	<p>Sea Grant USFWS OEC ODNR</p>	<p>Inter- mediate</p> <p>In progress</p> <p>(OEC) Needs Action - will start immediat ely</p>
2	<p>Partner with organizations that can lead a comprehensive educational AIS campaign to educate the bait industry, pet industry, recreational boaters, and anglers.</p> <p>Have been working with Izaak Walton League of America - Ohio Division to educate</p>	<p>Sea Grant USFWS OEC ODNR</p>	<p>Inter- mediate</p> <p>(OEC) In</p>

	anglers on invasive species and have been working with the ODNR Aquatic Invasive Species Committee to come up with ways to continue to educate these communities. Kristy Meyer OEC		progress
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**GOAL 2:**  
Support actions of government agencies and organizations that will result in an AIS Integrated Management Program within the Western Lake Erie Basin project area that incorporates coordinated rapid response, control, and management programs.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Support and interact with all AIS rapid response, control, and management programs and identify future opportunities for WLEB projects or activities to help halt introductions or spread of invasive species. <b>ODNR has evaluated the likelihood of asian carp entering the Maumee Watershed via connections to the Wabash River in Indiana. Work is progressing on eventual construction of barrier to sever the potential connection. ODNR 10-10-10</b>	ODNR	Inter-mediate <b>In progress</b>

### Habitat Conservation and Species Management (HC)

Protect, restore, and manage critical plant and animal habitat to optimize a full range of ecosystem services, including hydrologic retention, nutrient and sediment trapping, spawning, nesting and nursery habitats, and other habitat needs for fish and wildlife.

**GOAL 1:**  
Support actions of government agencies and organizations that will result in a list of rare, threatened, or endangered species in the WLEB project area. Support implementation of programs that protect these species and educate the public of the need for protection.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Identify areas of high native species diversity, species endemism, high number of species at risk, or species of management concern and place priority on developing programs and/or means to protect these areas. <b>Developed list of rare and delining mussel fauna in the watershed. Currently proposed</b>	USFWS ODNR TNC DU	Inter-mediate <b>In</b>

	listing 2 new mussel species for Endangered Species protection. 03/01/2010 Mary Knapp USFWS		progress
2	<p>Facilitate protection and restoration of endangered species habitat in the St. Joe Watershed. Support the St. Joe Watershed Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) project by providing natural resource data that assists project sponsors in developing an effective work plan.</p> <p>Developed Recovery permit for the Copperbelly watersnake with Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and local landowners. Working with Healthy Forest Restoration program to acquire and manage forest resources in the watershed. Helped secure Rex East mitigation funds to acquire forested wetland property in the watershed. Sought FWS Section funds to help acquire forested wetland property in the watershed. 03/01/2010 Mary Knapp USFWS</p> <p>Using the knowledge gained through CCPI Project to direct restoration efforts in the St. Joseph Watershed through WRP. 3/25/10 Joe Draper TNC</p>	St. Joe WS USFWS EPA, TNC DU, Local Scud's	Short Term  Ongoing

**GOAL 2:**

Identify and preserve existing wetlands, open/nearshore waters, riverine habitats and related riparian areas, and coastal and upland habitats to prevent degradation.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	<p>Investigate feasibility of advanced Wetland Identification Pilot Project in the Swan Creek watershed in partnership with the Balanced Growth Initiative and the Ohio National Wetland Inventory update. Develop scoping document for the WLEB that would identify estimated resources needed for this (time, costs, expertise, who would do, delivery mechanism, etc).</p> <p>NRCS in FY 2009 funded USGS to conduct a functional wetland study of the Swan Creel Watershed. This project is currently underway. Steve Davis, NRCS 3/25/10</p> <p>EPA has just begun working with a contractor on the <u>Eastern Maumee AOC Inventory Plan</u> to identify areas adjacent to or near these waterways (the mainstem and major tributaries of three defined HUCs from their mouths to headwaters) where restoring or</p>	USEPA	Short Term  In progress

	enhancing wetlands and/or riparian areas will provide direct benefit(s) to the health of the watersheds and/or its surrounding habitat. These benefits could include any of the following: directly or indirectly improving water quality, restoring natural stream corridors (such as sinuosity or floodplains), improving or expanding wildlife habitat and populations, filtering sediments and/or capturing contaminants. Paul Thomas. USEPA. 3/30/10		In progress
2	Support and encourage the work of organizations such as USFWS, Ducks Unlimited, and The Nature Conservancy to seek Northwest Ohio Wetlands Initiative North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants for land acquisition or to purchase easements that protect wetlands, shoreline habitat, and/or uplands to ensure waterfowl and wildlife habitat is protected. ODNR and MDNR collaborated with DU to successfully acquire a grant through the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act. This grant of over \$500,000 is expected to be used to acquire easements/ properties for wetland restoration within the coastal wetland complex of SW Lake Erie over the next year. The ODNR Office of Coastal Management annually submits grants for CELCP funding through NOAA. This year, the office applied for the maximum of three projects, but only two of the three were for properties in the Western Basin. Additionally, this year the Office submitted a National Coastal Wetlands Conservation (NCWC) grant application to the USFWS for potential wetlands acquisition on Sandusky Bay. A decision on the NCWC application should be announced in January 2011, and a decision on the CELCP application will be known after the federal budget numbers are finalized. ODNR 10-10-2010	USFWS ODNR TNC DU	Ongoing  In progress
3	Establish more functional linkages between protected areas throughout the WLEB project area, particularly in priority watersheds, by supporting work of the Green Ribbon Initiative and/or the Black Swamp Conservancy. Helped acquire REX East support for project acquisition by the Black Swamp Conservancy in the watershed. 03/01/2010 Mary Knapp USFWS	USFWS ODNR TNC DU	Inter- mediate  Completed
4	Develop a system which uses GIS-based tools and maps, decision-support systems, and selected indicators relevant to habitat and ecosystem function as a tool to identify critical habitats in need of protection. Pilot the tool in the St. Joe CCPI project and evaluate results for potential use throughout the WLEB project area. Have begun the work of gathering data layers for conservation planning at the landscape scale. Will use initial data for pilot study. 03/01/2010 Mary Knapp USFWS	USFWS ODNR TNC DU Univ. of Toledo	Inter- mediate  In progress
5	Identify available agency funding and/or programmatic support to assist partners in implementing the "stopover" habitat concept to increase habitat available for migratory	USFWS, ODNR, WLEB Funding	Inter- mediate

	birds. Developed windpower draft guidelines for on- and off-shore developments. 03/01/2010 Mary Knapp USFWS	Committee	Ongoing
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**GOAL 3:**  
Restore wetlands, open/nearshore waters, riverine habitats and related riparian areas, and coastal and upland habitats.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	<p>Restore 13,000 acres of wetlands in the WLEB project area by 2010, via Lake Erie and Michigan CREP programs, (potentially Indiana CREP), USDA Wetlands Reserve Program, and other wetland restoration programs. (This action aligned with the Governor's Joint Letter on short term Wetland Restoration in the Great Lakes.)</p> <p>Indiana has not and I don't anticipate it will anytime soon apply for CREP in the Indiana portion of the WLEB. State leadership chose to apply for CREP expansion in the Wabash River Watershed instead to help address the gulf hypoxia issue. Jim Lake.</p> <p>LE CREP in Ohio has enrolled 1184 acres since December 2006 (ODNR-Jkessler-2/26/10).</p> <p>ODNR - DNAP has restored 10 acres of wet prairie at Irwin Prairie SNP over the last two years (ODNR - Ryan Schroeder 3/3/10)</p> <p>WRP and HFRP enrolled acres of 1691 acres since September 2009 in the St. Joseph River Watershed. (3/25/10, Joe Draper TNC)</p>	ALL WLEB Partners	By 2010  In progress
2	<p>Restore 65,000 acres of wetlands in the WLEB project area by 2015, via Lake Erie and Michigan CREP programs, (potentially Indiana CREP), USDA Wetlands Reserve Program, other wetland restoration programs, and substantially expanded wetland restoration funding. (This action aligned with the WLEB share of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Wetland Restoration long-term goals for the Great Lakes.)</p> <p>LE CREP in Ohio has enrolled 1184 acres since December 2006(ODNR-Jkessler-2/26/10).</p>	ALL WLEB Partners	By 2015  In progress
3	WLEB partners track program funding and accomplishments for the WLEB Project Area. Annually report to the WLEB partnership the amount (acres) of new habitat restoration or creation in the WLEB project area.	ALL WLEB Partners	Short Term

	ODNR - DNAP has restored 10 acres of wet prairie at Irwin Prairie SNP over the last two years and 5 acres of oak savannah at Louis Campbell SNP (ODNR - Ryan Schroeder 3/3/10)  Is need for a coordinated reporting of accomplishments of conservation practices in the WLEB project area. S Davis 10-10-2010		Action Needed
4	Determine a means to track land use changes in the Lake Erie Marsh Coastal Region (area of concern from Sandusky Bay to Woodtick Peninsula) and identify party responsible to implement.	ODNR	Inter-mediate
<p><b>GOAL 4:</b></p> <p>Complete the habitat restoration project in the St. Joseph River Watershed via implementing the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI). Complete by March 2008.</p>			
#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Assist the CCPI contractor in establishing 30 acres of wetland restorations and 1.5 miles of riparian corridor demonstration site's in the St. Joseph River Watershed.	ODNR USFWS	By March 2008  Completed
2	Enter into partnership agreements to help provide resources to help restore additional wetlands and riparian areas identified as priority sites by the CCPI contractor and its project partners.	All WLEB partners who can bring resources to the table	By March 2008  Completed
3	USDA in Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana will agree on information that can be provided to the St. Joe Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative project and a process for providing data to partners to develop the CCPI plan. NRCS worked with the CPPI partners during the St. Joe Project to provide that data which could be made available. The St Joe CPPI project has been completed. Steve Davis 3/25/10	NRCS – OH, IN, MI	Short Term  Completed

## Stream and Coastal Health/Water Quality (SH/WQ)

Protect the waters of streams and rivers within the Maumee River Basin, and Lake Erie, to minimize risks to human health, protect drinking water sources, and provide clean and abundant water for use and enjoyment.

### GOAL 1:

Support actions resulting in implementation of practical solutions addressing the impacts of combined sewer overflow (CSO)

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Educate the public and legislative officials on the need for an annual funding source to help reduce the burden that water infrastructure programs are placing on local communities and their rate payers. <i>MRBPLG has been working on this. Not sure what the progress is but they have continued to make this need known. Steve Davis 3/25/10</i>	OEC and NGO Members of WLEB Partnership	Long Term <i>In progress</i>
2	NGOs in the WLEB partnership will work for full funding of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund which will provide low interest loans to local communities for sewage and stormwater works of improvements. <i>American Rivers has been working on this as well as making sure the 20% green reserve set aside stays in place. Katie Swartz AR 4/4/2010</i>	OEC and NGO Members of WLEB Partnership	Long Term <i>In progress</i>
3	Educate local congressional representatives on the importance to good water quality of appropriations for specific community CSO, SSO, and storm water projects. <i>MRBPLG has been working on this. Not sure what the progress is but they have continued to make this need known. Steve Davis 3/25/10</i>	NGO Members of WLEB Partnership	Long Term <i>In progress</i>
4	Recognize via a WLEB award program, communities that have successfully implemented that community's approved long term control plan (LTCP) in order to achieve compliance with Federal regulatory requirements. <i>No progress reported on this item S Davis 10-10-2010</i>	MRBPLG Am. Rivers OEPA	Short Term <i>Action Needed</i>
	Support and facilitate the expansion of demonstration projects and research for	MRBPLG	Inter-

5	<p>alternative CSO controls such as rain gardens, bioretention, etc.  NRCS in FY2010 is in process of funding City of Toledo for a demonstration project to add bioretention and biofiltration to an urban stormwater conventional pipe project in City of Toledo. Construction of project expected to start in summer of 2010 and finish in 2011. Steve Davis 3/25/10</p> <p>EPA recently began working with a contractor on a pilot project to develop a regionalized implementation tool that optimizes storm water BMPs for the City of Toledo and the surrounding MS4 communities in Lucas County. Building on expertise gained in previous pilot projects in Minnesota, Michigan, and Indiana, this tool could be further developed to address urban brownfields, storm water retrofits, low impact development and restoration of hydrology to riparian wetlands. Paul Thomas, USEPA, 3-25/10</p>	<p>USEPA  Am. Rivers  OEPA &amp; ODNR</p> <p>USEPA</p>	<p>mediate  In progress</p> <p>In progress</p>
6	<p>Encourage watershed planning and applications which use best management practices components of wet weather management to promote infiltration and reduce impervious cover.  OLEC's Balanced Growth Program includes a suite of Best Local Land Use Practices that include many of these items - workshops in May 2010 will include education on the use of these.  American Rivers LID document. (c riddle)</p>	<p>MRBPLG  US EPA  Am. Rivers  OEPA &amp; ODNR</p>	<p>Inter-mediate  In progress</p>
7	<p>Organize and provide financial assistance for a tour that enables the Toledo-Lucas County Rain Garden Initiative representatives to tour other Midwest cities that have effectively implemented Rain Garden Initiatives.  1/8/2010: American Rivers successively coordinated two tours in 2009. The first tour in May 2009 took Rain Garden Initiative members to Lansing and Grand Rapids to talk with local officials, engineers, and conservationists about their on the ground projects and programs. In October 2009, American Rivers took political officials, municipal staff, and others on a two-day tour through Chicago and Milwaukee educating them on the benefits of green infrastructure such as permeable pavement, green roofs, bioswales, rain gardens, and rain barrels. Toledo City Councilman Joe McNamara and Lucas County Commissioner Ben Konop were in attendance for the October tour. Katie Swartz, American Rivers</p>	<p>NRCS  Lucas SWCD  Am. Rivers</p>	<p>Short Term  Completed</p>

Note: Each Maumee River Basin community is uniquely different in respect to what their specific needs are for improving their wastewater programs. Each community is also in different stages of working through their mandates based on the status of implementing items such as Long-Term Control Plans and Consent Decree requirements.

**GOAL 2:**

Work towards delisting 303(d) impaired stream segments within the Maumee River Basin.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Inventory 303(d) stream segments and/or 303(d) watersheds within the project area, their associated impairments, and TMDL development status. <b>Ongoing, need to enter update on progress made in 2010. 10-10-2010 S Davis</b>	OEPA, assisted by MDEQ, IDEM	Ongoing
2	Evaluate possible impairment causes associated with each pollutant and its respective stream reach utilizing existing information such as TMDLs, NRCS rapid assessments, and Watershed Management Plans. Coordinate with State regulatory agencies and State water resource agencies to evaluate TMDL implementation plans and actions. <b>EPA recently began working with a contractor and other partners to develop TMDLs for the tributaries to the lower Maumee and Lake Erie. Paul Thomas, USEPA, 3/30/10</b>	WLEB Partners and State WQ Agencies  <b>USEPA</b>	Ongoing  <b>In progress</b>
3	Prioritize which 303(d) watersheds or stream segments in the Basin to focus implementation efforts on using the ongoing State water quality assessment processes. Promote and support the implementation of projects which target critical areas in the 303(d) watersheds and target funds/resources toward work in the aforementioned watersheds. Work with landowners along 303(d) stream segments to implement best management practices.	WLEB Partners and State WQ Agencies	Inter-mediate
4	Encourage the development of local watershed groups that give priority to 303(d) listed stream segments or 303(d) watersheds in their activities and work plans. <b>ODNR, DSWR Submitted GLRI Grant Proposal in January 2010 to fund 3 full time watershed coordinators to develop watershed action plans and sustainable watershed organizations in 3 Maumee River Sub-watersheds (Upper Maumee, Blanchard River and St. Mary's River)</b>  <b>Upper Maumee River watershed group for HUC 04100005 has recently formed as a volunteer organization. Angie Brown, IDEM 04/26/2010</b>	WLEB Partners and State WQ Agencies	Inter-mediate  <b>Completed</b>
5	Establish stream gages and monitoring networks which provide water quality monitoring of priority 303(d) stream segments or 303(d) watersheds. <b>03-17-10 Analysis has not been conducted to investigate gage network and priority</b>	WLEB Partners and State WQ Agencies	Inter-mediate  <b>Needs</b>

	303(d) stream segments/watersheds. Jim Morris/Dick Bartz USGS		Action
6	Collaborate across State lines to facilitate a common, unified, and consistent watershed approach in watersheds that transverse State political boundaries. ODNR and SWCDs work is on-going with Michigan and Indiana counterparts (ODNR-Jkessler-2/26/10).  Upper Maumee (HUC 04100005) is being formed as a bi-state watershed group for consistency. St. Joseph (04100003) tri-state watershed group has been in existence since 1998. St. Marys group has formed on Indiana side, but was not formed as a bi-state group. Angie Brown, IDEM 04/26/2010	WLEB, assisted by OEPA, ODNR, MDEQ, IDEM, ISDA	Inter-mediate In progress
<b>GOAL 3:</b>			
Encourage effective compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.			
#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Encourage successful implementation of NPDES Stormwater Quality permit requirements by developers and construction site operators, industrial facilities, municipalities, and confined animal feeding operations by coordinating outreach and education efforts.	OEPA IDEM MDEQ OEC Local SWCDs	Inter-mediate
2	Encourage similar regulatory implementation strategies and policies among various State Permitting Authorities.	MRBPLG	Inter-mediate
3	Promote technical training and professional certification opportunities for State Permitting Authority staff as well as regulated entity staff. In fall of 2007 NRCS funded and WLEB hosted a Stormwater Institute at Maumee Bay. Center for Watershed Protection, OEPA staff and others provided training to more than 75 professionals from governmental organizations and permitted entities in WLEB project area. Steve Davis 3/25/10	OEPA/ODNR MRBPLG	Inter-mediate Completed
4	Encourage regional coordination of the development of guidance materials to help clarify permit requirements for regulated entities.	MRBPLG	Inter-mediate
5	Encourage sector specific compliance initiatives by State Permitting Authorities which are prioritized by pollutants of concern and potential for environmental harm.	NGOs,	Inter-mediate

6	Conduct an Urban Stormwater Management training session for municipal officials and communities within the watershed Oct. 9-11, 2007. <i>Stormwater Institute held on above dates. Katie Swartz AR 4/5/10</i>	CWP	Short Term Completed
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### Areas of Concern/Contaminants

Cleanup and delist the Maumee RAP Area of Concern as identified by the International Joint Commission.

**GOAL 1:**

Support actions that realize the objectives of Maumee Remedial Action Plan for the recovery of the beneficial use impairments affecting the Maumee Area of Concern.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Work with the appropriate agencies/groups to identify delisting targets and projects to move towards delisting.	OEPA OEC	Inter- mediate
2	Request the Maumee RAP to provide the WLEB a listing of RAP projects and plans that WLEB could support to help them achieve their goals. <i>Request was made to the RAP group early on a couple of different occasions. More work is needed on this item. Steve Davis 3/25/10</i>  <i>As part of GLRI initiative, NRCS is represented on Lake Erie LAMP Forum and actively participating. NRCS 10-10-2010</i>	WLEB Partnership	Short Term Needs Action

### Nonpoint Source Pollution and Impairments (NPS)

Address problems of non point sources of pollution within the Western Lake Erie Basin project area.

**GOAL 1:**

Support actions that reduce nutrient exports from tributaries into Lake Erie.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	<p>Integrate results from the Strategic Review of State water quality planning documents (see Information Base Objective, Goal #3 into nutrient management recommendations for the WLEB project area.</p> <p>I believe OEPA was going to contact IDEM to initiate-coordinate this effort. Angie Brown would be a good IDEM contact for WLEB issues. She serves on one of the WLEB Committees-not sure which one without looking at committees listing-Jim Lake ODNR reviewed Ohio based documents while preparing GLRI grant applications (Jkessler-2/26/10).</p> <p>ODNR sorted through all Ohio Plans to identify priorities for GLRI Applications S Davis 10-10-2010</p>	OEPA, ODNR, USEPA, ODA assisted by ISDA, MDA	<p>Inter-mediate</p> <p>Needs Action</p>
2	<p>Ensure a target is established for nutrient reduction goals for the WLEB project area including a timetable for achieving.</p> <p>I would recommend Angie Brown at IDEM be contacted on this action item as well-Jim Lake</p> <p>Ohio EPA phosphorous task force has released report and recommendations for nutrient management in Lake Erie Watersheds. Recommendations in the report are in the process of being implemented Steve Davis 10-10-2010</p> <p>ODNR sorted through all Ohio Plans to identify priorities for GLRI Applications S Davis 10-10-2010</p>	OEPA, ODNR, USEPA, assisted by ISDA, MDA	<p>Inter-mediate</p> <p>Needs Action</p> <p>In progress in Ohio</p>
3	<p>Support implementation of controlled subsurface drainage research and demonstration projects within the watershed by the controlled drainage task force. Publicize findings of the Ohio CIG controlled drainage project regarding effects on nutrient exports and farmer experiences with pilot projects.</p> <p>ARS is, I believe, conducting controlled drainage research at several sites via the National Conservation Innovation grant. Need to follow up with Norm Fausey and see if/when it would be appropriate time to brief WLEB on the research or results. Steve Davis 3/25/10</p>	NRCS ARS MVRCD ODA	<p>Inter-mediate</p> <p>In progress</p>
4	<p>Work with partners such as Certified Crop Consultants, Farm Bureau, Environmental Defense, and others to implement a pilot project on nitrogen reduction modeled after the</p>	Evt. Defense OSU Extension	Short Term

	Iowa Soybean Association nitrogen management efforts in Iowa. The Maumee River Basin with direct assistance from Greg Lake, Allen SWCD has applied for GLRI funding to start an On Farm Network in the IN portion of the WLEB in close coordination with EDF-Jim Lake	CAP, ODA, ODNR, Local SWCDs	In progress
5	Support and secure funding for additional research into the causes and effects for the resurgence of soluble phosphorous increases in the tributary runoff into Lake Erie. USEPA and OHIO LAKE ERIE PROTECTION FUND awarded more than ~\$1M to the Lake Erie Millennium Consortium of Universities for phosphorous research in summer of 2009. NRCS provided ~\$30K WLEB funding to Sea Grant, OSU Extension and University of Toledo to supplement this work in the basin. That research is currently underway. Additional research proposals have been submitted to the GLRI Request for Proposals. Steve Davis 3/25/10	Ohio EPA and WLEB Funding Committee	Inter-mediate  In progress
6	Support the work of the recently formed Ohio Lake Erie Phosphorous task force by contributing time and expertise of WLEB partners to the work of the task force. ODNR continuing to provide support to the Task Force (Jkessler-2/26/10). Task Force Update and draft recommendations are on the WLEB Leadership Team Meeting agenda for 3/14/10. Numerous WLEB partners are actively serving on the task force. Steve Davis 3/25/10	NRCS, ODNR, OEPA, OFB, OLEC, ODA	Short Term  In progress
7	Expand funding for the Ohio EQIP special projects to increase the number of advanced level conservation plans that are developed and implement on farms in the project area with increased emphasis on nutrient management. NRCS will very soon be announcing a sizable EQIP special project signup for WLEB project area via the USDA allocation of GLRI funds. The GLRI funds will supplement ongoing EQIP and other USDA conservation program applications of conservation practices in the WLEB project area. Steve Davis 3/25/10	NRCS Evt. Defense, OSU Extension, SWCD's	Inter-mediate  In progress
8	Support the Environmental Defense/Joyce Foundation effort to accelerate conservation land treatment in the Tiffin and Blanchard Hydrologic Units. ODNR provided Watershed Coordinator Grant for Blanchard Watershed in 2009 (Jkessler-2/26/10). Ohio NRCS currently entering into FY2010 agreement with Environmental Defense to provide Maumee Valley WLEB funding for nutrient management planning outreach in the Blanchard and Tiffin watersheds. Steve Davis 3/25/10	NRCS, ODNR, OSU Extension, SWCD's	Inter-mediate  In progress
9	Support efforts that result in additional education, research, and demonstrations as to more effective ways of utilizing animal wastes with less impact on the water resources of	ODA, ODNR, OEPA, NRCS,	Long Term

	the WLEB project area. ODNR conducted manure nutrient management training in 2009/10 (Jkessler-2/26/10)	OFB Local SWCD's	In progress
10	Recognize the need for additional technical assistance to solve nutrient management environmental problems in the watershed and educate public officials and decision makers of same. Ohio Phosphorus Task Force to soon issue report addressing this need.	OEC SWCD's NGO Partners	Long Term In progress

**GOAL 2:**  
Support actions that reduce the amount of sediment exported from the tributaries into Lake Erie

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Integrate results from the Strategic Review of State water quality planning documents (See Information Base Objective, Goal #_3) into sediment management recommendations for the WLEB project area. ODNR reviewed Ohio based documents while preparing GLRI grant application (Jkessler-2/26/10).	OEPA, ODNR, USEPA, assisted by ISDA, MDA	Inter- mediate
2	Establish a target for sediment reduction goals for the WLEB project area and a timetable for achieving. Establish a program to work with farmers to increase adoption of planting of no-till corn in the basin from the 2006 level of 28% to 40% of all corn planted in the basin. Indiana has just initiated a statewide effort to promote increased adoption of no-till corn and the use of cover crops. It is called the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative and the Coordinator is Hans Kok. I have his contact information if anyone needs it-Jim Lake  USACE has funded LimnoTECH to develop AGNPS model for the Blanchard watershed. The ECOFORE project is developing SWAT model for Maumee Basin. LimnoTECH is developing hydrodynamic model for the Western Basin of Lake Erie. When completed, all of these projects will provide better data as to impacts of BMP's on sediment reduction and provide information which will be useful in setting more realistic targets. Steve Davis 3/25/10	OEPA, ODNR, in consultation with ODA, ISDA, MDA, NRCS	Inter- mediate  In progress
3	Expand the EQIP Special Project Signup and the Conservation Security Program Signup in the WLEB area to provide incentives to achieve greater than 75% conservation tillage use over the watershed and achieve greater levels of sediment reduction.	NRCS Evt. Defense, OSU	Inter- mediate

	<p>NRCS will very soon be announcing a sizable EQIP special project signup for WLEB project area via the USDA allocation of GLRI funds. The GLRI funds will supplement ongoing EQIP and other USDA conservation program applications of conservation practices in the WLEB project area. Steve Davis 3/25/10</p>	Extension, SWCDs	In progress
4	<p>Enroll 24,000 acres of new conservation buffers via the Lake Erie CREP and the regular Continuous CRP programs including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Filter strips 19,000 acres</li> <li>Windbreaks 1,400 acres</li> <li>Riparian Buffers 1,950 acres</li> <li>Wetland Restorations 1,235 acres</li> <li>Hardwood Tree Plantings 425 acres</li> </ul> <p>Action Needed -There is need to develop mechanism to track and summarize individual farm practice application within the basin (each state) for USDA programs and conservation practices and aggregate into annual progress report for WLEB. Steve Davis 3/25/10</p> <p>Acreage installed as reported by ODNR 10-10-2010</p> <p>Filter strips 24456 acres Windbreaks 2716 acres Riparian Buffers 2153 acres Wetland Restorations 3160 acres Hardwood Tree Plantings 222 acres</p> <p>DOF continues to work with partners and private landowners on tree planting efforts throughout WLEB. 24 new windbreaks covering approximately 97 acres were planted in 2010 through the NW Ohio Windbreak Program</p>	Numerous WLEB Partners	<p>Long Term</p> <p>In Progress, Additional Action Needed</p>
5	<p>Expand the CREP Program to include Michigan and Indiana CREP Programs within the watershed to provide coverage for the entire Maumee Watershed.</p> <p>Indiana has not applied for CREP in the Indiana portion of the WLEB nor do I expect the state to do so anytime soon. State leadership has chosen to expand CREP in the Wabash River Watershed to help address the hypoxia issues in the Gulf of Mexico.</p>	MDA – Mich. ISDA - Indiana	Short Term IN – no action anticipated
6	<p>Recognize the need for additional technical assistance to solve erosion and sediment problems in the watershed and educate public officials and decision makers of same.</p> <p>Additional efforts needed on this item. Steve Davis 3/25/10</p>	OEC Local SWCDs NGO Partners	Long Term

	Some additional technical assistance funding provided to NRCS as a result of the GLRI initiative and interagency funding.		In Progress
<b>GOAL 3:</b>			
Reduce the amount of bacteria delivered to surface waters and exported into Lake Erie.			
#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Integrate results from the Strategic Review of state water quality planning documents (See Information Base Objective, Goal #3) into bacteria management recommendations for the WLEB project area.  Ongoing...picked priorities that made sense and used for GLRI applications ODNR 10-10-2010	OEPA, ODNR, ODH, in consultation with USEPA, IDEM & MDEQ	Inter-mediate  In Progress
2	Establish bacterial reduction goal necessary to reach attainment of recreational uses for each hydrologic assessment unit, including specific recommendations as to how to achieve the goal and timetable for meeting the goal. IDEM has written a TMDL for <i>E. coli</i> for the St. Marys River and mainstem of the Maumee in Indiana. A watershed management plan, including <i>E. coli</i> reduction goal, has been written for the Indiana portion of St. Marys, as well. Angie Brown, IDEM 04/26/2010	OEPA, ODNR, ODH, in consultation with USEPA, IDEM & MDEQ	Inter-mediate
3	Support programs of regulatory agencies to reduce failure rate of home sewage treatment systems to 10% and develop specific actions and/or programs to work with local health departments to identify how to achieve this.	ODH	Inter-mediate
4	Achieve an average of less than 10 days per year under "do not swim" advisory at all regularly monitored public bathing beaches (Lake Erie and interior) and develop specific actions and/or programs to work with local health departments to identify how to achieve this.  ODH has GLRI application submitted - would fund additional beach monitoring/posting and would fund sanitary surveys to ID sources of contaminants (c riddle)	ODH OEPA	Long Term
5	Investigate ways to discover and fund solutions to the problems of beach closings due to bacterial contamination at Maumee Bay State Park. Partner with existing organizations that are working on this problem.  02-23-10 Have been collaborating with partners. Hope to be able to apply some of the USGS-GLRI Beach Monitoring funding to Maumee Bay State Park beach. Jim Morris/Dick	ODH, ODNR, OEPA, UT, USGS, NRCS	Short Term  In progress

	<p><b>Bartz USGS</b></p> <p>NRCS provided WLEB funding to University of Toledo for bacterial monitoring of Berger Ditch to aid in designing solutions to problems of bacterial contamination at Maumee Bay State Park. Steve Davis 3/25/10</p>		
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**GOAL 4:**

Work with local officials and landowners to address drainage concerns and employ practical solutions to in-stream and riparian habitat degradation, hydro modification, and channel modification/instability concerns.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	<p>Share information from Ohio's Rural Drainage Advisory Stakeholder Group (technical manual, regulatory information, and funding ideas) with WLEB partners and watershed stakeholders. Identify and support actions that result in a balance between providing practical solutions to drainage needs (rural/agricultural/urban/suburban) and maintaining ecological functions within drainage systems.</p> <p>ODNR providing technical assistance and training on as needed basis; one regional training session held. (Jkessler-2/26/10)</p>	<p>ODNR OEPA OEC</p>	<p>Inter- mediate</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
2	<p>Coordinate establishment of a Tri-state Drainage Handbook via a cooperative effort by Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan.</p> <p>No progress (ODNR-Jkessler-2/26/10)</p>	<p>ODNR</p>	<p>Inter- mediate</p> <p>Needs Action</p>
3	<p>Seek new sources of funding, or innovative uses of existing programs, to help support and offset costs of incorporating environmental features and designs in local drainage projects.</p>	<p>WLEB Funding Committee, Rural Drainage Advisory Group</p>	<p>Long Term</p> <p>Needs Action</p>

**GOAL 5 :**

Support actions that address failing onsite wastewater treatment systems.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Expand distribution of existing educational information about proper septic system operation and maintenance by targeting known residents and landowners in the project area with existing septic systems. <b>Ohio Law has recently changed and is in the rule development phase. New rules will address these objectives in Ohio. Is need for OEPA or ODNR to establish point of contact with Ohio Department of Health to incorporate that agency and their programs into evaluation and implementation of this WLEB goal. S Davis 2010</b>	ODH, Local Watershed Groups, OSU Extension	Inter-mediate <b>In Progress</b>
2	Distribute educational materials to home builders, buyers, realtors, and those applying for a septic system permit. Promote septic system workshops and tours of existing septic system demonstration projects. <b>Ohio Law has recently changed and is in the rule development phase. New rules will address these objectives in Ohio S Davis 2010</b>	ODH, Local Watershed Groups, OSU Extension	Inter-mediate <b>In Progress</b>
3	Evaluate discrepancies between State septic system regulations and encourage adoption of a common set of requirements.	ODH, Local Watershed Groups, OSU Extension	Inter-mediate
4	Encourage local governments to improve their planning processes by promoting coordinated development review and approvals, building a GIS layer identifying land suitable for septic systems, and updating comprehensive plans to address impacts from septic systems. <b>Is need for OEPA or ODNR to establish point of contact with Ohio Department of Health to incorporate that agency and their programs into evaluation and implementation of this WLEB goal.</b>	ODH, Local Watershed Groups, OSU Extension	Long Term <b>Needs Action</b>
5	Promote approaches for local entities to offer funding or cost-share assistance to landowners for connection to local wastewater treatment plants as well as funding for low-income landowners that may need assistance in installing, repairing, or operating and maintaining their septic systems. <b>Is need for OEPA or ODNR to establish point of contact with Ohio Department of Health to incorporate that agency and their programs into evaluation and implementation of this WLEB goal.</b>	ODH, Local Watershed Groups, OSU Extension	Long Term <b>Needs Action</b>
6	Encourage the establishment of Septic System Management (Conservancy) Districts (also referred to as Onsite Wastewater Management Districts) for outreach and education efforts, inspection and maintenance programs, and enforcement actions. <b>Is need for OEPA or ODNR to establish point of contact with Ohio Department of Health to</b>	ODH, Local Watershed Groups, OSU Extension	Long Term <b>Needs Action</b>

	incorporate that agency and their programs into evaluation and implementation of this WLEB goal.		
<b>Toxics</b>			
Reduce exposure to and the discharge of persistent toxic substances in the Western Lake Erie Basin Ecosystem.			
<b>GOAL 1:</b>			
Support actions that clean up contaminated sediments in the project area with emphasis on the mouths of Lake Erie tributaries.			
#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Work with TMACOG/ODOT and ODNR Division of Watercraft to address opportunities for lowhead dam removal on the Ottawa River and restore adjacent habitat on the riparian areas. Natural resource damage assessment funding (Fish and Wildlife Service NRDA) settlement funds are available to assist with these tasks. <i>Significant progress has been made toward identifying habitat restoration projects in the watershed that will aid in sediment retention and improved water quality and wildlife/migratory bird habitat in the Western basin. Projects will potentially be funded by NRDA settlement funds if available. 03/01/2010 Mary Knapp USFWS</i>	USFWS OEPA TMACOG	Inter- mediate  <i>In progress</i>
<b>GOAL 2:</b>			
Consistent dissemination of fish advisories throughout the WLEB project area.			
#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Put a link to each State's fish advisory information on the WLEB project website and publicize availability of current fish advisory information.	OEPA, OLEC, OEC	Short Term <i>Needs Action</i>

## Information Base and Representative Scientific Indicators (Info)

Coordinate shared information systems that support the use of sound science and well developed ecosystem indicators in the Western Lake Erie Basin Watershed for the purpose of ensuring good resource management decisions.

### GOAL 1:

Develop a network of water resource information systems to assist decision makers in the watershed through enhanced access to data and information.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	<p>Maintain and continue to improve the WLEB watershed GIS website hosted by the University of Toledo.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and add additional water resource information from available sources.</li> <li>Identify gaps in existing water resource information.</li> </ul> <p>02/23/10 – USGS provided links and data to web site. Will continue to coordinate with UT on web page. Jim Morris/Dick Bartz, USGS</p>	University of Toledo, USGS	Ongoing  In progress
2	<p>Complete the USGS/ODNR project on the WLEB watershed water use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide water use for the WLEB through a web-based application by 8-digit HUC as well as by political boundary.</li> <li>Coordinate water use information in the WLEB from all three States.</li> </ul> <p>02/23/10 – Project reports submitted. Water use facts sheets on website. Jim Morris/Dick Bartz, USGS</p>	USGS, ODNR	2007  Completed
3	<p>Support continuation of the Heidelberg Tributary Monitoring program on the Maumee main stem.</p> <p>NRCS for 2010 water year stepped up to fund the Heidleberg Lake Erie tributary monitoring program using NRCS WLEB funds. This is a one time committment to prevent a critical gap in the data and loss of the 2010 water year data due to lack of funding for</p>	WLEB Partners	Ongoing  Needs Action

	<p>the sampling and analysis. Additional funding from other sources will need to be found for the 2011 water year beginning Oct 1, 2010 to prevent further loss or laps in this data that is critical to knowing what is happening and changes in loadings to the lake. Steve Davis 3/25/10</p>		
4	<p>Complete a monitoring needs assessment study of the WLEB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify existing monitoring networks and programs from all sources.</li> <li>Analyze existing networks and identify needs and gaps.</li> <li>Coordinate with WLEB partnership agencies and organizations to identify additional monitoring needs.</li> </ul> <p>02/23/10 – Project reports submitted. Coordinating to get fact sheets on website. Jim Morris/Dick Bartz, USGS</p>	USGS and WLEB Partners	<p>2007</p> <p>Completed</p>
5	<p>Annually complete geo spatial referenced conservation tillage transects in the watershed to track land management changes.</p> <p>Indiana continues to conduct both a spring and summer cropland transect and report results to Ohio NRCS and University of Toledo. This effort is coordinated in Indiana by ISDA-DSC-Jim Lake</p> <p>SWCDS are continuing to collect transect data in Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana and it is summarized by 8 digit HUC units by Ohio NRCS and University of Toledo. The data is used by numerous watershed modelers, researchers, and other agencies. The current contract for the SWCD's to collect the data expires at end of the current (2010) crop year. Continuation of funding by NRCS will be dependent on FY 2011 funding received.</p> <p>Additional funding will need to be found and a new agreement developed if SWCD's will continue to be compensated for the staff time needed to collect this data in future years Steve Davis 3/25/10</p>	NRCS, Local SWCDs, ISDA	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Needs Action</p>
6	<p>Continue the University of Toledo land use remote sensing project to provide a history of land use changes over time and a georeferenced land use cell layer for use in watershed modeling projects.</p> <p>NRCS has funded the University of Toledo WLEB GIS Website for a period of 5 years. The site is up and maintained and the current agreement expires Sept 30, 2010.</p> <p>Additional funding will need to be found and a new agreement developed if University of Toledo will continue to be compensated for the staff time needed to maintain and update the website in future years Steve Davis 3/25/10</p>	University Toledo	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>In progress, needs action</p>

7	<p>Complete the Rapid Watershed Assessments data profiles for the WLEB watersheds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of the Rapid Watershed Assessments, complete an <i>estimate</i> of livestock numbers for each HUC unit.</li> </ul> <p>NRCS has completed rapid watershed assessments for all 8 Digit Huc Units in WLEB project area. Additional information is available at:</p> <p><a href="http://www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/RWA/rapid_watershed_assessments.html">http://www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/RWA/rapid_watershed_assessments.html</a></p> <p>NRCS completed roll-up of data for the entire WLEB and presented it to area congressional representatives and local officials in June of 2009. Steve Davis 3/25/10</p>	NRCS	Short Term  Completed
8	<p>Complete the US Army Corps of Engineers feasibility study for the project area, including use of private contractors for data collection for each HUC unit.</p> <p>02/25/10 - The USACE WLEB State of the basin report available at <a href="http://www.wleb.org/documents/stateofthebasin.html">http://www.wleb.org/documents/stateofthebasin.html</a> Craig Forgette, USACE</p>	USACE	Short Term  Completed
<p><b>GOAL 2:</b></p> <p>Collate and identify the economic revenue generated as a result of resource-based tourism and resource-based industry in the Western Lake Erie Basin.</p>			
#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Work with Sea Grant and Lake Erie Coastal Ohio to develop message of economic revenue generated in the WLEB Project Area as a result of resource-based tourism.	OSU Extension, Ohio Sea Grant, Lake Erie Coastal Ohio	Inter-mediate
2	<p>Collect and summarize economic-based information for agricultural production within the WLEB as part of the Rapid Watershed Assessments.</p> <p>Completed as part of the Rapid Watershed Assessments Additional information is</p>	NRCS consulting with State Ag	Inter-mediate

	available at: <a href="http://www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/RWA/rapid_watershed_assessments.html">http://www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/RWA/rapid_watershed_assessments.html</a>	Agencies	Completed
3	Collect and summarize economic data for the Port of Toledo and water-based industries in the WLEB project area. 02/25/10 - Vessel transportation economic impacts are being evaluated using 2007 commodity data. Impacts using 2005 data are currently available for the harbor from Jon Brown ( Jonathan.W.Brown@usace.army.mil ). Craig Forgette, USACE  02/23/10 – USGS has not been contacted by lead agency to provide data. Jim Morris/Dick Bartz, USGS	USACE PORT USGS	Inter- mediate  In progress

**GOAL 3:**

Cross reference Ohio State government planning documents for the WLEB with Michigan and Indiana documents as well as other Great Lakes planning documents (multi-state, Federal and international).

Key Ohio documents include:

- Ohio NPS Statewide Plan
- Ohio Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Plan
- Ohio "208" plans
- OLEC Strategic Plan
- Other State plans concerning wildlife, recreation, scenic rivers, transportation planning, etc.

Identify a mechanism to align the various planning documents to offer specific, mutually beneficial goals for the WLEB partnership as well as potential area of collaboration.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	State program staff and/or the appropriate subcommittee survey, list, and review documents and offer recommendations. (Internal ODNR/OEPA workgroup needs briefed on this exercise and allowed time to have input.) No progress on comparisons with IN and MI documents; Ohio documents reviewed while GLRI grant applications were developed. (ODNR-Jkessler-2/26/10)	ODNR	Inter- mediate  Action Needed

2	State program staff and/or the appropriate subcommittee develop recommendations for WLEB Operations Group or appropriate WLEB subcommittee. <b>No progress. (ODNR-Jkessler-2/26/10)</b>	ODNR	Inter- mediate <b>Action Needed</b>
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**GOAL 4:**

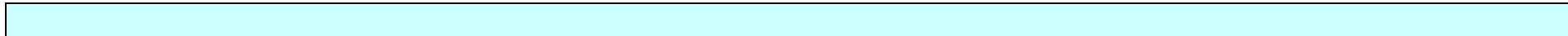
Cross reference local government planning documents within the WLEB with those State, regional and Federal plans identified in Goal 4.

Key local planning documents include:

- Local watershed plans
- 208 plans
- TMDLs
- Local NRCS and SWCD work plans
- Municipal stormwater plans
- Other local plans concerning wildlife, recreation, transportation planning, etc.

Identify a mechanism to align the various planning documents to offer specific, mutually beneficial goals for the WLEB partnership as well as potential area of collaboration.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	State program staff and/or the appropriate subcommittee survey and list all local planning efforts or access information developed already by the WLEB Operations Group and/or subcommittees. (Internal ODNR/OEPA workgroup needs briefed on this exercise and allowed time to have input.) <b>No progress to date on a large scale; however, some cross-referencing done in select areas of Ohio when preparing GLRI grant applications (ODNR-Jkessler-2/26/10).</b>	ODNR	Inter- mediate <b>Action Needed</b>
2	State program staff and/or subcommittees develop recommendations on mutually beneficial goals for WLEB Operations Group or appropriate WLEB subcommittee. <b>No progress to date (ODNR-Jkessler-2/26/10).</b>	ODNR	Inter- mediate <b>Action Needed</b>



**GOAL 5:**

Develop the next generation of 1) Erosion Control and Soil and Water Conservation Technology and 2) Data/Information to enable increased success of sediment reduction efforts.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	<p>Complete the Upper Auglaize Watershed Interagency Modeling Work Plan II, and secure funding needed to implement that project work plan.</p> <p>02/23/10 – Additional sampling was conducted in watershed. Have been participating in effort with lead agency. Jim Morris/Dick Bartz, USGS</p> <p>Project never moved forward due to lack of funding. The original objective was sound and is still needed if funding were available. Steve Davis 3/25/10</p> <p>Draft report of the Blanchard Watershed AnnAGNPS modeling has been released. S Davis 10-10-2010</p>	<p>USACE NRCS USGS Others</p>	<p>Short Term In Progress</p> <p>Opportunities exist for additional actions</p>
2	<p>Support the Conservation Evaluation and Affects Projects (CEAP) in the Upper Auglaize, St Joe, and Bean Creek portions of the watershed. Publish and utilize the findings to improve resource management in the basin. Contact NRCS NHQ to see if funding would be available to continue these projects.</p> <p>Additional CEAP work was done in both the Auglaize and the St. Joe watersheds. The reports were completed and published. Steve Davis, 3/25/10</p>	<p>NRCS ARS</p>	<p>Short Term</p> <p>Completed</p>
3	<p>Support the establishment of stream monitoring stations (sediment, nutrients, flow) on the Blanchard and Tiffin watersheds as part of the Environmental Defense/Joyce Foundation project.</p> <p>02/23/10 – Stream gages to provide flow data have been installed and are operational. Data available on USGS web site. Jim Morris/Dick Bartz, USGS</p> <p>NRCS has used WLEB funds to support stream gages on Lost Creek and the Blanchard River in support of the Environmental Defense/Joyce Projects. Data Collection is ongoing. Steve Davis 3/25/10</p>	<p>Joyce, Evt. Defense, Heidelberg College, NRCS, USGS</p>	<p>Short Term</p> <p>Completed USGS</p> <p>In progress – data collection</p>
4	<p>Support the Environmental Defense/Joyce project to monitor Lost Creek Watershed and compare present water quality to “Pre-CRP and Pre No-Till” conditions when the</p>	<p>Joyce Evt Defense</p>	<p>Inter- mediate</p>

	watershed was monitored in the early 1990's. 02/23/10 – Stream gages to provide flow data have been installed and are operational. Data available on USGS web site. Jim Morris/Dick Bartz, USGS  NRCS has used WLEB funds to support stream gages on Lost Creek and the Blanchard River in support of the Environmental Defense/Joyce Projects. Data Collection is ongoing. Steve Davis 3/25/10	Heidelberg College NRCS, & USGS	Completed USGS  In progress - data collection
5	Incorporate volunteer biological stream modeling into the work plan for the Joyce Foundation/Environmental Defense Blanchard Watershed project. Needs update by Environmental Defense or Blanchard River Watershed Partnership as to status	Evt Defense & Blanchard Watershed local group	Inter-mediate Action Needed
<p><b>Goal 6:</b></p> <p>Coordinate WLEB efforts with the Great Lakes Regional Work Group and the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration to share information and support where possible common priorities.</p>			
1	Align WLEB Strategic Plan with the resource concerns adopted by the Regional Work Group and the Collaboration. Considered Complete...WLEB strategic plan and actions align with GLRI Regional Work Group.	WLEB Partners	Completed
2	Share data on potential projects with Regional Work Group and Regional Collaboration. NRCS collected and summarized the partners 2010 GLRI project requests and submissions and shared the information with the WLEB partners and interested Congressional Offices. Steve Davis 3/25/10  Final GLRI projects selected shared with the WLEB partners S Davis 10-10-2010	WLEB Partners	Ongoing
3	Participate in Regional Work Group conference calls to update each other, coordinate activities, and identify potential partnership projects. NRCS has established a position of Great Lakes Coordinator to serve as a liaison to the GLRI initiative. NRCS is also assigning a person in each state a collateral duty to work with each of the LaMP organizations. Steve Davis 3/25/10.	WLEB Operations Group	Ongoing
<b>Sustainable and Balanced Growth (SBG)</b>			

Design, adopt, and maintain programs and systems that result long term in balanced and sustainable uses of the natural resources in the project area.

**GOAL 1:**

Establish functioning watershed groups in each 8-digit HUC unit in project area.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	<p>Develop action plan (strategy) as to what it will take to grow functioning groups in the HUC units that do not now have them.</p> <p>A modest amount of WLEB capacity building funding has been provided to 6 local Watershed Stakeholder Organizations to help them form, organize, and/or implement an item in their watershed work plan. A RFP for a second round of funding has been announced by Maumee Valley RC&amp;D. Steve Davis 3/25/10</p>	OSU Extension, ODNR, OEPA OEC	Short Term  In progress
2	<p>Select one or two target watersheds to implement plan and energize local entities for action.</p> <p>ODNR has GLRI grant application pending for watershed coordinator support in Blanchard, Upper Maumee and St. Mary's watersheds (Jkessler-2/28/10) Ongoing - 2 watersheds were engaged. One new group showed interest. Working with others as needed. ODNR 10-10-2010 Due to WLEB seed funding, an Upper Maumee Watershed Group is forming in the Upper Maumee HUC Unit. S. Davis 10-10-2010</p> <p>Watershed Coordinators funded in Blanchard and Portage River. Organization Development and GLRI funding grants submitted for Upper Maumee and St. Mary's River Watersheds ODNR 10-10 2010</p>	OSU Extension, ODNR, OEPA OEC	Short Term Ongoing
3	<p>Evaluate success of efforts, improve strategy if needed, and expand to remaining watershed in project area.</p> <p>A new and functioning watershed stakeholders group has been formed in the Indiana portion of the St. Marys Watershed. The have already developed a watershed management plan that was recently approved by IDEM and have some money for implementation through a 319 grant. They will also be applying for GLC Watershed NPS</p>	OSU Extension, ODNR, OEPA OEC	Inter-mediate  In progress

	Implementation funding. This group also received a small grant from the Ohio NRCS under the WLEB Partnership to help support the operational costs of their watershed group. The coordinator is Clint Nester, Allen SWCD. Allen SWCD is also involved in a new watershed group for the Upper Maumee River Watershed that has meeting for the last year and is making some progress toward developing a watershed management plan but have a good way to go yet- Jim Lake		
4	Provide training to Local Watershed Organizations that increases their effectiveness and improves their capability to function as a successful watershed organization. Ohio Watershed Academy was held in LE basin at Stone Lab in 2010. Completed - Classes were offered to all watershed org. across the state of Ohio. No participants were enrolled from the WLEB. ODNR 10-10-2010	OSU Extension, ODNR, OEPA OEC	Inter-mediate Ongoing

**GOAL 2:**  
Support actions that increase the adoption of the Lake Erie Balanced Growth program and principles.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Schedule a presentation of the Ohio Lake Erie Balanced Growth Program to the WLEB Leadership Group and/or for the MRBPLG group. Presentation not yet made to WLEB group. S Davis 10-10-2010	OLEC	Inter-mediate Needs Action
2	Host a Balanced Growth Technical Workshop within the WLEB project area. OLEC will be hosting 2 in the basin in May 2010. We also held 1 in 2009 and two in 2008. (c riddle)	OLEC	Inter-mediate In progress
3	Provide resource data that will assist in the implementation of the Swan Creek Watershed (Toledo Area) Lake Erie Balanced Growth Pilot Project. 02/25/10 - USACE is working with the City of Toledo and Lucas County in developing a Feasibility Cost Share Agreement scheduled to be signed in 2010 to allow the Corps to study flood risk management and ecosystem restoration efforts in the Swan Creek and Ottawa River watersheds. Craig Forgette, USACE  02/23/10 – With support from WLEB, USGS is conducting study on the functionality of wetlands in the Swan Creek and Ottawa River watersheds. Are providing other data as requested. Jim Morris/Dick Bartz, USGS	USACE, NRCS, USGS	Inter-mediate In progress

**GOAL 3:**

Sustainable use of surface and ground water resources.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Schedule a presentation on the proposed Great Lakes Compact at a future WLEB Leadership Team meeting. 3/19/10 - ODNR can provide presentation on Compact implementation update. Compact became effective 12/8/08. Ohio established an Ohio Compact Advisory Board to work through implementation issues. 3/19/10 Ted Lozier - ODNR	ODNR	Short Term  Needs Action
2	Support establishment of water conservation and efficiency goals for each water use sector (public water supply, industrial self-supplied, power generation, agricultural, non-agricultural irrigation, etc). 02/23/10 USGS is participating in efforts to develop water conservation and efficiency goals through participation in Ohio Compact Advisory Board which is lead by ODNR. Jim Morris/Dick Bartz, USGS	ODNR, USGS, w/ support of All WLEB Partners	Long Term  In progress
3	Develop education and outreach program regarding water conservation and efficiency. 3/19/10 - ODNR is working with Ohio Compact Advisory Board to develop a voluntary water conservation and efficiency program for Ohio. 3/19/10 Ted Lozier- ODNR	ODNR, OEC	Long Term In progress
4	Assemble list of water management practices and available technologies. 3/19/10 - See Item 3 above.	ODNR OFB	Inter-mediate
5	Develop mechanisms for the measurement and evaluation of water conservation and efficiency. 3/19/10 - See Item 3 above.	ODNR OFB	Long Term  In progress
6	Evaluate effects of bio-fuel production on the water resources in the project area. 02/23/10 – USGS has not been contacted by lead agency. Market conditions have changed and very few have been constructed or are operational. Jim Morris/Dick Bartz, USGS  3/19/10 - At this time ethanol production from corn is limited. Other bio-fuels are being considered. This is an area to watch, but not a critical issue at this time. 3/19/10 Ted	ODNR, USGS	Inter-mediate

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**GOAL 4:**

Support actions that increase the economic value of natural areas via sustainable use through development of ecotourism and other sustainable recreational activities.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Convene meeting with Lake Erie Coastal Ohio, Ohio Lake Erie Office, and others to identify current resource based tourism activities and roles that the WLEB partnership can play in supporting development of ecotourism. Develop recommendation for WLEB Leadership Team. <i>At request of Congresswoman Kaptur, Lake Erie Coastal Ohio, NRCS, ODOT, Maumee Heritage Corridor Foundation, and various NGO's met Aug 20, 2010 to discuss partnering and coordinating programs in the proposed Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor Area. Various ideas for partnership projects were discussed. S Davis 10-10-2010</i>	OLEC, OEC, WLEB Projects Committee, WLEB Funding Committee	Short Term  <b>Ongoing</b>

**GOAL 5:**

Support actions that encourage Brownfield redevelopment to reduce pressures for conversion and development of agricultural lands.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Identify all Brownfields in the Western Lake Erie Basin. <i>OLEC &amp; TMACOG have a USEPA Brownfields Assessment Grant Program application in review - decision pending in May 2010 - if funded would do some of this in Swan Creek Watershed (c riddle)</i>	OEPA, ODOD, w/assistance of IDEM, MDEQ	Inter-mediate
2	Prioritize Brownfields identified in WLEB. <i>OLEC &amp; TMACOG have a USEPA Brownfields Assessment Grant Program application in review - decision pending in May 2010 - if funded would do some of this in Swan Creek Watershed (c riddle)</i>	OEPA, ODOD, w/assistance of IDEM, MDEQ	Inter-mediate

3	In the most sensitive watersheds, encourage each State to cleanup one Brownfield a year.	NGO's OEC	Inter- mediate
4	Support funding of Brownfield redevelopment via the Clean Ohio Programs.	OEC, TNC	Inter- mediate

## WLEB Partnership Locally Based Strategic Objectives

### A SUSTAINABLE WLEB PARTNERSHIP

**Build and maintain a sustainable partnership that is respected as a Western Lake Erie Basin entity and organization.**

#### **GOAL 1:**

Effectively and efficiently operate the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership to provide value to the partners and the citizens of the watershed.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	The Leadership Group meets a minimum of 2 times per year and the operations group meets (or conference calls) a minimum of 6 times per year. <b>Ongoing and in progress.</b> <b>Action met S. Davis.</b>	Operations Group	Ongoing <b>In progress</b>
2	WLEB Committees meet in person or via conference call at least quarterly. <b>Ongoing and in progress.</b> <b>Action met S. Davis.</b>	All Committees	Ongoing <b>In</b>

			progress
3	The Operations Group will strive to include in each leadership team meeting a guest speaker or tour that will enlighten and educate the partnership about important and/or current resource issues in the watershed. Ongoing and in progress. Action met S. Davis.	Operations Group	Ongoing In progress
4	Leadership group meeting minutes and agendas will be posted on the WLEB website in a timely manner. Ongoing and in progress. Action met S. Davis.	Ohio Lake Erie Office	Ongoing In progress

**GOAL 2:**

WLEB leadership collectively makes informed and well thought out decisions.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	The Research Committee will brief the leadership team once per year on the state of Lake Erie and the WLEB watershed, including a summary of research findings, research needs, and positive or negative trends regarding watershed resources. 03-17-10 Briefings held at Leadership meetings. NRCS has provided assistance in this as well in organizing speakers and providing research information. Jim Morris/Dick Bartz USGS	Operations Group/ Research Committee	Ongoing In progress
2	WLEB partnership is represented or has a presence via WLEB partners at pertinent Great Lakes/Lake Erie Conferences, forums, and events that relate to watershed or Lake Erie resource management issues. Ongoing and in progress. Action met S. Davis.	Operations Group	Ongoing In progress

**GOAL 3:**

WLEB partnership and/or its partners collect, evaluate, and reports data that helps decision makers, elected officials, and others understand the watershed and the need for protection of the land and water resource base.

#	Action Item	Who	When
	The partnership maintains a project data base which is populated annually by WLEB	Projects	Ongoing

1	partners. Ongoing and in progress. Action met S. Davis.  Data base has been constructed by project committee to track funding from various sources in the WLEB. But this item proved much more difficult than envisioned due to many different types of funding, sources, and differing funding cycles with the WLEB partners in the basin. The data base relies on voluntary input by partner. This has proven difficult and data available has limited reliability and usefulness. S Davis 10-10-2010	Committee/ All WLEB Partners	In progress
2	WLEB partnership tracks changes in conservation tillage (land cover) via county tillage transects. Ongoing and in progress. Action met S. Davis.	NRCS/ Local SWCD'S	Ongoing In progress
3	WLEB partnership tracks changes in land use and land cover via remote sensing project with University of Toledo. Ongoing and in progress. Action met S. Davis.	NRCS/ Univ. Toledo	Ongoing In progress
4	Research Committee is engaged throughout the year in sharing information with WLEB partners as to upcoming conferences, RFPs, publications, and findings that are of interest to the WLEB partners and align with the WLEB mission. 03-17-10 Information is provided as it becomes available. Jim Morris/Dick Bartz USGS	Research Committee	Ongoing In progress

**GOAL 4:**  
WLEB partnership tells its story.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	WLEB partnership publishes annually a brief summary of partnership accomplishments. Ongoing and in progress via WLEB website. Action met S. Davis.	Outreach Committee	Ongoing In progress
2	The summary of research findings, research needs, RFPs, publications, upcoming conferences, and positive or negative trends identified by the WLEB Operations Committee and/or Research Committee regarding watershed resources will be shared with stakeholders within the WLEB. 03-17-10 Information is being provided on an ad hoc basis. Jim Morris/Dick Bartz USGS	WLEB Partners	Ongoing In progress
3	WLEB website is kept up to date and current. WLEB outreach committee effectively tells	Ohio Lake Erie	Ongoing

	the WLEB story via newsletters, news releases, events, field days, etc. Information on meetings, projects, etc is included in newsletter 3x per year and website is updated at least monthly - usually more often (c riddle)	Office All WLEB Partners	In progress
<b>GOAL 5:</b>			
WLEB Partnership leverages resources and funding for benefit of partners and the good of the watershed.			
1	Provide additional "boots on the ground" technical assistance to landowners and land users in the WLEB project area Establish nine WLEB Conservationist positions in the watershed to promote and install conservation practices via USDA Farm Bill and other conservation programs. ISDA-DSC continues to have two full-time employees doing technical work in the Indiana portion of the WLEB under an cooperative agreement with Ohio NRCS that helps to fund these positions-Jim Lake	NRCS, ODNR- DSWC, ISDA, MDA, and Local SWCDs	Ongoing  In progress
2	NGO members of the WLEB partnership tell the WLEB story to elected officials. Ongoing and in progress. Congressional meeting held in June of 09. Action met S. Davis.	WLEB Funding Committee	Ongoing In progress
3	WLEB partnership reaches out and networks with other groups in the watershed area to coordinate and cooperate with joint ventures, including the Environmental Defense/Joyce project in the Tiffin and Blanchard watersheds. Ongoing and in progress. Action met S. Davis.	WLEB Outreach Committee	Ongoing In progress
4	WLEB Funding Committee keeps partners abreast of funding opportunities to implement resource management activities in the project area Information on these is provided on the website and in newsletter as it becomes available (c riddle)	WLEB Funding Committee	Ongoing In progress
5	WLEB Projects Committee assists partners and watershed groups to facilitate implementation of projects in the WLEB area and keeps them abreast of what others are doing in the watershed. Ongoing and in progress. Action met S. Davis.	WLEB Projects Committee	Ongoing In progress

## WLEB Hydrology and Flooding

Investigate and understand the hydrology of the WLEB watersheds for the purpose of promoting wise management of the water resources of area. Emphasis areas would include:

- Reduce/mitigate stream and stormwater flood damages
- Understand water use and availability
- Understand the hydrologic aspect of ecological systems
- Provide improved hydrologic information to decision makers and citizens

**GOAL 1:**

Identify water resource issues in the WLEB and coordinate discussion and understanding of potential solutions.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	<p>Identify existing hydrologic and hydraulic modeling and flood studies within the WLEB. (what agencies, scale and use of, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood management</li> <li>• Stormwater management</li> <li>• Water quality</li> <li>• Water use</li> <li>• Ecological</li> </ul> <p>02/25/10 - The above informaiton has been collected and incorporated in to the USACE WLEB State of the basin report available at <a href="http://www.wleb.org/documents/stateofthebasin.html">http://www.wleb.org/documents/stateofthebasin.html</a> Craig Forgette, USACE</p> <p>02/23/10 – Have provided data to Corps as requested. Jim Morris/Dick Bartz, USGS</p>	<p>USACE, NRCS USGS, ODNR in consultation with appropriate Indiana and Michigan State Agencies</p>	<p>Short Term</p> <p>Completed</p>
2	<p>Assist and facilitate water resource planning between local, State, regional, and Federal agencies within the WLEB project area.</p> <p>3/19/10 - ODNR conducting broad-based Water Quantity Assessments within subwatersheds of WLEB. 3/19/10 Ted Lozier - ODNR</p>	<p>NRCS, USACE, ODNR</p>	<p>Inter-mediate</p> <p>In progress</p>
3	<p>Convene a meeting of the USACE, NRCS, USGS, ODNR Division of Water, and the City of Toledo to review existing flood reduction efforts in the Toledo area and look for additional</p>	<p>NRCS, USACE USGS</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>opportunities to find solutions, specifically in Swan Creek and Ottawa River watersheds.</p> <p>Assess ability of wetland restoration to contribute to flood damage reduction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct analysis of flood events related to landuse changes in basin.</li> <li>• Model scenarios of alterations in the flood plain as related to flood flow.</li> <li>• Conduct study of possible landuse changes that could impact flood events.</li> </ul> <p>02/25/10 - USACE is working with the City of Toledo and Lucas County in developing a Feasibility Cost Share Agreement scheduled to be signed in 2010 to allow the Corps to study flood risk management and ecosystem restoration efforts in the Swan Creek and Ottawa River watersheds. Craig Forgette, USACE</p> <p>02/23/10 – Have participated in meetings and conference calls as requested. Jim Morris/Dick Bartz, USGS</p>		In progress
4	<p>Assist and facilitate flood reduction planning between local, State, regional and Federal agencies throughout the WLEB project area.</p> <p>02/25/10 - Corps has flood risk management studies in Findlay, OH, Ottawa, OH; a comprehensive flood risk management and ecosystem restoration study for the Blanchard River, and is working on a similar agreement for Ottawa and Swan Creek watersheds. Craig Forgette, USACE</p> <p>02/23/10 – Have participated in meetings and conference calls as requested. Completed the City of Findlay Early Flood Warning Project in cooperation with NWS and the City of Findlay. Are working on a similar project with the Village of Ottawa. Jim Morris/Dick Bartz, USGS</p> <p>3/19/10 - ODNR Floodplain Management Program working with participating communities in the NFIP. Ted Lozier – ODNR</p>	NRCS, USACE, ODNR, USGS	Ongoing In progress

**GOAL 2:**

Support efforts to soften the developed and developing portions of the basin to reduce runoff and flood damage, and at the same time, encourage use of sustainable and low impact urban development techniques.

#	Action Item	Who	When
	Support a "Champions" program for the development and implementation of a Rain	NRCS, Lucas	Short

1	<p>Garden and/or Rain Barrel program. Support the Rain Garden Initiative of Toledo-Lucas County. Help the initiative grow into a self sustaining group.</p> <p>Rain Garden Initiative of Toledo - Lucas County has been working now for 4 years with funding from NRCS, MSU, and American Rivers. Currently working on a long-term fund development plan. Katie Swartz, American Rivers 4/4/10</p>	SWCD, Am. Rivers, OSU Extension	Term  Completed
2	<p>Organize and host for MRBPLG and others a conference in the WLEB project area on the topic of sustainable development including topics of "Green Initiatives, Green Roofs, Rain Gardens, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Certified Building Programs, and use of 'Green Fleet' Transportation Techniques."</p> <p>Rain Garden Initiative in partnership with USEPA held a "Managing Wet Weather with Green Infrastructure" workshop and local tour of "green" practices in November 2009. Katie Swartz, American Rivers 4/4/10</p> <p>Toledo Rain Garden Initiative has been very successful S Davis 10-10-2010</p>	MRBPLG	Inter- mediate  In progress

## Dredging

Develop solutions to the dredging and disposal problems in Toledo Harbor, Maumee Bay, and Lake Erie.

### GOAL 1:

Manage the sediments in Toledo Harbor in a sustainable way using a watershed perspective.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	<p>Reduce (over a 10-15 year period) sediment loadings from the watershed to the Maumee River and its tributaries sufficient to reduce the need for dredging by 15%.</p> <p>2/25/2010 Upper Auglaize River AGNPS model was created in 2006 in collaboration with NRCS to identify best management practices for reducing sediment loads within the watershed. Blanchard River AGNPS model began in 2009 in collaboration with NRCS to identify best management practices for reducing sediment loads within the watershed, and is expected to be complete in 2010. Lower Maumee sediment transport model</p>	NRCS, USACE ODNR, WLEB Partners	Long Term  In progress

	commenced in 2009 to evaluate sediment and nutrient loadings from Waterville, OH throughout the Maumee River and Maumee Bay, and is expected to be complete in 2011. Byron Rupp, USACE		
2	Develop beneficial uses for 500,000 cubic yards of dredged material from Toledo Harbor annually by 2013. (This action contingent on final drafting of the OEPA 401 permit). 2/25/2010 Three beneficial use projects are underway, for construction each project requires 65% Federal funds, 35% non-Federal funding and 100% non-Federal operations and maintenance. Project on Wynn Road in the City of Oregon is scheduled to use 100,000 cy in 2011. Project on Maumee Habitat Restoration Unit under Section 204 is planned to use on the order of 250,000 cy with construction of 20 acre habitat island in 2012-2013. Project on Island 18 (Grassy Island) to create 125 acres of nearshore habitat and beneficially use between 600,000 and 900,000 cy is scheduled for 2012-2013 construction. Authority to develop projects in excess of \$5,000,000 Federal funding such as for a larger scale Habitat Restoration project that would accommodate 10-20 years of capacity for material suitable for open lake placement does not exist. Craig Forgette, USACE	USACE ODNR Toledo Port Authority	Long Term  In progress

### Forest Resource Management and Protection

Protect the remaining Forest Resource Base in the project area, reforest critical and/or strategic lands, and manage all forest for sustainable use.

#### GOAL 1:

Increase the use of Riparian Forest Buffer Practices on natural streams in the watershed to provide stream corridor protection and habitat restoration.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Set goals (by States) for establishment of new acres of Riparian Forest Buffers. Each State convene team involving DNR Divisions of Forestry, Soil and Water Conservation, and Wildlife; State EPA and/or Dept of Ag, Environmental Defense; NRCS; and The Nature Conservancy to agree on process and develop final quantitative target for a 10-year goal.	ODNR, ISDA, MDA, Evt. Defense	Inter-mediate  Action

	Needs ACTION. Interested groups and agencies need to have a meeting to discuss. ODNR 10-10-2010		Needed
2	Prepare a Riparian Forest Buffer "How To" Book and prepare literature needed to promote the practice within the Lake Erie CREP. Needs action...has not progressed due to realignment of DOF staff. ODNr 10-10-2010	Evt. Defense, ODNr, NRCS, MVRCD	Inter-mediate Action Needed
3	Implement the Environmental Defense/Doris Duke/Joyce Foundation Contiguous Forest Buffer bonus payment in the Tiffin and Blanchard HUC units. This project is underway in the Blanchard watershed. Steve Davis, 4-4-10	Evt. Defense, ODNr Div. of Forestry, Local SWCDs	Short Term In progress
4	Develop turnkey tree planting service(s) for riparian buffers to mirror the North West Ohio Windbreak Planting Service. No action Steve Davis, 4-4-10  Completed- Created a list of vendors, vendors funded by Maumee Valley RC&D, 42 acres completed ODNr 10-10-2010	ODNr Div. of Forestry, MVRCD	Short Term Completed
5	Develop a turnkey tree maintenance service(s) for riparian buffers and windbreaks to aid landowners in more successful establishment of these practices. No action Steve Davis, 4-4-10	ODNr Div of Forestry, MVRCD	Inter-mediate
6	Assemble an interagency team to meet with field offices in the Tiffin and Blanchard watersheds to identify ways to accelerate the adoption of Lake Erie CREP practices in those watersheds. Completed by environmental defense Steve Davis, 4-4-10	ODNr Evt. Defense NRCS FSA	Short Term Completed
7	After a 3-year period, evaluate the Environmental Defense/Doris Duke/Joyce Foundation Contiguous Forest Buffer bonus payment. If successful, look for funding/means to expand to other portions of the project area. No action on expanding buffer bonus payment to other watersheds.	ODNr Evt Defense NRCS FSA	Inter-mediate

**GOAL 2:**

Mitigate the potential damages of the loss of Ash trees on the forest resource of the WLEB project area and increase carbon sequestration with increased tree plantings in the watershed.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Support research into solutions to the Emerald Ash Borer problem, and on the effect of the Emerald Ash Problem on the remaining forest species.	WLEB Partners	Inter-mediate
2	Take a proactive approach to future loss of Ash Trees by publicizing need for resources to increase private and public tree plantings in urban areas. <b>Urban tree planting project underway by ODNR Division of Forestry utilizing US Forest Service Funding. Steve Davis, 4-4-10</b>  <b>Underway- Seeking funding from US Forest Service for SWCD to restore Ash Trees destroyed by EAB USFS has research planting (2007) of various ash species at Maumee State Forest studying for EAB resistance. DOF continues to be heavily involved with efforts to mitigate impact of EAB in rural woodlands and urban forest areas throughout WLEB ODNR 10-10-2010</b>	ODNR Div of Forestry	Inter-mediate <b>In progress</b>
3	Monitor the Lake Erie CREP tree planting practices to determine the effectiveness of the recent revisions, and if there are other opportunities or actions that can increase rural tree planting in the watershed. <b>NEEDS ACTION</b>	ODNR Evt. Defense	Inter-mediate <b>Action Needed</b>
4	Publicize and support the NRCS Rose Lake Plant Materials Center Ash Seed Collection program to assist in preserving ash germplasm from the project area. <b>NRCS is publicizing this project and collecting ash seed from the project area</b>	NRCS	Short Term <b>In progress</b>
5	Cooperate with the Sisters of St. Francis in Sylvania to fund an Ash Tree Removal and Reforestation Demonstration project on their property. <b>Completed. Funded by NRCS. Steve Davis, 4-4-10</b>	NRCS, ODNR Div. Forestry	Ongoing <b>Completed</b>

## Native Plant Community Protection

Protect and restore Native Plant Communities in Oak Openings and other important regions of the project area.

**GOAL:** Protect and/or restore unique habitat and rare or endangered plant and animal species in the Oak Openings Region via a combination of public education, incentive programs and land acquisitions.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Restore and/or manage 100 acres of native wetland, prairie, and savanna habitat at Kitty Todd Preserve annually. <b>Need Progress Reported from TNC</b>	TNC	Ongoing
2	Enroll landowners with high quality habitat in Oak Openings region (Swan Creek and Ottawa River watersheds primarily) in a voluntary registry program to protect and manage native plant communities with a goal of 300 acres within 3 years. <b>Need Progress Reported from TNC</b>	TNC	Inter-mediate
3	Acquire four new parcels of high quality Oak Openings habitat annually as additions to the Kitty Todd preserve. <b>Need Progress Reported from TNC</b>	TNC	ongoing
4	Promote enrollment in programs funded through the Farm Bill that can be used to protect and restore Oak Openings habitat. <b>Midwest Oak Savannah Conference was funded partially by NRCS with WLEB funds and held in Oak Openings region. Steve Davis, 4-4-10</b>	TNC	ongoing

## Sustainable Energy Production

Utilize renewable energy sources in a way that does not undo conservation and natural resource protection already on the land within the project area.

### GOAL 1:

No backsliding of off-site nutrient and sediment transport resulting from CRP land going into production (i.e., assist producers as they transition from set-aside to production of raw materials for bio-fuels).

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Quantify CRP acres on the ground in each HUC unit as each Rapid Watershed Assessment is completed. <b>CONSIDER COMPLETED ODNR 10-10</b>	NRCS FSA	Short Term <b>Completed</b>
2	Conduct conservation planning needs assessment as part of Rapid Watershed Assessment process.	NRCS	Inter-mediate

	Rapid assessments and conservation practice needs complete for each 8 digit HUC in WLEB project area. Steve Davis, 4-4-10		Completed
3	Work with FSA to target market conservation planning opportunities and benefits.	OFB	Inter-mediate
4	Develop conservation plans as needed as CRP acreage transitions into production. CONSIDER COMPLETED ODNR 10-10	NRCS, Local SWCDs	Inter-mediate Completed

**GOAL 2:**

Make known the potential for wind energy production in the project area.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Contact the Ohio Wind Working Group (Tom Mayes/Ohio Dept. of Development) and publish latest policies and recommendations as part of the NRCS Rapid Watershed Assessments for each HUC unit. No Action	NRCS, ODNR, ODOD	Short Term
2	Support and publish the Ohio Wind Working Group and ODNR recommended environmental impact mitigation techniques, such as setbacks and no-build zones in identified wildlife travel corridors and shore zones. No Action	NRCS ODNR WLEB Partners	Inter-mediate
3	Support and publicize the efforts of the Northwest Ohio Coastal Wind Initiative to identify wind power opportunities in the Western Lake Erie Basin and identify specific actions the WLEB can take to advance use of sustainable wind energy production in the watershed. No Action	WLEB Partners	Inter-mediate

**GOAL 3:**

Support actions that encourage use of crops for sustainable/renewable fuels in a way that does not adversely impact the WLEB soil resource base, increase erosion/sedimentation in the watershed, or reduce water quality.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Schedule Bill Richards, former NRCS Chief, to speak to the WLEB leadership team on the "25 by 25" program and on ways to utilize biofuels without adversely impacting the	NRCS	Short Term

	environment. <b>No Action</b>		
2	Identify groups working on this issue and utilize their outreach materials or develop an outreach material on benefits. <b>Speaker from <i>Green Lands - Blue Waters Initiative</i> spoke at spring 2009 WLEB Leadership Team Meeting on development of buffer crops to provide ecosystem services. S. Davis 10-10-2010</b>	WLEB Partners	Inter-mediate
3	Sponsor a biofuels session at the Ada Conservation Tillage Conference and the Indiana Tri-State Conservation Tillage Expo held annually in the WLEB project area. <b>ISDA cooperates with the SJRWI who annually hosts the Tri-State Conservation Farming Expo. We have had several speakers on the topic of bio-fuels and will continue to keep the topic on the forefront as session are planned-Jim Lake</b>	WLEB Partnership, OSU Extension, ISDA, SJWI	Inter-mediate <b>In progress</b>

### Public Information/Education (EDU)

Effectively tell the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership story, objectives, goals, and activities to the citizens, legislators, and decision makers in the watershed.

#### GOAL 1:

Develop one message and branding statement/tag line for the Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership for promotion.

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Work with Lake Erie Coastal Ohio and Healing Our Waters – Great Lakes Coalition to develop a message for the Western Lake Erie Basin. <b>1/27/10 - Members regularly involved with HOW Coalition will keep connected in their regular capacities and keep the rest of the WLEB members informed. Katie Swartz, American Rivers</b>	Outreach committee, Ohio Sea Grant, OLEC	Short Term <b>Completed</b>
2	Develop for leadership committee adoption, a WLEB tag line/branding statement. <b>1/27/10 - "Healthy Land Healthy Lake" as seen on current WLEB brochure. Katie Swartz, American Rivers</b>	Outreach committee	Done <b>Completed</b>

<p><b>GOAL 2:</b></p> <p>Secure additional professional communications assistance for the outreach committee.</p>			
#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Investigate the options and opportunities available to provide additional resources to the outreach committee via existing partner, new partner or private firm. <i>1/27/10 - Contract with Katie Swartz. Katie Swartz, American Rivers</i>	NRCS Outreach Committee	Done <i>Completed</i>
2	Contract with the Ohio Lake Erie Office to provide information assistance, web hosting, and outreach services to the WLEB Partnership. <i>1/27/10 - Contract with Ohio Lake Erie Commission. Katie Swartz, American Rivers</i>	NRCS & MVRCD	Ongoing <i>In progress</i>
<p><b>GOAL 3:</b></p> <p>Establish an awareness among the general public of Maumee River Basin issues and educate residents about project actions and project goals.</p>			
<b>Short Term Actions</b>			
#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Develop a general framework PowerPoint presentation about the WLEB Partnership. <i>1/27/10 - Original PP presentation completed. Update slides with new information once strategic plan is updated. KS, American Rivers</i>	Outreach Committee	Short Term <i>Completed</i>
2	Develop a brochure about the WLEB Partnership. <i>1/27/10 - Another 1000 brochures have been printed for April Leadership meeting. KS, American Rivers</i>	NRCS	Done <i>Completed</i>
3	Establish resources for updating the WLEB website. <i>1/27/10 - OLEC is regularly updating the website. KS, American Rivers</i>	NRCS/ Outreach Committee	Short Term <i>Completed</i>

4	Develop a basinwide media contact list for distribution of news releases and media alerts. 1/27/10 - Existing list to be updated with radio, television, and magazine contacts across the basin. KS, American Rivers	Outreach Committee	Short Term In progress
5	Develop a database of watershed, stakeholder, and other organizations within the Lake Erie Basin that we can target for presentations and information. 1/27/10 – Existing list to be updated. KS, American Rivers	OSU Extension/ Outreach Committee	Short Term In progress
6	Distribute to partners the adopted WLEB letterhead and WLEB buttons. 1/27/10 Chris Coulon to bring buttons to next WLEB Leadership meeting in April 2010. KS, American Rivers	NRCS	Ongoing In progress

**Intermediate Actions**

#	Action Item	Who	When
1	Build framework and funding to enable WLEB project newsletter. 1/27/10 Framework for WLEB project newsletter is in place. Will work with OLEC to submit upcoming events and articles. Currently working on a strategy of how to get this newsletter best distributed through partners and/or to congressional members, public, etc. KS, American Rivers	Outreach Committee	Inter-mediate In progress
2	Prepare WLEB public service announcements. 1/27/10 – Plan to explore working with local universities to use media students to help with this project. Working on who our local "voice" might be for the basin. KS, American Rivers	Outreach Committee	Inter-mediate Needs Action
3	Establish WLEB database of stakeholder, outreach, and other interested groups. 1/27/10 - Begin to classify groups according to Government agencies, NGOs, etc. in preparation for stakeholder analysis - see #4 below. KS, American Rivers	Outreach Committee	Inter-mediate Needs Action
4	Hire a contractor to develop a strategic communications plan, which includes a situation analysis (examination of strengths and weaknesses of the WLEB partnership as well as outside opportunities and challenges), a stakeholder analysis, development of unified messages to increase awareness of concerns in the Western Lake Erie Basin, and recommendations of appropriate communications tools to use. 1/27/10 - University of Toledo professor asked to write up a proposal on this action for potential funding in 2011. Outreach committee gave several names of current WLEB members who may be interested in partnering with her on this type of work. KS,	Outreach Committee	Inter-mediate  In progress

	<b>American Rivers</b>		
5	<p>Facilitate the showing of the recently completed PBS Documentary "A Watershed Mentality" on all PBS stations in the WLEB project area. Offer the PBS stations an "expert panel" to follow the airing with a half hour call-in program where viewers could call in with questions.</p> <p>Date set for September 2, 2010 in Toledo at WGTE with expert panel. Funding through MVRCD. A Watershed Mentality public Forum was held on WGTE TV in Toledo listening area. Viewed by approximately 6000 households.</p>	Outreach Committee/	Inter-mediate  Completed
<b>Long Term Actions</b>			
#	Action Item	Who	When
1	<p>Arrange for production of watershed video documentary.</p> <p>1/27/10 - Outreach committee will begin to research the capability and cost of another documentary on other issues in the basin not covered by existing videos. Smaller YouTube videos are possible. Potential for partnering with local university media students. KS, American Rivers</p>	Outreach Committee	Long Term  Needs Action
2	<p>Secure establishment of WLEB educational curriculum materials.</p> <p>1/27/10 - Outreach committee to begin research what is already put together. Tap into SWCD and other education organizations for existing materials. KS, American Rivers</p> <p>Lake Erie Literacy Principles were developed by Lake Erie Partnership (Lake Erie Commission, ODNR Office of Coastal Management, ODNR Old Woman Creek, and Ohio Sea Grant). Waiting to be finalized - GL COSEE working on Great Lakes Literacy Principles. The LE/GL Lit Principles could serve this purpose - materials on ODNR Coastal Management website (c riddle)</p>	Outreach Committee	Long Term  Needs Action
3	<p>Develop and fund a broadcast media presence for the WLEB partnership that articulates WLEB goals, watershed goals, and goals of the watershed organizations and agencies.</p> <p>1/27/10 - Refocus EcoTrack back to WLEB issues. Working with StormCenter on agency and NGO concerns regarding taping live segments. KS, American Rivers</p>	Outreach Committee, NRCS	Long Term  In progress
4	<p>Develop strategy that incorporates social science indicators into targeting and improving WLEB message. Use social science expertise of WLEB partners including NRCS and OSU.</p> <p>1/27/10 - Outreach committee to begin research on this action. KS, American Rivers</p>	Outreach Committee	Long Term  Needs Action