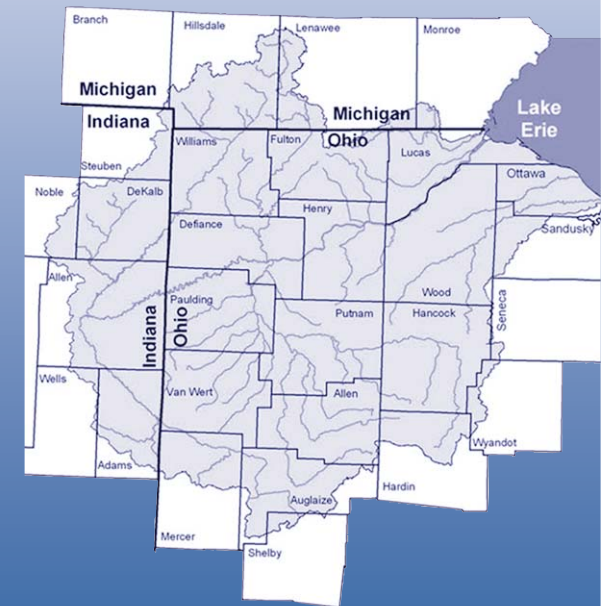




WLEB

Western Lake Erie Basin Partnership



Partner Roles



The fourteen charter agencies and organizations of the WLEB Partnership

bring a vast diversity of scientific knowledge, funding sources, authorities, constituencies, and experience to this unified effort to protect natural resources in the Western Lake Erie Basin.

The partnership is developing a watershed-based plan of work that will include objectives, goals, and action items.

The plan of work provides the framework to leverage resources, secure financial support and increase the conservation and resource management efforts in the Western Lake Erie Basin area.

The partnership will help us do together those things which cannot be done alone.

PARTNERS

- Governor of Indiana
- Governor of Michigan
- Governor of Ohio
- Indiana State Technical Committee
- Maumee River Basin Partnership of Local Governments
- Michigan State Technical Committee
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Soil and Water Conservation
- Ohio State Technical Committee
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Geological Survey Ohio Water Science Center

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WLEB Partnership



1776 Niagara Street •
 Buffalo, NY 14207-3199 •
 Telephone: 800-833-6390 •
 Fax: 716-879-6305 •
 www.wleb.org •

● **Healthy Land
Healthy Lake**



History



The formation of the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) Partnership began in 2005 as a collaborative effort between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at the national level with the signing of a partnership agreement. The agreement states the two agencies will collaborate on watershed planning and implementation; wetland creation, restoration, and enhancement; and natural disaster recovery. In Ohio, the NRCS and USACE signed a regional agreement supporting the activities outlined in the national agreement, focusing on the Western Lake Erie Basin.

In November 2005, a meeting between various agencies and organizations took place to begin the process of formalizing a partnership between the NRCS, USACE and other stakeholders in the WLEB. In March 2006, a WLEB Partnership charter was signed by fourteen representative agencies and organizations and partnership bylaws were adopted.

Mission



The WLEB Partnership is a tri-state partnership dedicated to enhancing multi-purpose projects that improve land and water resource management in the basin and promote a healthy, productive watershed.

NRCS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Rapid Assessments -

Eight rapid resource assessments for each 8-digit sub-basin of the Maumee Basin Watershed will identify current resource conditions on private lands, recommend systems to solve identified problems, and estimate (quantitative and/or qualitative) on-farm effects. Water Resource Planning staffs for NRCS in Ohio, with Field Office assistance, will complete the rapid assessments.

Farm Bill Land Treatment -

The NRCS, Environmental Defense, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, the Conservation Action Project, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts are implementing a special farmer-focused initiative under Environmental Quality Incentives Program to improve water quality in the WLEB. Farmers in the St. Mary, Tiffin, Grand Lake St. Mary, and Blanchard River Watersheds can participate. Farmers will be offered incentives to develop and implement an advanced level conservation plan.

NRCS is also promoting and supporting the goals of the Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement

Program, including wetland restorations, riparian tree plantings, filter strips and windbreaks.

Partnership Agreements -

NRCS has developed partnership agreements to date with:

- All soil and water conservation districts in the basin
- Conservation Action Project
- Maumee Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council
- National Center for Water Quality Research at Heidelberg College
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water and Division of Wildlife
- Sisters of St. Francis
- U.S. Geological Survey
- University of Toledo

These partners will perform work and produce products that will support the work of the WLEB partnership.



USACE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Comprehensive WLEB Study -

The USACE is authorized to investigate measures to improve fish and wildlife habitat, navigation, flood damage reduction, recreation, and water quality in the Maumee, Ottawa and Portage River watersheds.



US Army Corps of Engineers®
Buffalo District

Continuing Authorities Projects (CAP) -

CAPs allow for the planning, design and construction of relatively small projects. The CAP programs detailed in the

project list have two phases: feasibility (study phase) and design and implementation phase (detailed project design and construction). These projects are covered under various sections of the Water Resources Development Act as listed in the table below.

Current Relevant Continuing Authorities Projects list and appropriation section (\$)

Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Protection \$14
Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Program \$204
Flood Damage Reduction Projects \$205
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration \$206
Modifications to Projects for the Improvements of the Environment \$1135

