

DEFIANCE

SOIL AND WATER

CONSERVATION

DISTRICT

Upper Maumee River Watershed Group Grant Final Report

The initial organizational structure of the Upper Maumee River Watershed Group was completed on November 19, 2009 with the installation of 25 steering committee members and officers for the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The group organizational solidification was preceded by six organizational meetings (April 16, June 4, August 13, September 14, October 16 and November 19) with input and guidance from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, The Ohio State University Extension, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. These meetings focused on gathering public support for the group and performing some basic issue/opportunity inventorying within the watershed.

Average meeting attendance has been at 24 attendees with minimum and maximum attendance of 15 and 32 respectively with a mailing/contact list of 181 individuals. Group stakeholders include Indiana and Ohio representatives from agriculture, businesses, construction, conservation, government, education and residents. As a result of the Upper Maumee's large watershed, the group maintains diverse interests encompassing rural and urban issues and opportunities. The group has been alternating meeting locations between states to ensure broad representation— hosting meetings in Antwerp, Ohio; Defiance, Ohio; Paulding, Ohio; Woodburn, Indiana and Fort Wayne, Indiana. The group will be selecting two permanent meeting locations—one in Indiana and one in Ohio at the upcoming meeting.

Further group organization is being implemented with the current review and approval of the draft bylaws that have been developed by the group. This modification and approval should be completed by the January, 2010 meeting. This will also include finalized group vision and mission statements. To further group organization and scheduling, a website has been developed to enhance stakeholder communications and provide notification of meetings and events. The website can be viewed at www.uppermaumeewatershed.com . An online forum has also been established to provide means of posting discussion items and reviewing pictures and documents relevant to management of the watershed.

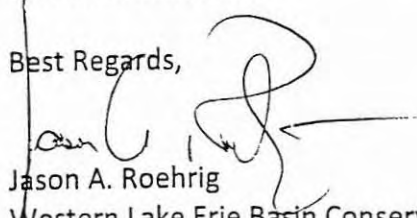
Final funding from the Western Lake Erie Basin Watershed Stakeholder Funding Grant will be used in the purchasing of promotional items for the group following the January meeting where the official group name will be determined. These promotional items will include pens and pads and likely coffee mugs or T shirts that can be given to group members and attendees of clean up and water quality testing events.

The watershed group has recently been awarded additional grant monies from Environmental Defense Fund to further the group's efforts and to maintain the organizational and agency partnerships forged through the formation of the watershed group. The group is currently applying for two Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants through the Allen SWCD (Nutrient Management Proposal) and through the Defiance SWCD (Planning and Implementation) in addition to the Defiance SWCD's application for ODNR Watershed Coordinator Funding. Activities have also been planned for spring 2010, including a river cleanup challenge, a canoe

/water quality testing trip, promotion and group representation at a soils biology/quality workshop and a tour of the Maumee River shipping channel and Maumee Bay to view dredging operations as a result of sediment loading to the river.

The Western Lake Erie Basin Watershed Stakeholder Funding Grant has undoubtedly provided the needed impetus to get the Upper Maumee River Watershed Group organized and motivated to move forward with watershed planning and implementation in the upcoming years. With its enthusiasm and motivation, the group is poised to make significant changes in land use and water quality throughout the Upper Maumee as additional funding sources are secured. The Defiance SWCD certainly appreciates the financial assistance in making this endeavor a success.

Best Regards,



Jason A. Roehrig
Western Lake Erie Basin Conservationist
Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District



Please join us at our next meeting on Thursday, October 22, 2009 for a very important and informative evening in Defiance, Ohio. The meeting will commence with a tour of the City of Defiance's Water Treatment Facility from 6:00 to 6:50 p.m. at 1356 Baltimore Street, Defiance. This facility withdraws Defiance's drinking water from the farthest downstream point of the Upper Maumee River—just upstream of the Tiffin River confluence. Richard Kipp, Water Division Superintendent, will conduct the tour and will discuss the importance of watershed management in ensuring a safe drinking water supply for the City of Defiance.

Following the tour, the watershed group will reconvene from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the UAW Local 211 Hall at 2120 Baltimore Street, Defiance. Here the group will officially select steering committee members and move forward with group development and activity planning.

With the goal of improving the water quality throughout the Upper Maumee River and ultimately throughout the Western Lake Erie Basin, this meeting is a continuation of the development of a locally-led watershed group on the Upper Maumee River. With a diverse range of stakeholders from agricultural, industrial, municipal and residential; the need for each party's input and continued participation is critical to long-term water quality improvements.

We would greatly appreciate your input and continued involvement as we further organize a watershed group on the Upper Maumee River.

YOU CAN HELP PROTECT OUR RIVER!

The Upper Maumee River Watershed Group will work to preserve the environment, private property and economic resources of the Upper Maumee River Watershed through responsible stewardship, cooperation and education.

The quality of the Maumee River is not only influenced by activities adjacent to the river, but by numerous activities throughout the watershed. As the Upper Maumee Watershed Group develops, opportunities for involvement will include numerous roles throughout the reaches of the watershed. These tasks include:

- Gathering local knowledge of watershed concerns.
- Water quality monitoring.
- Development of a watershed management plan.
- Identifying sources of financial assistance.
- Education and outreach to local communities and organizations.
- Identification and implementation of conservation practices to improve stream quality.



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Upper Maumee River Watershed Group



Thursday, October 22, 2009

6:00 to 6:50 p.m.

City of Defiance Water
Treatment Plant Tour

1356 Baltimore Street, Defiance

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Watershed Meeting
UAW Local 211 Hall

2120 Baltimore Street, Defiance

www.uppermaumeewatershed.com

UPPER MAUMEE RIVER WATERSHED

