

Cost for Upper Maumee Watershed Management Plan: Total = \$297,066
The Allen County SWCD and Defiance SWCD matched 60% (services/County dollars) to 40% Federal dollars.

Experts agree the Plan has a **5 year shelf-life before it is considered “outdated”** and requires another watershed plan. Let’s implement together!

UPPER MAUMEE RIVER

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION CONFERENCE



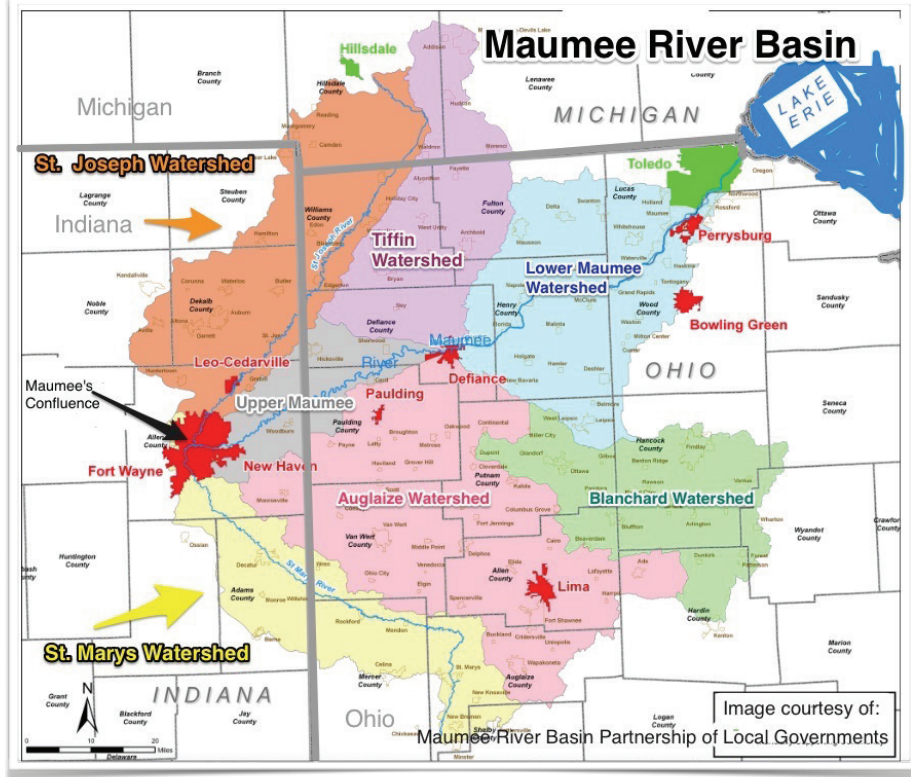


Image courtesy of:
Maumee River Basin Partnership of Local Governments

"Legislators are looking, [people] need to show what they are willing to do, and future plans that are already in motion, or are being planned. Low hanging fruit is already happening."

"The legislators need to know that we are already DOING IT. Look at soil health as applications that will go into the matrix of the soil and not just drain into the tile, we paid for that phosphorus, we do not want that to happen."

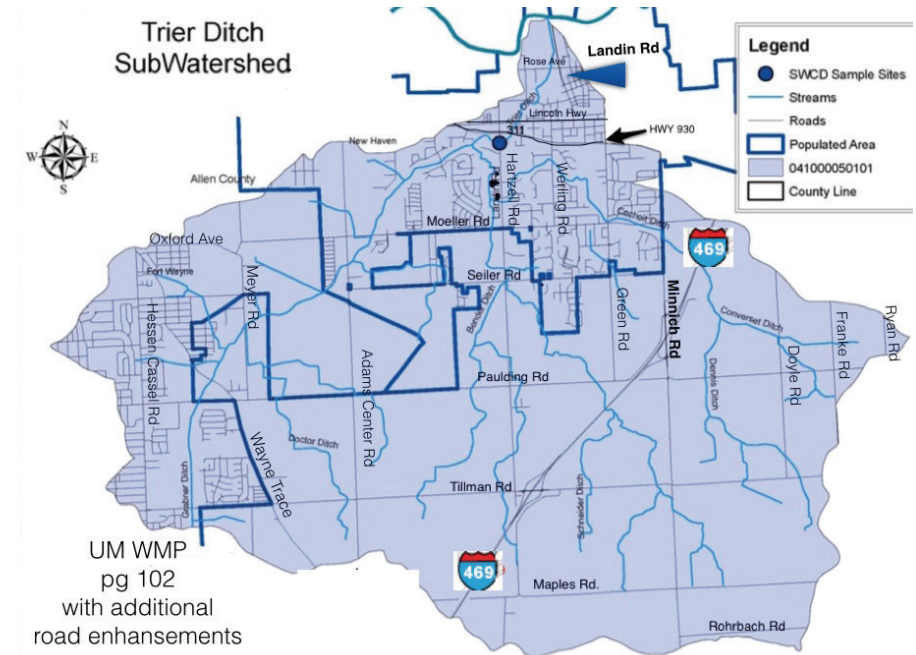
"Trying to regulate is not an ideal option. We should ASK them first, to do their part, BUT if there is another algae bloom like the last one in Lake Erie, it is going to be inevitable."

Jane Hardesty Indiana State Conservationist, National Resource Conservation Service. Presentation: December 4, 2014

Goals of the Conference: (1) Identify all who are willing to work on comprehensive, ecosystem-based watershed protection, restoration and management programs. It makes no difference if you are a line cook, chief executive or anyone in-between, each of us is able to take a specific piece of this plan and engage others; (2) gain an understanding of the innovations in current efforts so all present are able to know how they fit into the plan and we are able to lead creative, innovative efforts with successful results.

5 Goals of Approach: Conservation on a watershed-by-watershed basis

- Goal 1** Protect & improve water quality.
- Goal 2** Protect and restore habitat, including mollusks, wetlands and fisheries.
- Goal 3** Improve public access and recreation and balance multiple uses of the watershed.
- Goal 4** Improve local capacity to protect watersheds.
- Goal 5** Promote shared responsibility for watershed protection and management.



UM WMP
pg 102
with additional
road enhancements

ATTENDING PUBLIC MEETINGS: CONTINUED

ALL of our rivers in Fort Wayne are considered “degraded” by current set standards. We want them to be safe, which means they are swimmable and fishable! We want to revitalize our community through improving the water that runs through our urban areas...instead of degrading it.

What works? How to get to the officials and decision makers?

- * Target the legislator (or decision maker) who is responsible for the action you are seeking
- * A balanced view and solid approach carries weight with legislators - a real person can be a touch-point of how the “public feels” about an issue.
- * Officials do not know everything...respectfully educate them! They may be introducing bills in the future.
- * Best way to put pressure on elected officials: ASK how they will vote?

SMGO POINT SYSTEM: How to build a large enough base to win

1point - Email Sent	2	-	3	-	5	-	7	-	10	-	15	-	20 points
Left a phone message													
			Phone Call Answer/Returned Call										
			Social Media Reposts				Typed letter (via "snail-mail")						
							Passing out literature at a public event						
							Hand-written letter (via "snail-mail")						
									Workshop/Conference/Educational Attendance				
									Letter to the Editor				
									Video Media Coverage				
									Meeting Attendance				
1point -	2	-	3	-	5	-	7	-	10	-	15	-	20 points

Direct calls were more effective when they had a sense of urgency.

Photos in front of a sign that states a “one-liner” of support are quick and effective

Letter to the editor = 200-250 words - 2 concise paragraphs - make it personal

Drive in calls to public officials: Phone bank - call supporters to alert them on how to take action (i.e. phone chain: when the Governor has a chance to veto or support)4
HE NEEDS TO BE TOLD

SUPPORT CONSERVATION IN THE UPPER MAUMEE

S.C.U.M. AGENDA

- 8:00-8:50 Registration & light breakfast (**Barrister Commons**)
- 9AM Welcome - Facilitator Abigail King, SMGO Founder & V.P (**Courtroom**)
- 9:15 Inspiration: How this UM WMP is imperative to the future of water quality, by Jeanette Neagu, Indiana League of Women Voters Natural Resources Committee
- 9:30-9:45 Introduce all contributors to the WMP & Watershed Planning Process. Joe Schmees IN Dept. of Env. Management Upper Maumee Watershed Coordinator.
- 9:45-10:30 Watershed Management Plan Presentation: Sharon Partridge, Allen County SWCD, Stephanie Singer, Defiance SWCD
- 10:30-10:45 Break
- 10:45-11:45 Watershed Management Plan Presentation Continued
- 11:45-12:00 Q&A (Conference Survey distributed)
- 12:00-12:30 Lunch Break (**Barrister Commons**) Lounges are on 2nd & 3rd floor
- 12:35-1:15 How groups will Implement the UM WMP (**Courtroom**)
1. **CAFO issues** - Barbara Sha Cox, Indiana CAFO Watch
 2. **Water monitoring** - Bowden Quinn, Indiana Sierra Club
- Moderator: Ryan Bailey, Save Maumee Board of Trustees
- 1:20 - 1:55 Choose between **Urban sessions 1 OR 2.**
- Urban Break-Out Session #1 (Room 253)**
Urban buffer strips / Value of vegetation on streambanks (aka riparian areas/ floodways) - Marissa Renz & Abigail King, Save Maumee
- Urban Break-Out Session #2 (Room 256)**
Urban Strategies: How the Urban Strategies will take a place within the Plan
Matt Jones & Celia Garza
- 1:55-2:30 **Break-Out Session #3 (Room 356)**
Phosphorus, Algae and Cyanobacteria: Fort to Port (and Beyond), Water Quality and What We Can Do to Improve It - Dr. Doug Kane, Defiance College, OH
- 2:30-2:40 Break
- 2:45-3:15 **Advocacy & Policy (Courtroom)**
Jeanette Neagu, League of Women Voters & Bowden Quinn, Sierra Club
- 3:15 Q&A
- 3:20 Closing Remarks

Biographies of Conference Speakers

Abigail King is the vice president and founder of Save Maumee Grassroots

Organization Inc. She began research on the Fort Wayne Rivers in 2001, after purchasing a “beachfront” property on the Maumee River near downtown Fort Wayne. Save Maumee projects began in 2005. She has been contributing and following the development of the Upper Maumee Watershed Management Plan on the Steering Committee since the Watershed Partnership was born in 2009. She is the Treasurer of the Upper Maumee Watershed Partnership and the Chair for the Urban Subcommittee. She currently sits on the Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor Board of Directors as Environmental Consultant: Region I, and on the Riverfront Development Utility Subcommittee. Abigail graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications; Interpersonal & Public Speaking from Purdue University; Minor in Government & Business, and also graduated from the Watershed Leadership Academy out of Purdue W. Lafayette Extension Office as a watershed expert / coordinator. abby@SaveMaumee.Org

Jeanette Neagu is the chair for the Natural Resources Committee for the

League of Women Voters and an environmental advocate for 60 years. She currently sits on the board for Lake Michigan League of Women Voters and served as president in the past. Jeanette was born in Chicago and spent her childhood in the Ogden Dunes. She’s been active with Save the Dunes since 1955; former president as well as a board member for many years. Mrs. Neagu is a graduate of the University of Chicago, a retired social worker and mother of three children and lives in Michigan City, Indiana. She has been addressing the problem of Uninspected Chemical Storage Tanks since the water of Charleston, West Virginia was contaminated by a leaking tank in January 2013. jgvneagu@yahoo.com

Stephanie Singer is the Upper Maumee River Watershed Coordinator at

Defiance Soil & Water Conservation District. She has been there for just under two years working on the Watershed Action Plan with a steering committee of local stakeholders. Before this she worked with a Pennsylvania Conservation District for 12 years on watershed projects and environmental education. She has a Masters of Education in secondary science from Bloomsburg University and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Education from the Ohio State University. She lives outside of Sherwood with her husband, Scott and three young children. Currently, she is focusing on implementation of the Watershed Action Plan which includes promoting best management practices to landowners. Recently, she has helped launch the ‘Land to Lake’ watershed awareness campaign to educate people about local water problems and solutions. She is very excited to promote the idea that ‘every drop counts’ to improve our water. ssinger@defiance-county.com

ATTENDING PUBLIC MEETINGS: CONTINUED

- these are still people with all their personality strengths and weakness may take responsibility from another person whose responsibility it IS
- chances are if it is obvious enough to have occurred to you, it may be obvious enough to occurred to another person

5. Give ideas and ASK:

“Were both drainage issues and water quality considered?””Oh ok not formally ~ but informally, what is your opinion?” “How can we help to make the ideal best management practice happen?” “Does that begin with building code or an ordinance or current practice?” “What laws / ordinances are impeding?”

“Have you already tried _____ solution?” Has it already failed? What factors led to the failure?

- If the obvious solution has not been tried...why not?
- What other factors about the situation means they have not decided to DO the obvious solution?

5. Follow-up on the meeting

- ask for the minutes to be sent to you or where they will be available online
- review meeting minutes to assure accuracy
- note and report to the person who took the minutes as to what is inaccurate
- do what you said you would do
- report the meeting to Save Maumee Board Members at the Monday Monthly Meeting

Talking Points

According to Federal Partnerships the need for clean water is clear: Many of our nation’s urban rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands are polluted, degraded or inaccessible. Drainage and runoff issues in this area appear to be a culprit of non-point source pollution.

Research demonstrates that **clean, safe, accessible water in an urban environment is attractive and is able to bring money into our community.** Surrounding communities often are not reaping the environmental, economic and social benefits that living near a water body can provide, due to degradation.

information

- agenda/previous minutes/information available
- record the roles of organizers and/or meeting attendees if you can

III. Take notes:

- **ACTIVELY LISTEN** to others: act interested & concerned by establishing eye contact when someone is speaking
- **CLARIFY** if you do not understand and repeat what you understand & **REPEAT IT BACK** so you can accurately explain your report to others in the future
- **LOOK** for messages buried in their words and nonverbal communication
- **DO NOT** add, subtract or amend what they said - no commentary, just facts
- **TRY NOT** to be excessive or inappropriate in your questions
- **BE** accurate in writing your notes - YES, please take **NOTES**
- **STICK TO THE TOPIC ONLY**...try to legitimize the final decision or action by stating:

"It is/is not in the best interest of water quality and health of the larger public."

- **PEEL AWAY** things that interfere with active listening:
 - **ALWAYS** stay calm and **NEVER** hostile,
 - **EXPLAIN** your view without laying blame/accusations/personal attacks of others because you are feeling strong emotions
 - Do not talk while others are speaking
 - Respect agreed upon time
- **STAY NEUTRAL** and do not side with anyone - but please note it - so we are able to take a stand upon a future group decision - do not get personally involved and suggest a neutral facilitator may be needed for the next meeting.
- **IF** there is conflict: recognize it and write it down as a stated problem or identified solution

4. **ROADBLOCKS:** Think about the related question or answer

- being denied ability to ask questions or have answers provided
- avoiding the question/talking around the answer instead of directly answering question
- being convinced it is not a serious problem / you're being foolish or overly concerned
- Risks in suggesting solutions
 - disempowers another because they think you are trying to act smarter/ more worldly/better and/or belittled or patronized may take responsibility away

Joe Schmees is the IDEM watershed specialist for northeast Indiana, covering the West Fork of the White River, the Upper Wabash River, including the Mississinewa, Salamonie and Eel Tributaries, the St. Joseph River flowing into Lake Michigan, the St. Joseph and St. Marys River, and the Maumee River. Joe received a Bachelor of Science in biology and a Bachelor of Arts in chemistry from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. Joe has worked for IDEM the past eight years, first sampling water quality in a variety of capacities, and has now been serving watershed groups with planning and grant administration since 2011. JSchmees@idem.IN.gov

Sharon Partridge is a Watershed Program Manager for the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District. She is currently working on watershed management and water quality projects in the St. Joseph and Upper Maumee river watersheds. She was formerly employed as a Storm Water Specialist with the Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management and the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources. spd2655@gmail.com

Bowden Quinn is conservation director at the Hoosier Chapter of the Sierra Club where he has been since 2007. He works primarily on water quality and clean energy issues at the state and local levels. He is a former member of the Indiana Water Pollution Control Board and worked as environmental liaison at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management before starting his current job. He has a law degree from the Chicago-Kent College of Law with a certificate in energy and environmental law. He worked for the Grand Calumet Task Force, a grassroots environmental organization in Northwest Indiana, from 1994 to 2002 before moving to Indianapolis where he now lives. bowden.quinn@sierraclub.org

Matt Jones is the Water Resource Education Specialist for the Allen County Partnership for Water Quality. The Partnership services 2 of the 3 Mandatory Sanitary Sewer Separation System (MS4) permits and their respective co-permits under the direction of the Allen County SWCD. He was the project manager, consultant and co-writer of the PBS documentary "A Watershed Mentality" and the companion contractor Best Management Practices (BMPs) video "Green Sells." Recent work includes a series of videos furthering conservation efforts for both urban and rural audiences. His speaking engagements has the alter egos of "Dr. I.C. Coldwater" or "Black Sam Read-Sweetwater Pirate." These interpretive characters are present at many of the fairs and festivals around the county. Mr. Jones has presented for the Fort Wayne TEDx event and been a regular presenter at the Peoria, IL "Clean Water Celebration" and works on community outreach with Indiana Project WET. Matt graduated from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne with an Environmental Studies major and has post-graduate credits in Public and Environmental Affairs. He is a native Hoosier that has been married for 23 years. matt.jones@in.nacdn.net

Marissa Jones is private consultant and has been with Save Maumee since 2008, serving as previous Vice President of SMGO. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs, Major in Environmental Policy. Her research includes, but is not limited to, water quality, wetlands, industrial and urban agriculture, and native plants. She is an Indiana Master Naturalist and gardener who experiments with mixing the aesthetically pleasing with the highly functioning, to encourage healthy and sustainable ecosystems, from our backyards to the rivers.

Barbara Sha Cox is a fourth generation family farm owner and manager. Barbara and her husband live in Wayne County, Richmond, Indiana. She is a Ball State University graduate and registered nurse (RN). Her retirement goal was to spend time at the farm, however, there was a change of direction when CAFOs started to come to the county. From a group of six determined people, **Indiana CAFO Watch** was born, which has grown to be a state-wide grassroots initiative. Each person donates their time and individual talents, focusing on clean air and water. Her story has been documented in *Animal Factory* authored by David Kirby and *Food for Thought: An Indiana Harvest*. The Humane Society has featured Barbara's work and she has received several environmental awards and a *Certificate of Special Recognition* from the US House of Representatives. barbarasha1@msn.com

Doug Kane is an Associate Professor of Biology in the Division of Natural Science, Applied Science, and Mathematics at Defiance College. He received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees all from The Ohio State University. His research interests lie in plankton and benthic invertebrate ecology, as well as effects of invasive species on communities and ecosystems, causes and consequences of cultural eutrophication, and ecosystem integrity of Lake Erie. Doug's recent research has focused on effects of the Maumee and Sandusky River systems on the recent re-eutrophication of Lake Erie and the potential effect of Emerald Ash Borer on Lake Erie island forest tree communities. Doug has also lead service learning initiatives related to water quality monitoring in the Maumee River and Lake Pontchartrain. Doug currently has over ten peer-reviewed publications in journals such as Journal of Great Lakes Research, Ecological Indicators, Freshwater Biology, Harmful Algae, Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management, and Ohio Journal of Science. He is current President of the International Association for Great Lakes Research. He is also an Associate Editor for the Open Journal of Ecology and a Board member for the Ohio Academy of Science and Ohio Lake Management Society. Doug's teaching at Defiance includes introductory biology, botany, zoology, ecology, restoration ecology, fisheries and wildlife management, environmental science, and GIS. Further, during the summers Doug teaches courses at OSU's F.T. Stone Laboratory including introduction to ecology, field ecology, and limnology, as well as being a Visiting Scientist and mentoring students in Stone Lab's Research Experience for Undergraduates program. dkane@defiance.edu



Attending Public Meetings: Based on training by League of Women Voters

WE need to send "the signal" to officials on how their constituents think or how we wish they would think. Opinions from the public are very necessary in our democratic system. Who does legislators and decision makers take their influence from? Lobbyists and WE the People!

Previous to meeting:

Build a relationship with participants in advance if you can...if you cannot, try to develop positive relationships with key stakeholders who are present at the meeting - building rapport helps you be perceived as an *organizer*, who represents many rather than just a *citizen* (*which tends to represent a number, between 3-7*). Establishing common ground is a core skill when gathering information. (i.e. EVERYONE cares about improving water quality)

- I. We, the Public, the people, are responsible for our environment and our government. Determine the purpose of the meeting before you go
 - What are the other attendees interests?
 - Is the meeting to develop legislation or explain legislation and/or regulations; i.e. permitting, remediation, new law explanation or seek public input for the development of legislation
- Ask the question, who is to make sure this plan is followed through; **who is accountable?** Who does that person report to? Who is on the Board they will be reporting to? If holds appointed position, who appointed them?
 - to inform the public (policy)
 - to consult the public (seek reaction to a proposal)
 - involve the public (use input for policy development)
- II. You are there as an **observer**, to **create a record of what has happened** at the meeting so you can report it back to "the group"
 - If you have more than one interest, have a solid view - keep to one topic - time is precious
 - Pick-up all paperwork available & SIGN-IN with ALL your contact